

the HOUGHTON STAR

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

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

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THE World OUT there

BY BEN HUGHES
STAR STAFF WRITER

Isabel Wreaks Havoc

Hurricane Isabel slammed into North Carolina's coast last Thursday, causing extensive damage as it made its way northwest towards Canada. The tropical storm left millions without power and killed at least 17 people. Due to high winds and heavy rain, widespread flooding occurred across several states.

After Isabel pummeled North Carolina's Outer Banks with 100 mph winds, it weakened to Tropical Depression status on Friday, with winds around 35 mph.

On Thursday, President Bush declared major disasters in North Carolina and Virginia, entitling those states to receive federal aid. The governors of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania all declared a state of emergency, as did the mayor of the District of Columbia. The federal government itself shut down in D.C. on Thursday and Friday. Roughly 6,800 flights were cancelled due to Isabel, and several airports were forced to shut down.

Isabel was forecast to dissipate by Saturday as it moved from Ohio into Canada.

[For full coverage of isabel and other major storms, visit: http://story.news.yahoo.com/fc?cid=34&tmpl=fc&in=World&cat=Hurricanes_and_Tropical_Storms.]

U.N. Condemns Israeli Threats Against Arafat

On September 19th, the U.N. General Assembly passed a resolution censuring Israel for its recent threats to remove Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat from power.

The resolution also condemned Israel's killings of Palestinian militants and Palestinian suicide bombings targeting Israelis. One hundred thirty-three of the General Assembly's member nations voted in favor of the resolution, while four voted against, and 15 abstained.

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Crane Searches For Houghton's Identity

BY CHRISTINA TURNER
STAR STAFF WRITER

On September 16-17, several representatives from Crane Metamarketing Limited visited campus to begin the first phase of a research project the college has dubbed the "Crane Project." Although the phrase might bring to mind a wildlife preserve, the Crane Project is an attempt by Houghton's Board of Trustees to help define the school's identity and increase visibility among potential students, said Cindy Lastoria, assistant to President Chamberlain.

Crane representatives conducted four focus groups that interviewed students and staff in order to receive feedback on Houghton's strengths and weaknesses. To ensure anonymity, the groups were limited to those who had received invitations. "We wanted the people to be free to answer how they so chose," said Lastoria. "It makes for freer, more truthful responses." In addition

to visiting Houghton's main campus, Crane representatives also met with students and staff of the Program for Accelerating College Education and several Houghton alumni at the West Seneca campus on September 18-19.

The most critical part of the Crane Project is the second phase: a campus-wide survey to be conducted this fall. Consisting of both short answer and essay questions, the survey will be distributed to everyone on campus. "This survey is unique in that everyone will have a voice," said Lastoria. "The more responses we can get, the better." Unlike other surveys, a project of this scope is only conducted about once every ten years; so she encourages all students to participate when they receive the survey in the mail.

Crane's research will in no way change the college's mission statement or philosophy but will help college

officials learn how to communicate information about Houghton more effectively. "We want to get our name out," Lastoria asserted. The research gathered by Crane will also help the college fulfill its strategic goal to "increase public awareness of the demonstrated value of the Houghton experience." Identifying programs, traits and activities unique to Houghton will show the admissions office what to emphasize when promoting the college and designing new view books and materials for prospective students.

Lastoria commented that student response has been positive so far. "They [the Crane representatives] were very impressed with our student body," she said.

Students will receive more information about the project through mail or e-mail later in the semester.

WJSL 'Scaled Back,' not 'Down for the Count'

