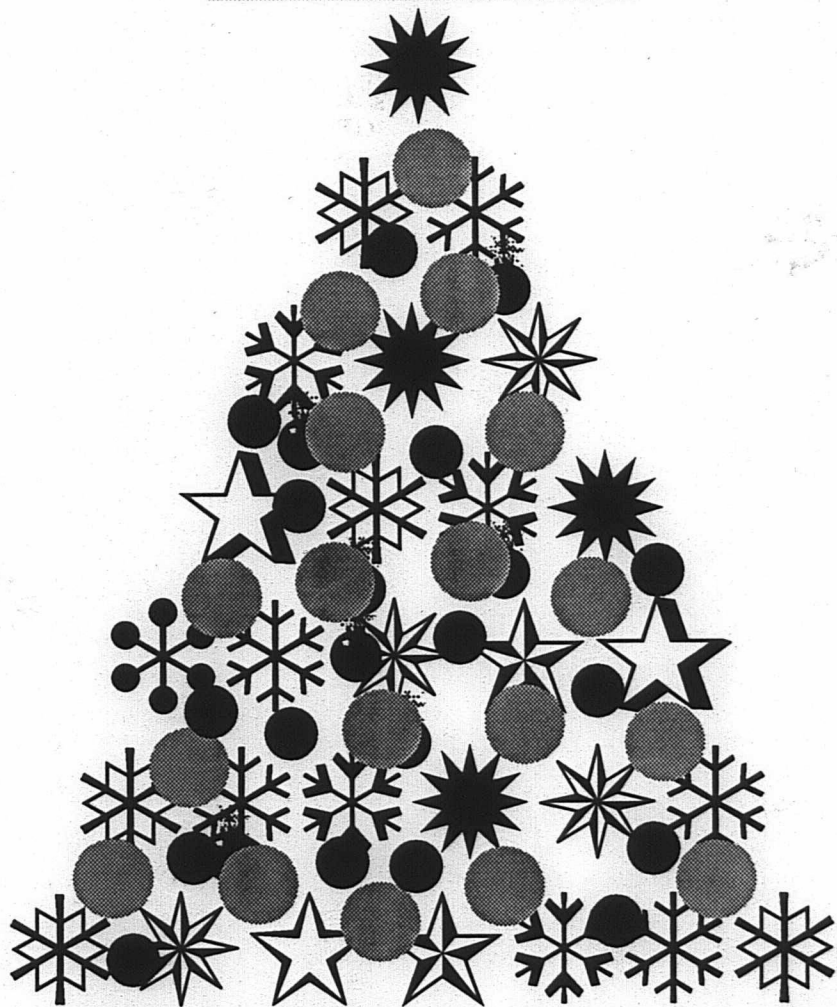


THE HOUGHTON STAR

DECEMBER 14, 1990 • VOLUME 83.8
L. David Wheeler & Ivan T. Rocha, Editors



The Star wishes a Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

Contents

Guest Editorial 3

Campus Center Facelift 4

Cultural Immersion 4

And In Other News 5

Survey Results 5

Senate Commentary 6

Meet Your Senators II 7

SPORTS 8

Guest Essay 11

Aphorisms 12

Book Review 13

Crossword Companion 14

That Man Behind the Curtain 14

The Black Hole 15

MAIL 15

CINEMA 19

Calvin & Hobbes 20



THE HOUGHTON STAR

C.P.O. Box 378
HOUGHTON COLLEGE
HOUGHTON, N.Y. 14744
(716) 567-9210

Ivan T. Rocha
L. David Wheeler
Editors-in-chief

Timothy Nichols
Advisor

Sean Wirth
Business Manager

Don Tremblay
Copy Editor

Dru Christian
Sports Editor

Barry MacTernaghan
Senate Correspondent

Martha Ayres	James Lindsay
Mike Ballman	Kimberley Mann
Rand Bellavia	David McMillan
Rich Buck	Lee Morris
Deborah Carr	Dan Noyes
Joy David	Nathan Ransil
Mark Deeter	David Rhenow
Peter Dupler	Kevin Serikstad
Amy Flemming	Debbie Slattery
Jen Garrison	Jennifer Stinson
Matthew Harvey	Matthew Taylor
Randy Hoffmann	Stephen Virkler
Jon Jankovitch	Kimberly Vorhees
June Johnson	Thomas Woods

General Staff



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

'Twas the Night Before FINALS...

☆ ☆ ☆

A guest Yuletide editorial in
poetic form by "lifer"
Chris Daniels

'Twas the night before finals
And through each dorm and house
Not a creature was sleeping
'Cept maybe a mouse.

The Mobil was bustling
With No-Doz on hand.
& The Jolt cans, well-stocked,
Quenched supply and demand.

The students did study,
Each chapter was read,
While visions of "passing"
Raced in their heads.

My roommate at his desk,
And I in my chair,
Both cramming and fretting
The first final so near!

When out on the quad
There arose such a clatter
I lept from my seat
To see what was the matter.

But what to my wondering eyes did I see
But President Chamberlain and 8 tiny
trustees
But upon closer look, I just had to laugh
They weren't trustees, they were professors
and staff.

A crowd was now gathering, and closer they
came
President Chamberlain shouted and called
them by name.
"Now Danner! Now Bressler! Now Woolsey
and King!
On, Crider! On, Conklin! On, Dowden and
Wing!

To the steps of the chapel, now pick up the
pace
These students are busy, there's no time to
waste!"

I drew in a breath and was turning around
When from this small group rose a glorious
sound
They sang for the students and wished us
their best
Regardless of how bad we would bomb on
their tests.

And then a commotion swept through the
quaint pack
As a jolly tall fellow emerged from the back.
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a
cherry
His eyes—how they twinkled! His dimples,
how merry!

He was heartedly welcomed, for he was
everyone's pal
This man was none other than Jolly Big Al.
He raised up a pizza and said with a call,
"Free delivery to Lambein, Shen, South, and
East Hall!"

The choir behind him sang out one more verse
And the crowd that had gathered quickly
dispersed.

The freshmen: still nervous, the sophomores:
on edge,
The juniors: less anxious, the seniors: in bed.

Away from the scene the professors did steal,
President Chamberlain started the
automobile
And I heard him exclaim as he drove out of
sight,
"Good luck on your finals, and to all, fight or
flight!"

☆ ☆ ☆

Campus Center Facelift by Fall Semester

by Matthew Harvey

Those of us returning to Houghton next fall will probably be greeted by many changes. One of these will be a radically new look for the campus center lounge.

The proposed renovations include new carpeting, new furniture, more coat racks, blinds on the windows, and raised platforms at the north and south ends.

The new furniture will be more comfortable and more permanently located. Tentative arrangements call for four pit groups, two at each end, for large groups, and groups of chairs for groups of three or four people. The middle section will be filled with tables and chairs for serious studying. There will also be plenty of tables to go around.

The platforms will be about four feet high, with groups of chairs located on them normally. They may also come in handy as stages for coffeehouses and other events held in the lounge.

There are those of you out there saying, "That's great, but can we afford all this?" Yes, we can! The government loan that was originally used to build the campus center pays dividends back to the college every year as the principal is paid off. The past two years' worth of this money has been set aside to pay for the renovations.

Assistant Dean of Student Development Tim Nichols says that the goal of the renovations is to make the lounge nicer looking, and yet more homey. It should be more of a place where students want to study and socialize than it is currently. ☆

Motivating Cultural Immersion: International Studies Major Takes Shape

by Thomas Woods

For a new major in its first semester, the international studies major is doing well. Although only seven students have officially declared this major to the registrar's office, major advisor Dr. David Benedict has been working with about twenty-five who have stated an intent to declare.

The purpose of the program, an interdisciplinary one, is to prepare Houghton students for working in international positions with governments, multinational businesses, missions, and sociological work, among others. The required intercultural experience, which typically costs less than a standard semester in Houghton, is designed to give students the most in-depth sense of another culture possible. "Chiefly," Benedict said, "there is no way a student can come back unchanged."

The goal is to completely immerse the student in the unfamiliar culture. There is no lack of connection to advisors, however; Drs. Benedict and Mary Conklin

"Chiefly," Benedict said, "there is no way a student can come back unchanged."

are very busy keeping touch with students abroad. Dave Pollock, who teaches the required two-credit course in international transitions, also helps students prepare to change and be changed.

Benedict is also available to students not involved with the major. The office of international studies (ext. 634) can help connect any student with a program of study internationally.

The international studies major was designed with a view of taking advantage of Houghton's existing assets. No new faculty were hired, because the courses required for the major were already being taught here. This major makes possible a liberal combination of various communication, language, economics, history, and sociology classes, among others. ☆

In a move that came as somewhat of a surprise to most of the American people, Saddam Hussein stated last Tuesday that he would release all of the Americans held hostage in Iraq. He said that because it is no longer necessary to have the Westerners to protect Iraq from American attack, it is not imperative to detain them. President Bush, however, said that his demands for Iraq to relinquish control of and pull out of Kuwait must be met.

This week, Hussein indeed freed nearly 200 U.S. citizens who have been held hostage in Iraq since the beginning of the crisis. In addition to the American captives, Iraq released all other foreign hostages.

This gesture, however, did not impress the White House. Speaking before the White House press corps, National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft and Secretary of State James Baker refused to recognize Hussein's initiative as reducing the likelihood of war. Rather, they stated that it made the Bush Administration's possible decision to use force against Iraq a little easier

now that the hostages cannot be used as "human shields."

Baker also stated that if Hussein truly wants a diplomatic solution to the crisis he must consent to a mutually agreeable date for a peace conference in Baghdad. Hussein's proposal of January 12 is unacceptable because it is too close to the U.N. imposed deadline of January 15 for the Iraqi pullout of Kuwait.

We should remember that there is much happening in Europe and the Soviet Union; with so much attention being drawn to Iraq and the Middle East, there is a tendency to overlook other events. Eastern Europe, particularly what was formerly East Germany, is in the throes of modifying into a free market economy. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev continues to walk on a tightrope, with widespread demands for reform and people going hungry as the "Russian Winter" approaches. An example of the transition: Lines at the McDonalds in Moscow are longer than those to visit Lenin's tomb. The average price of an order in American dollars? \$14.00. ☆

Star Survey Results: Return Rate Dismal

by L. David Wheeler

We're not completely positive about it, but we think it has to be a new record. Response to the *Houghton Star's* "Performance Survey 90," a poll found on page 3 of last issue's *Star*, reached an all-time low as far as survey responses go: out of the 1100 copies of the *Star* we had printed last issue, a total of ten forms were returned. That's right—ten. This means that less than 1% of the surveys were returned.

Oh, well. This probably means either 1.) that the *Star* is far too trivial for people to waste time on a somewhat complicated survey sheet, or 2.) that the *Star* is so revered that nobody but ten people could even think of putting scissors to page. Sometimes it's safer not to ask questions, so we won't. We'll just prefer to believe the latter.

At any rate, we aren't going to bother printing the results. Suffice it to say that among the ten surveys returned, the *Star* gravitated toward the left side of the chart (pleasant, valuable, important, and all that), although a disturbing percentage found a slight bias in our reporting. On some of the more ambiguous categories near the bottom of the form, there was no clear consensus. We also found it quite interesting that of the ten responses, only two gave us the same rating on "truthful/untruthful" and "accurate/inaccurate." Go figure...

Anyway, here are some of the more interesting comments:

"Good coverage of life today, i.e. Persian Gulf. I don't like use of all small letters for name or title."

"Make it longer, have it come out weekly."

"As good as the guest essay on David Souter [November 9] was, I think it was very dated—Souter was confirmed in early September."

AND IN OTHER NEWS

•Gulf Crisis
•Eastern Europe

by mike ballman and kenneth cole

Stuff You Should Know

SENATE COMMENTARY by Barry S. MacTanraghan

The Christmas season is upon us, and you have probably noticed the decorations around campus. Some of those decorations, specifically those in the chapel and in the campus center, were put up by senators (and Bruce Breneman). Perhaps you don't think this is a big deal, but it may not have been done without Senate.

Okay, how about something a little more lasting? Fine. The Academic Affairs Council is possibly going to change the secondary education major. This change will decrease the number of credit hours needed from 34 to 27. Part of the reduction will entail reducing the student teaching requirement from twelve hours to nine hours. However, the state only requires six. I don't know—you figure. The reason for the change is to allow students in the program to pick up an extra major or minor.

There was something else the Academic Affairs Council reported, and it concerns reading days. If you are going to be taking Exceptional Child next semester with Sally Johnson, then you will be required to attend a Special Olympics Program on May 2, a reading day during final exam time. Even if you are not signed up for the class, you might want to be concerned about this. What is going to keep other professors from making their own requirements for reading days? The Council says this won't become a trend, but why the exception? [By the

way, up until now professors were not allowed to require attendance at anything on a reading day.] So, if this does not sit well with you, then let Senate hear your voice.

If you have ever traveled up to the gym, Stevens Art Studio, or Shenawana via the road, then you must have noticed the extremely poor condition of the pavement. Repairs have been made in the past, but none of those repairs seem to last. Well, Senate has noticed this and is taking steps to see that the road is repaired for a good long time. Letters will be sent to the college administration and the Homeowners Association. These letters will attempt to persuade both organizations to contact the county about repair work.

Here's some interesting information: all the senators, when they were asked whether or not the student body is informed about Senate-related material, agreed that the student body is generally very uninformed. And who is to blame for this? Well, many senators are willing to accept most of the blame. So, if they are willing to accept the blame, then why aren't they doing something to alleviate the problem?

Anyway, this has not gone unnoticed or unchecked. Senate realizes there is a lack of communication between itself and the student body. Therefore, efforts are being made to increase communication. One method discussed at the last Senate meeting was the possi-

bility of having senators sit at the bottom of the dining room stairs once a week to inform as many students as possible about Senate-related information. Also, in case you haven't been enlightened to this fact, the minutes of Senate meetings are always posted, along with the agenda for the next meeting, on the mail room bulletin board. All students are welcome to attend any or all Senate meetings.

As a reminder, senators want to hear what you have to say, so go talk to them. After all, Senate gets things done!

Last issue I mentioned chapel and some specific things to look forward to seeing in next semester's schedule. This time I'm going to talk about chapel in general. The chapel task force has been working for quite some time, and still they have not come to any definite conclusions. However, they do see "glimpses of consensus growing out of its continuing discussions of the chapel issues." The task force states that "there is firm commitment to the continuation of a mandatory chapel program," but they don't say who is firmly committed. A prudent question would be why it was ever made mandatory in the first place—it seems to me that you can't enrich people spiritually by forcing them to go to chapel or by shoving Jesus down their throats. Anyway, back to what the task force says. "There seems to be consensus that chapels should take on a more worship oriented format. There was consensus that an entire class hour should be blocked each week with chapel services of 40 or 45 minutes occurring on three of the five days." Also, the members of the task force (actually called Chapel Study Committee) welcome your advice.

Senate takes this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and an enjoyable break. So, be well and do good. ☆

Meet Your Senators Part 2: Juniors and Sophomores

by Barry S. MacTarnaghan

Two issues ago you read the first "Meet Your Senators" article—Part I. That article was a response to students complaining that they don't know who the senators are. So you got a chance to meet the senior senators in that issue. I apologize for not having a "Meet Your Senators" article in the last issue, but I'm going to make up for that by having almost twice as many senators in this issue.

Mike Ballman, a junior, is an international studies major with a minor in politics. He is interested in foreign service and missions. Before he graduates, Mike would like to spend one semester abroad. His interest in sports is shown by his involvement in intramural sports. Mike also spends time writing world news for the *Star*. He strongly urges students to make their opinions known to Senate.

Junior elementary education major Carolyn Basham has a wide range of interests. She loves many outdoor activities such as canoeing, biking, hiking, camping, and water-skiing. Her minors are psychology and Spanish. Although she likes to work with people, Carolyn considers herself an independent person. She highly values honesty and participation, and she believes students should be more involved.

Another junior senator with varied interests is Matt Roth. His English literature major and history minor only tell part of the story. Backpacking, camping, sports, and music all fit into his repertoire of likes. He has acted upon many of his interests by joining College Choir, percussion ensemble, intramural sports, and plays. He was also a Highlander leader. Matt may spend the summer of 1991 overseas.

Star writer Steve Virkler, also a junior, is a communication major with minors in writing and Bible. As a member of Radiance, he likes to read science fiction. His other interests include basketball,

ping-pong, and writing. Steve is considering becoming a newspaper writer. If possible, he would like to get involved with WJSL. Steve wants to see more involvement from the student body, especially when it comes to Senate.

Junior Jan Wayner keeps herself busy with a double major in elementary education and music. Piano is "her instrument" for her major, but she also plays the flute. Keeping with her artistic interest, Jan loves crafts and nature. As a ministry-minded person, she has been involved with WMF, Koinonia, and Swordbearers. Being involved in Chapel Choir and wind ensemble has helped her in the music area. Next year she will be student teaching and doing her senior recital. After graduation, she may end up doing missions work abroad.

Phil Ginter, a sophomore senator, is also a double major in psychology and Christian education, and he has a minor in Bible. An interest in working with youth linked with his academic pursuits could lead him into some form of church ministry. Phil is a member of the Houghton track team and chaplain for the Salvation Army Student Fellowship. In the future, he would like to become even more involved with different activities on the Houghton campus.

WJSL manager Jim Hilliard has a double major in Bible and communications. He is very interested in doing missions work via radio in Ecuador. Jim likes tennis, bowling, roller-skating, skiing, reading, and playing piano. He is a representative to CAB, a member of Intercollegiate Religious Broadcasters, and a member of Men's Choir. Not only is this sophomore active here at Houghton, but he is also very involved at his home church.

Mike Warwick is currently a sophomore Business major with a minor in communication. Among his interests are exercise and reading, but he holds a strong interest in various Christian groups, such as prayer groups and street witnessing groups. Mike is a DJ at WJSL and would like to become a manager at the station. He is a member of the College Republicans. Also, last year he helped write the constitution for his class. ☆

Answers to Crossword Companion Issue 83.8



don't
be scared of
the "M" word!

Ministry...a job in ministry doesn't have to be a scary proposition. Intereristo can show you where the jobs are and who's hiring.

Call today at 1-800-426-1342.
(206-546-7330 in WA & Canada)
Or return the coupon below.

Inter cristo	The Christian Career Specialists 19303 Fremont Ave. N. Seattle, WA 98133-3800		
	Name	_____	
	Address	_____	
	City	State	Zip

Highlanders Rout Roberts

Men's Basketball Report by Nathan Ransil

photo by Peter Dupler

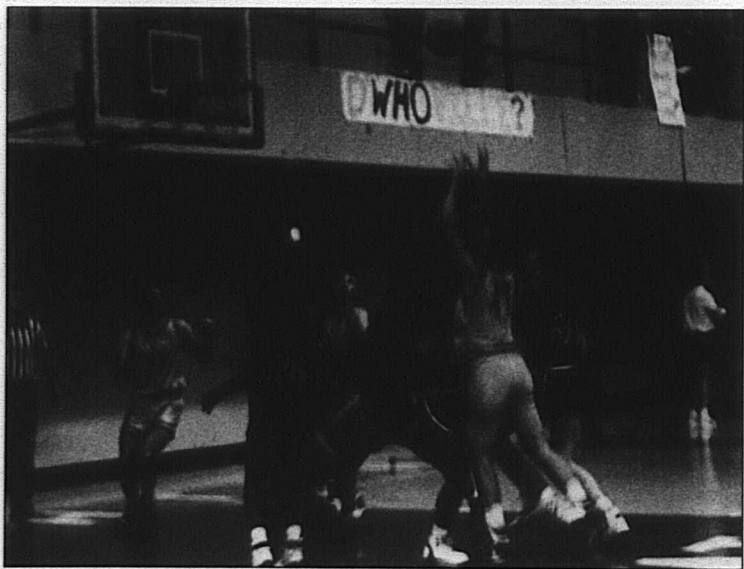
The Houghton men's varsity basketball team evened its record at 3-3 last week, with wins in their first two home games of the season. [This issue goes to press before the December 12 game against Brockport.] In the opener on Tuesday, December 4, the Highlanders decimated D'youville, with the winning margin being greater than many a first test score in Gen. Bio. Houghton charged to an early lead, and was never threatened in the duration.

On Saturday, the Highlanders spanked rival Roberts Wesleyan, who haven't been doing much raiding around these parts this year. A standing-room-only crowd, voicing its support, watched as Houghton

came back from an early deficit to forge a lead. Roberts clawed back to tie it in the late-going, but Houghton buried their clutch free throws, and celebrated a five point victory.

Junior co-captain Dave Binkowski led the team with 35 points, including a thundering dunk that brought the house down in the second half. George "The Ice Man" Wiedmaier, Dave "Money" Brocklehurst, and Darren "Handle" Berkeley finished in double figures, with 15, 13, and 12 points respectively.

Be ready to deliver the decibels when the team returns to home action after Christmas break, and prepare yourself for more "great rejoicing." ☆



Men's Soccer Finishes Superior Season

by Dan Noyes

The 1990 men's soccer season is in the past, but the memories of the 10-7-2 season are still being recounted and the 1991 season is anxiously awaited. Going into the '90 season Coach Doug Burke didn't know what to expect "after coming off a 3-10-3 season (in 1989) and losing seven seniors."

"We knew we had some good freshmen," said Burke, "but sometimes it takes them a while to gel." Burke cited the Brockport tournament as one of the most important events in the season. The Highlanders won the tournament, indicating that the team was getting it together. This year's defense, according to Burke, was "better than expected."

Nowhere was this defense more evident than in the final game of the season, against West Virginia Wesleyan. Houghton came into the game with an incredibly positive attitude against a team with players from England, Norway, and Trinidad who, it was surmised, were

This year's defense, according to Burke, was "better than expected."

(CONTINUES ON PAGE 13) ➤

probab
acade
season
won a
sion I
Indian
on a l
year.

I
goalie
the go
hand
score,
penal
make
score
from t
and a
fresh
ing st
ers, a
threat
severa
The s
put in
Hough

(
Raton
cham
Wesle

(
ingly
only
Said
team
ance
deep
team

"T
the
bu
de
tea

Hall
next
of ret
the H
how f
seen,

probably not recruited only for their academic skills. During the 1990 season West Virginia Wesleyan had won a game 15-0 and former division I NCAA national champions Indiana had managed to tie them on a last second goal earlier in the year.

In the first half, Houghton goalie Chad Groff was caught out of the goal and a Houghton defender's hand shot up to stop a would be score, but allowing West Virginia a penalty kick, which they put in to make the score 1-0. At the half, the score read 2-1 due to another goal from the same West Virginian player and a penalty kick from Houghton freshman Dan Domingez. The scoring stopped there for the Highlanders, although they managed to threaten the West Virginia goal several times during the second half. The same West Virginian player put in his third of the day sealing Houghton's fate with a 3-1 loss.

Curiously enough, in Boca Raton, Florida, the NAIA National champions were from West Virginia Wesleyan. The score? 3-1.

Coach Burke is looking longingly towards next year, where his only loss will be Stephan Shulke. Said striker Randy Levak, "The team was happy with their performance this year, but I think there is a deep desire among all of us on the team to go further next year." With

"The team was happy with their performance this year, but I think there is a deep desire among all of us on the team to go further next year."

Hall of Fame coach Doug Burke (see next article) at the helm and a host of returning players, it appears as if the Highlanders will go further. Just how far they will go remains to be seen, and the players can't wait. ☆



Burke Inducted Into NAIA Hall of Fame

Story and photograph courtesy of H.C. College Relations

Houghton's soccer coach and professor of physical education since 1958, E. Douglas Burke was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame during its 32nd annual men's national soccer championship at Boca Raton, Florida, November 19-24.

The Hall of Fame program honors individuals in three categories: meritorious service, coaches, and athletes. Induction into the Hall of Fame is the highest honor given by the NAIA.

In his 22 years as Houghton's head soccer coach, Burke has compiled a 230-123-42 record, receiving his 200th win during the 1986 season. His 1990 Highlanders compiled a 10-7-2 record. Burke has been president of the NAIA Soccer Coaches Association and has served

on the ISAA ethics committee. He is currently soccer chairman of District 18.

Burke was district coach of the year in both 1975 and 1976, and in both years his teams finished sixth in the NAIA national championship. In 1978 he was both NAIA soccer coach of the year and *Olean Times-Herald* man of the year. Burke was selected as coach of the East Team for the 1990 Senior Bowl.

In accepting his award, Burke said, "Being inducted into the NAIA Soccer Hall of Fame is a distinct honor and a capstone in my career as coach. Soccer has been and still is a family affair. My wife, Esther, has been supportive of me and a good fan of the team. Family involvement and support has helped make coaching a pleasure." ☆

1990

SPORTS IN REVIEW

An informed look at the year's sports by Dru Christian

Jan. 21: The San Francisco 49ers waltz to their second consecutive Super Bowl 55-10 over the Denver Broncos, who lost their third in four years.

April 2: UNLV wins its first national basketball title over Duke.
Also in April: Lockout—no baseball?

May 1: Who's Jeff George? The Colts sign him No. 1 for six years and \$15 million.

May 14: Unbridled wins the Kentucky Derby.

May 28: Summer Squall blows by Unbridled to win the Preakness.

June 4: Didn't the Mets give up on Lenny Dykstra? The Phillies now have a true leader.

June 16: Monica Seles becomes the youngest winner of the French Open women's title.

June 16: The Georgia Bulldogs baseball team wins the College World Series over Oklahoma State.

June 16: Go and Go wins the Belmont Stakes.

Also in June: The Edmonton Oilers have their own way four games to one over the Boston Bruins in the Stanley Cup final. The Detroit Pistons win their second straight NBA title by defeating the Portland Trailblazers four games to one.

July 1: Hale Irwin wins the U.S. Open golf championship.

July 6-8: What do Dave Stewart, Fernando Valenzuela, and Andy Hawkins have in common? They all throw no-hitters in less than three days. What don't they have in common? Hawkins loses!

July 15: The very boring World Cup soccer tournament is finally over as West Germany defeats Argentina 1-0.

Aug. 27: The Cowboys are being counted out before stepping on the field!

Sept. 3: College preseason picks: 1. Miami, 2. Notre Dame, 3. Florida, 4. Auburn, 5. Michigan.

Sept. 15-16: Gabriella Sabatini upsets Steffi Graf, and Pete Sampras

upsets Andre Agassi in the U.S. Open tennis championship.

Sept. 17: Female reporter Lisa Olson is told in more than enough words that she does not belong in the Patriots' locker room.

Oct. 13: Five nights after denying a woman access to the Bengals' locker room, Coach Sam Wyche gets fined \$27,000. Absurd!!

Oct. 27: Reds sweep A's for the World Series title.

Nov. 1: Evander Holyfield whips Buster Douglas in the third round of the Heavyweight Championship.

Nov. 25: Monica Seles wins the first five-set match in 89 years at the Virginia Slims Championship of Tennis.

Dec. 1: Once again the college football committees in charge of choosing teams for their bowl games prematurely invite teams to play before waiting for the final week of the season. Once again there may be a sorry choice for a National Champion.

T
h
day ni
55 win

praise
Robert
said th
was, in
He wa
thata
ing ill
have
for fin

W
B
A
R

by L

quick
tage
their
half,
allow
four
domin
seven
dan a
rebou
Dagw
point

The Houghton women's varsity basketball team hosted Roberts Wesleyan last Saturday night and came away with a 61-55 win.

Coach Harold "Skip" Lord praised the rapidly-improving Roberts team and their coach, but said that Houghton's performance was, in general, "a little lethargic." He was quick to point out, however that a few team members were fighting illness and that the players may have been drained from studying for finals.

along with her 12 rebounds. Lori Wynn chipped in with 15 points.

With the win over Roberts, Houghton's record now stands at 3-4 (not counting the December 12 game against Brockport), despite playing some very elite teams. The Highlanders have already played (and lost to) Hope (last year's NCAA Division III national champion), Buffalo State (a Division III Top 20 perennial), and Mansfield (an NCAA Division II team).

Unfortunately, the schedule won't get much easier. Besides

Women's Basketball Achieve 3-4 Record

by David McMillan

Houghton jumped out to a quick lead, holding a 31-20 advantage at the half. After increasing their lead to 15 early in the second half, the Highlanders cooled down, allowing Roberts to close to within four points. However, Houghton dominated the boards over the last seven minutes, with both Jen Jordan and Jill Hughes grabbing key rebounds. For the game, Stacia Dagwell led Houghton with 17 points and Jen Jordan had 16 to go

playing a tough NAIA District 18 lineup, Houghton still has to meet St. John Fisher (last season's Division III national runner-up) and Nazareth (another Top 20 team). Lord said that he would like to see the team finish with a winning record as well as qualify for and perform well in the District 18 playoffs.

Houghton's next home game is against Daemen on January 8 at 6 p.m. Show up and give your support. ☆

What Good Am I?

guest essay by James Lindsay

I used to think I was such a good person. After I graduated from high school I would look back and say, "Fortunately I did not engage in the really sinful practices of others around me like doing drugs and stuff like that." I really thought I was a fine candidate for canonization. How wrong I was. I have come to realize that much of what I did not do I was never really pressured to do. For the most part the people I associated with did not do that stuff and those who did, did not bother me about it. This was truly a blessing from God, but I decided to take credit for it myself. What would my reaction have been if I had been pressured to do those things? I wish I could say for certain that I would have resisted, but I'm really not sure.

So what does this tell me? Quite simply that I have no right to feel as though I am better than anyone else morally. Maybe if I was in their shoes I would have done the same things they have. I cannot justify my sin by looking for someone who has done something I deem to be worse than my actions. My deceit, lust, envy and the like are still deviations from God's will for me. Still, after realizing this I cannot dwell on my errors, or I will merely sink deeper and deeper into guilty despair. Instead I must use the memory of these transgressions in the fight to never do them again. That fight, I believe, is the sign of true repentance.

What good am I? Not really that much by myself. Left to my own devices I have failure written all over me. Fortunately my Creator has seen fit to give me the chance I do not deserve and never will. He finds me of value and has given me a family, friends and, most of all, salvation through His Son to prove it. Furthermore, He guides me through my everyday struggle to do what's right. He will not let me fail if I trust in Him and work to do His will for me in my life. "I lift up my eyes to the hill. From whence does my help come? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth." Psalms 121:1-2 (RSV). ☆

Aphorisms, Adages, and All That

Compiled by Ivan T. Rocha
and L. David Wheeler

Victory at all costs, victory in spite
of all terror, victory however long
and hard the road may be; for with-
out victory there is no survival.

Winston Churchill

There is nothing so absurd but some
philosopher has said it.

Cicero De Divinatione

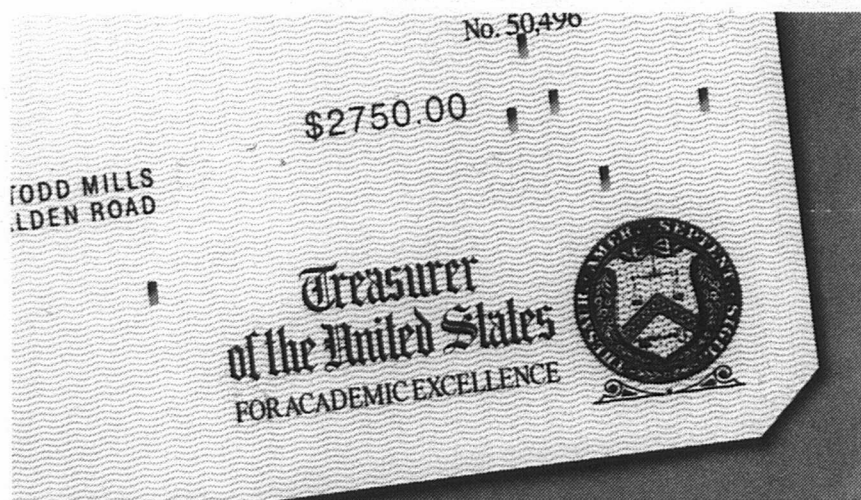
who knows if the moon's
a balloon, coming out of a keen city
in the sky—filled with pretty people?

e.e. cummings &, N&

Suffering willingly endured is
stronger than evil, it spells death
to evil.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer
The Cost of Discipleship

RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS



YOUR UNCLE WANTS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE. BUT ONLY IF YOU'RE GOOD ENOUGH.

Army ROTC offers qualified students two-
year and three-year scholarships that pay
for tuition and required educational fees
and provide an allowance for textbooks
and supplies.

You'll also receive up to a \$1000 grant
each school year the scholarship is in effect.
So find out today if you qualify.



ARMY ROTC

**THE SMARTEST COLLEGE
COURSE YOU CAN TAKE.**

FIND OUT MORE. CONTACT: RICHARD ALDERMAN EXT. 205 OR ROBERT DANNER EXT
220, CAMPUS CENTER

HOCUS POCUS

By Kurt Vonnegut

Star Book Review by Amy Flemming

Hi ho. Well, he's still around; his cult following should be pleased, and probably not disappointed. He's used the same structure or formula for his new one as he has done in the others, but it's a little different. Kurt Vonnegut is a cynical writer, using the character and voice of a disgruntled man, one who has led an unusual life, who is trapped in his surroundings, and who's looking back on the destruction of America.

But the destruction in previous books is nothing like the one he has described in this one: America is destroyed and dead, and there's no way to revive her. Is Vonnegut prophesying? He's done it before. (He predicted that Ronald Reagan would be President back in *Slaughterhouse Five* in the Sixties. I'm not trying to insinuate a connection.)

Not only has Vonnegut brought

back the same plot lines, but he has brought back some of his characters again; it has become a trademark of his. An almost obscure one is Ed Burgeron (who can be found in *Welcome to the Monkey House*), and the one and only Kilgore Trout resurfaces; he's one of Vonnegut's trademark characters. Trout is an old grizzle of a sci-fi writer whose stories usually appear in porno magazines. This time Trout's story is called "The Protocol of the Elder of Tralfamadore" (another group of old friends). This time Trout depicts Earth as being a huge Petri dish; the Elders of the planet Tralfamadore are toughening up germs for space travel, and humans' purpose is to be their testing ground, their bootcamp if you will.

Kind of depressing? Sound familiar? You might have heard about Trout's other "great" work in which he depicts humans and all

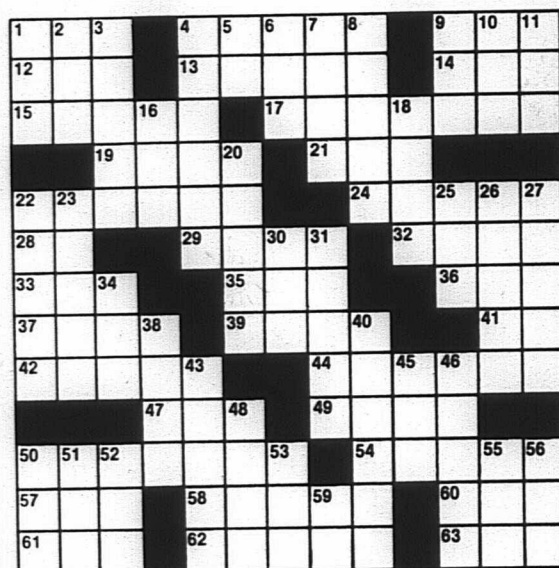
technological advancement as a means to save a Tralfamadorian stranded on Pluto. The Tralfamadorian needed a bottle opener to fix his ship. All of history was meant to lead to the point where the bottle-opener got to Pluto; that's the sole meaning of life. In reading any of Vonnegut's works you are taking a course in cynicism.

The main character in this book is called Eugene V. Debbs Hartke. He was an officer in Vietnam, then a professor of science at Tarkington College, a school for dyslexics in New York State. Then he was a warden at an all-black prison across the lake from the college, and he writes as a prisoner at the college, that became part of the prison. He is writing around the year 2001, by which time the Japanese had taken over all of the industries in America but are pulling out—he calls the men in business suits the "army of occupation." He describes a lot of sorrows about the war, about the present world, and about what humans have done. A quote that describes Vonnegut's position throughout the whole book is this: "The most important message of the crucifix, to me anyway, was how unspeakably cruel supposedly sane human beings can be when under orders from a superior authority."

If you're feeling cynical about the world and all of its ridiculousness, like war, famine, and all the other biggies, read this book; it'll be a bedfellow. If you think the world is a wonderful place to live in, and that there is nothing wrong, then read this book; it will bring you closer to reality. If you're somewhere in between, I don't know what to tell you—read it anyway. Let me leave you with this quote to think about: "Just because some of us can read and write and do a little math doesn't mean we deserve to conquer the Universe."

So it goes. ☆

Crossword Companion



ACROSS

1. Man lacking manners
4. Under-age
9. Iota
12. _____ Baba
13. Proverb
14. Age
15. Pertaining to punishment
17. One who sows seeds
19. Straight line around which a body rotates
21. Rock group
22. Conduct the affairs of
24. Earn
28. Be
29. Work for pay
32. Large passenger car (slang)
33. Scottish cap
35. Fish eggs
36. The most (slang)
37. Zeus' shield (var.)
39. Pitcher; jug
41. Armed forces veteran
42. 4th Greek letter
44. Assists minister
47. Priestly garment
49. Wise
50. Large waterfall
54. Of the sun
57. _____ Whitney
58. Tropical fruit tree
60. Attempt
61. Every
62. Vegetable
63. Look

DOWN

1. Hat
2. Beer
3. Gold coin (Iraq)
4. Spite
5. Ego
6. Snooze
7. Stare
8. Kingdom
9. Propelled plane
10. Mineral
11. Pave
16. Tool for splitting wood
18. Christmas carol
20. Look
22. Looked older
23. Idol
25. Edge
26. Adult insect
27. Poison
30. Propel a boat
31. Wants
34. One-thousandth of an inch
38. Male deer
40. Motive
43. Texas fort
45. Once
46. Gauls
48. Outer cereal coating
50. Education group
51. Sick
52. Trouble; feel unwell
53. Blackbird
55. Is (pl.)
56. Cereal grass
59. Leave

CROSSWORD
ANSWERS ON
PAGE SEVEN

Puzzle #130

that man behind that man behind the curtain

GHOSTED THIS WEEK

by Barry S. MacTarnaghan

As Rand is under stress lately, I decided to write his column for him this week. Actually, I write his column every week (note title), but I let him take all the credit (this is a blatant lie straight from somewhere that I cannot mention in this publication).

So, where shall I start? How about if I start at the beginning? Oh, no! I've already passed the beginning. I guess I'll have to begin all over again.

That Man Behind That Man Behind the Curtain

As Rand is under stress lately, I decided to write his column for him this week.

Okay, now I've started.

What's this Christmas thing I've been hearing about? Every time I turn around it's Christmas this and Christmas that. What is it anyway? Wait a minute, I think I remember what it is. It's that certain day of the year that you wake up and find a pine tree growing in the middle of your living room (or dying, as the case may be) with all this weird stuff hanging all over it. And underneath the stupid tree that crowds the room is a bunch of box-shaped items with strangely decorated paper on them. Isn't that it?

That's not all? There's more? Oh, yeah! I forgot about the big dinner with all your relatives that you only see once a year. (Why don't you ever see them on any other day? Are you sure you're related?) Probably, if you're like some people I know, you'll be eating turkey and a whole lot more. You always eat too much, but you justify your gluttony by saying you're making up for all the Houghton-cooked meals you've had. Did I remember everything?

Oh, wait, one more thing. It's the one day of the year you can rest assured you don't need to do any school work, and you probably don't have to go to any job either. (For you unfortunate ones, I'm sorry.) There, I think that's all.

What? Did I hear someone whisper something about a little baby born in a stable a long time ago? And he's supposed to be the Messiah? Nope, don't remember anything about that. ♣

The Black Hole

M. TAYLOR

We the unknowing, along with the unassured, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful. We have done so much for so long with so little, that we are now qualified to do anything with nothing. (Anonymous)

Well, it's that time again. Time to test, then time to rest. I just wanted to say a few things that may put a bit of light into your supposed perpetual drear of the Final Four. I have too much to do to even think of slamming anything important, so I'll stick to a few choice things and people right here in the great metropolis of Houghton.

A few parting shots before you get to reject me for the semester:

To Student Development: I am very proud of the demand made to the freshman and sophomore classes, earlier on in the semester, that they add the words "non-alcoholic" to their "Anchor Bar" signs. I also deplore the fact that a cocktail umbrella is affixed to a sign in the library foyer and believe that some action should be taken on this matter, post-haste.

To Rand B.: Nice writing style. Where have I seen it before?

To Joe G.: Good point about the Spot. By the way, I used to be a Democrat. Thanks for praying for me.

To Doug Wood: Good luck in the U.K. Don't let Phil get deported. We'll pop down the rabble a bit and have a Spotted Dick on the Thames once I arrive. [There's such a fine line between clever and stupid.]

To Saddam Hussein: PHLTTTT!!

To Ronald Reagan: Thank you so kindly for the national catastrophe that you've left behind. I surely hope that you can remember enough of your life as "President" to put in your memoirs. Don't forget that *Contra*-thingy!

To Mikhail Gorbys: How's about trading that Peace Prize for a few hundred thousand barges of food?

To Itsack Shamir: Maybe you'd like to share with us that "little something" that happened at your briss?

To the New York State Legislature and Senate: Please remember to send sympathy cards to all those nice folks that may die on the weekends due to the lack of snow-removal funds.

To God: Nice work! Too bad we all can't seem to realize this.

To Mom: Thanks for the amniotic fluid. I couldn't have done it without ya!

To certain three-member families on campus (you should know who you are, and if you don't, search for pity elsewhere): Thank you so kindly for acknowledging my existence periodically. It's nice to know that after a two full years of being "friends" that you can still find the time to treat me so well. [It's amazing how relationships can deteriorate when people practice exclusivity.]

To Pro-choicers: Aren't you glad YOU weren't aborted?

To Pro-lifers: Aren't you glad YOU weren't run over by a van?

To Security: Why is it that I have never seen a parking ticket on a faculty or staff vehicle parked in student parking?

To Student Senate: Thank you for wasting our time by debating the Big Al's music controversy for the fifth time in the last fiscal decade.

To my employers: Thank you very much for glorifying the man that stated "Beatles are more popular than Jesus Christ."

To everyone else reading this column: Shove off! I've better things to do to spout off at you too. Merry Christmas, all. ☆

Mail



Dear Honorable Editors:

I am writing concerning the censorship of art controversy that you presented last issue. It seems to me that the major question behind this controversy has been missed: namely, should public funds be used to fund morally questionable or offensive art?

I personally believe that an artist has the right to make whatever kind of art he or she wants to, provided that it is not funded by taxpayers. The same is true of art galleries. If a private art gallery wants to display Mapplethorpe's photos, well, that's just dandy — but the minute you want to show it in a public gallery, it becomes a question of generally accepted ideas of obscenity and good taste. These parameters should exist as set by the people at large and their elected officials, because they are the ones paying for it and they elected those officials to act in these situations for them.

The Public should not be forced to fund art it generally finds unacceptable. Nor should the government be forced to pay for art that is blatantly anti-American and designed to shock and hurt the more patriotic members of our society, such as this country's veterans who deserve our respect. An example would be painting a flag in front of a doorway in order to force people who want to enter to step on it. If you want to make that kind of art, pay for it yourself.

James Lindsay

Mail



Dear Houghton,

I remember spraying the head of the girl in front of me with an awful sneeze during biology class my freshman year. The blast, which parted her locks like the red sea, was a sudden surprise for both of us. I felt like crawling quietly out the window and banishing myself from Houghton forever.

My four year stint will conclude at the end of this semester. Memories of such mishaps and other adventures are clinging to me like the slow flies of Fancher. How could it be I'd want to crawl away now?

In reflection, Houghton wasn't necessarily a quick quirk. I witnessed "mighty" Gao's decline (Gao who?) and saw the Woolsey building transmogrify into NABbing me daily. The old cafeteria became the new artsy hang out and the Bell tower did the twist... (Yes, I look at it at three in the morning!) Gradually, the Houghton I visited as a prospective had changed rather dramatically.

But the campus face lift wasn't the only thing happening. I've been a spectator of the challenge to the integrity of the Christian environment. My four years really wasn't stirred by whether or not chapel should pancake my days or if there really is an "alcohol problem" about. Instead, I was torn between sweating the bullets of being apathetic, something that plagues 90% of the student community, or joining the voice of the judgmental others. Oozing out this letter leaves me in

which group?

Indeed, the best way to be alive here is to have an open mind. Living with a majority of Christians from different backgrounds is no easy task. Perhaps the only unification Houghton provides are varying amounts of protection from a rotting secular society. Like a sneeze, change spits itself out forcefully. Where are you going to stand (or crawl away)?

God Bless You!
Doug Wood



Dear Ivan and Dave,

There's a right way to confront a person, and then there's the letter to the *Star* way. Joe Galli had a problem with the Spot. (At this point, maybe the question "Who didn't?" applies.) But Joe didn't talk to the Spot coordinator about it. Joe also had a problem with my participation in the Spot. He didn't talk to me either. That was the wrong thing to do, and I told him that when I talked to him Friday after I read his letter to the *Star*.

Do you remember—Dave, Ivan, and everyone who used to read the *Star* when Jack Urso and Mark Horne were here—how the *Star* was used to air personal differences? Joe's letter leans in this direction.

There's a right way to confront a person, and then there's the letter to the *Star* way.

(Does mine???) I suggest readers of the *Star* don't write letters like that. It's better to air our differences in person, where it does the most good.

Sincerely,
Thomas Woods

Mr Taylor:

Webster's begins defining the term "black hole" as "a hypothetical invisible region in space with a small diameter . . ." Considering the author of this article, the title of your column is quite appropriate. That being said, let me address your most recent article in the November 30 issue of the *Star*.

Concerning your reference to Fancher and Shenawana lighting, let me correct you on three points followed by a personal suggestion. The lights are timed to shut off at midnight. Thus, they are not on at "3 o'clock in the freaking morning." Second, the lights are not "hot enough to put a second degree burn on your hand from two inches away." I put my hands in front of both for a period of ten minutes in order to test the validity of your claim. While I do recall a warm sensation, my hand sustained relatively little damage. Third, in response to your assertion that the lighting is expensive and consumes "thousands of watt hours." The lights are highly energy-efficient and inexpensive to run. The Fancher light is on for approximately 4.8 watt hours a night at a cost of 80¢ per watt hour for a bank-breaking total of \$3.84. Broken down in cost per student using and enrollment of 1200 as a base, the total cost per student is .0032 cents. Wow. The Shen light is on for 1.2 watt hours per night at a cost of 73¢. Such numbers do indeed boggle the mind.

Briefly, here's my suggestion I promised earlier. If you were so worried about the death of those four shrubs, why didn't you do what you deem your Christian duty and replant them yourself?

Next, you state that you "have yet to see" recycling at our institution. This is the zenith of ignorance. Unless you've been wandering around this campus in the dark with

your co
recyclin
on this
Joel Sw
there's
His ext
FI
real bu
studen
tity as
indeed
tion in
studen
on a da
So
you ma
least h
tiately
going
rection
tree.

To the
F
and D
with a
have r
fore an
what i
T
you in
munity
me. T
friend
all, for
one—h
getting
books,
that ar
Also, t
I do n
willing
hand
T
servan
was in
Merry

your cockroaches, you can observe recycling in every college building on this campus. I suggest talking to Joel Sweda, RD of Shen, if you think there's no recycling at Houghton. His extension is 431.

Finally, you seem to have a real burden and concern for both student tuition costs and our identity as a Christian college. If that is indeed the case, what is your position in regards to non-board plan students eating for free at Big Al's on a daily basis?

So come on Mr. Taylor. Before you make erroneous assertions, at least have the evidence to substantiate your claims. If you're not even going to make an effort in that direction, shut yourself off and save a tree.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Buck



To the Community,

For three weeks in November and December I was on crutches with a fractured bone in my foot. I have never had a broken bone before and obviously, this taught me what it is like.

This is a letter to thank all of you in the Houghton College Community for all you have done to help me. Thank you so much to all my friends (I will not try to name you all, for fear that I will forget someone—but you know who you are) for getting my meals, carrying my books, and doing those little things that are so much harder on crutches. Also, thank you to those of you whom I do not know, who were always willing to open a door and lend a hand when I needed it.

Thank you all for being Christ's servants and helping me when I was in need. God bless you and Merry Christmas!

In Christ,
Karen McKnight

This letter comes to us as a contribution from editor Ivan Rocha's uncle, an active vegetarian.

The practice of vegetarianism is thousands of years old, and many famous vegetarians such as Buddha, Plato, Tolstoy, Ghandi, Isaac Newton, George Bernard Shaw, and Rousseau are known to us today.

There are many reasons to believe that the first primates, our oldest ancestors, ate fruits and nuts only. There is, likewise, reason to believe that we are descended from a different variety of primates, not necessarily chimpanzees or monkeys, but a different genealogy of primates altogether, and although this is not yet scientifically proven, the evidence points strongly in this direction. It is also well known that the primates were and still are vegetarians and, more specifically, "frugivorous." Thus, we too should be "frugivorous," because we do not have any fangs, claws, or a digestive system fitted to assimilate a food other than fruits, vegetables, or nuts.

It is generally accepted that proteins are necessary for a healthy diet—no one will disagree here—but many are unaware of the fact that nuts in general are especially rich in proteins of high biological value. Besides, vegetarians and naturalists realize that the myth created around the necessity of animal protein was enforced by the dictatorial economical powers that have controlled the world throughout history, at the expense of innocent animals' lives. We have been mercilessly exploited year after year, century after century, without any reaction. A few day-dreaming naturalists have tried to expose these truths, but few have been willing to listen.

In general, vegetarians believe that a meatless diet is more healthful than one that includes meat, fish

or fowl. We are also morally opposed to the killing of animals. Few people, it seems, care about the painful reality that millions of animals are killed daily, with hideous cruelty, the world over. Many religious people who carry the Bible every Sunday, sing a great number of hymns during their worship, and spend years discussing Scripture in Sunday School, completely and hypocritically disdain the Sixth Commandment, which says, "Thou shalt not kill." Is it only for human beings? Think it over!

In short, few understand that animals have the same right to life as human beings, and that most commercially raised animals spend their lives in a miserable, abject slavery, and die a merciless death. In addition, few have cared to go through a slaughterhouse and see slices of poor bloody bodies hung up on horrible hooks. Finally, few understand how much horror and distress this causes the vegetarian who has pity on the poor animals. Generally, people are indifferent to the slaughter of animals. However, we vegetarians would like to assure you that if you ever visit a slaughterhouse you will never eat meat again.

The ultimate goal of every serious vegetarian is to live on a diet composed of fruits and nuts only. Many vegetarians dream of working their way up to this summit, but it is important to bear in mind that there are intermediate phases, before this final stage. In the first stage, the diet should be composed of vegetables in general as well as eggs and dairy products. The second stage consists in renouncing all products of animal origin, and in the third stage, all artificial or prepared food should be given up, even cooked vegetables. This is when you become a naturalist—a marvelous and profitable period—and may

(CONTINUES ON PAGE 22)

MORE Mail

not even need a stove in your kitchen.

Naturally, each phase depends on each person's body. As a rule, when you realize that your body is completely fitted to a natural way of living then you go, step by step, towards the summit (i.e. "frugivorous" habits).

For the most part, people do not care very much about what they eat. Because parents do not really care about what their children eat, people become used to eating virtually anything since childhood, and are entirely reckless of the consequences. Most people only worry about health when it is gone, but the responsibility is not only theirs, for governments have been notoriously lax in providing correct dietary information and preventive medicine. As it has been said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." In the long run, vegetarianism is not so strange, ethereal, mysterious, or extremely difficult. It is, in addition, a possible solution to the worldwide shortage of food caused by rapid population growth. Most importantly, however, vegetarianism spares the lives of millions of animals.

Please think over and answer to yourself these simple questions: have you ever been to a vegetarian restaurant? Does your family's diet include many fruits, nuts, and vegetables? Have you ever tried whole-wheat bread? Does the fact that there are many vegetarian associations impress you? Does the daily sacrifice of millions of animals distress you?

Answer according to the value you ascribe to your own health and according to your conscience.

Eros Ripoli Altheia
São Roque, SP, Brazil

Dear Editors:

As far as I can tell, you have not published a certain article that I have been waiting to see for the past two issues, so now I must ask you a question. Where is an article on the Houghton/West Virginia Wesleyan soccer game?

I am rather surprised and disappointed that you did not have an article on this great game. There are several reasons why there should have been an article. First, a team reaching the NAIA area playoffs after a 3-11-2 season last year deserves an article. Second, Houghton played the number one ranked team in the nation. Third, we played a very good game in which we scored a goal against the number one team and allowed only three goals (one, in my opinion, was a bad call on the part of the referee). Finally, and most importantly, it was just an exciting playoff game that should have got some sort of mention in the *Star*.

By not having an article, you seem to say that the soccer program at Houghton is not important and not worth the effort of coverage. To me, this is an insult and an outrage. I know from personal experience that the team worked very hard and long to reach the playoffs, and we do deserve some mention. In addition, many people come and watch our games, and I know they would appreciate articles on our games.

You say in the paper that the *Star* is a publication that covers events at Houghton College. You missed one of the biggest events of the semester. Try and get your act together and cover some of the important events that happen on campus.

John Percy #18

(Ed. note: The *Star* apologizes for the delay in coverage. See page 8 for article.)

Dear Houghton Community:

This past Saturday (December 8, 1990) there was a men's basketball game in Houghton between Roberts and Houghton. During that game I was operating the sound equipment. At halftime Dean Danner came over and asked me to turn down the music that was being played. Because many people were asking me to turn it up and some were asking me to turn it down, I was becoming increasingly frustrated. Before the game even started I was in a not-so-good mood. Also, I have been under a tremendous amount of stress lately. Anyway, when Dean Danner made that request I was so frustrated that I could no longer control my emotions and I made a rude gesture at the dean. The gesture was not directed solely at the dean. In fact, the gesture was mostly directed at life in general. Nonetheless, after the game was over Dean Danner approached me and I apologized.

I'm assuming the same people who told Dean Danner that I gestured at him were not informed by Dean Danner that I apologized. [I make that assumption because several people have mentioned the incident since Saturday night.] So, I am making a public apology to Dean Danner and the rest of the Houghton Community.

However, there is more that I want to say revolving around the matter. First, as those who know me will agree, my actions during the game were very much out of character. Some did not take the time to find out why I made that gesture. As they did not know what Dean Danner and I said to each other just before I gestured (and the reasons go far beyond our verbal exchange), I do not see what they based their judgment on. However, they did judge me. Second, I do not intend to do this again. Third, I was informed that I should have more respect for the dean, simply because he is the dean. I do have a lot of respect for Dean Danner, because he has earned it. Last, for those who spoke to a particular individual concerning my actions, I would appreciate if you would, in the future, talk to the person with whom you have a problem (in this case, me), and do not talk to others.

Respectfully,
Barry S. MacTarnaghan

THE

HOFFMAN CINEMATOGRAPHIC V E R T E X

by Randy Hoffman

PREDATOR 2 (R)

☆☆

Recommendation: You may want to see this if you have a thing for dreadlocks.

Approval: Not unless there's a clause in the policy that lets a preponderance of dreadlocks outweigh decapitations and other niceties.

Capsule Comment: This movie has everything for the discriminating viewer, as long as your tastes run to sick druggies, big guns, renegade cops, big guns, invisible aliens, big telescoping spears... if they'd only let Danny Glover have some dreadlocks...

Here we go, another science fiction film, and rated R to boot. Well, no apologies from this corner; this movie's a textbook case and I'm about to write the most concise textbook you've ever seen.

Filmmaking for Fun and Profit... Well, At Least For Profit.

Chapter 1: The Gimmick

Awright, boys, yer fresh out of producer school and still wet behind the ears. How ya gonna make sure that ya make a name fer yerself within six months and get invited t'do Tom Cruise's next smash? Well, 's'obvious, y'gotta produce a money-maker that'll catch people's attention; a sure-fire film with a novelty angle, some kinda gimmick. Fer example, maybe y'wanna do a science fiction film with lotsa special effects, and ya gonna make sure it has a twist. Not none'a this Twilight Zone intellectual weird stuff, give it a mass-market appeal; say maybe a alien invasion, kinda, and yer twist is there's one of 'em, and he—gotta be male, boys—he's interested in

huntin' humans like big game, right? Well, y'can see how ya gotta take it from there on what the alien's like: all dressed in black armor, lotsa hardware, sleeker'n a black Corvette on the outside and uglier'n sin underneath. Just like Darth Vader 'cept with a new chassis and a couple a missile launchers. A'course, we're assumin' here that yer playin' it safe and hedgin' yer bets by bein' involved with the sequel and not the original; y'll have to pretend like it's 1997 or somethin' even though yer filmin' some hack side story ripped offa yersteday's headlines in some cheap-labor Canadian city, but as long as y'throw in a few prototype cars nobody'll ever notice.

Chapter 2: The Good Guys

Well, we talk about "good guys," as in plural, but what we're really sayin' is the good guy as in singular. I mean, you geeks seen Sly Stallone and Chuck Norris and Arnie Schwarzenegger in "Targetin' the Brainless Audience" class, right? You know the score. People who pay six clams ta see movies want their stupidity to be amply rewarded. So trot out Idea Primo: The Psycho Vet Who Gets Screwed Over By The System, Grabs an M-16, and Single-Handed-Like Blows Away A Thousand Stuntmen Dressed Like Commie Fascists. Then again maybe y'don't wanna run ta the well too many times, and besides since we're talkin' sequel the scenario's probably been tapped already. So ya use Idea Segundo: The Rebel Cop Who Gets Screwed Over By The System, Grabs A Shotgun, And Single-Handed-Like Blows Away A Thousand Stuntmen Dressed Like Dope-Pushing Scumbags. Hey, that's great, 'cause ya can have yer alien

share the fun and wipe out a buncha the slime before he Goes Too Far And Kills The Sidekick. Hire an almost-big-name minority actor to play One Man Army #43, so ya get a nice multiracial following without havin' t'pay big-time dough, and yer all set. Maybe t'cover yer tracks y'set this guy up with a few buddies that he stresses "teamwork" to—at least until the middle of the movie, when ya kill 'em all off.

Chapter 3: The Bad Guys

What was pro wrestling a couple of years ago? Nothin'. But give 'em guys in flashy costumes with big mouths and anything's possible. That's whatcha gotta think when ya cast yer villains. Yer Arch-Enemy, the alien, he's already taken care of. Then ya got the Supporting Sleaze; okay, bring in guys who can do the Hispanic sex 'n' violence thing fer Rival Drug Gang A, get another bunch who can do the Jamaican voodoo thing fer Rival Drug Gang B, and snap up a couple more who can do the know-it-all-with-shades thing fer the Obnoxious Feds. You can shoot 'em, skin 'em, throw 'em off buildings, litter the landscape with 'em however you please, seeing as how they're cheap and biodegradable. Then finally ya got a General Nuisance to think of, just fer laughs. Everybody hates the press, right? Maybe you got a tabloid media stooge who makes the viewers look half-way intelligent; you can have yer Good Guy punch him out. Wouldn't it be great if y'could get Morton Downey, Jr.? Wow.

Chapter 4: Making It Work

This ain't gonna be hard. You've already trotted out so many stereotypes that the theater's waist-deep in cultural inertia, so ya just gotta stay heavy on the gore and use enough incidental gloss to fairy-dust any surviving mental juice out of existence. Get yer scriptwriters to throw in a few little hints about yer alien and his society and how it works, and it's a sure bet that yer diehards'll get so involved talkin' about clouds they'll never realize they been snowed. Title it PREDATOR... PREDATOR 2.

See? With enough practice, you can do it too. Mmm-mmm, I can smell that bacon fryin' now.

The End.

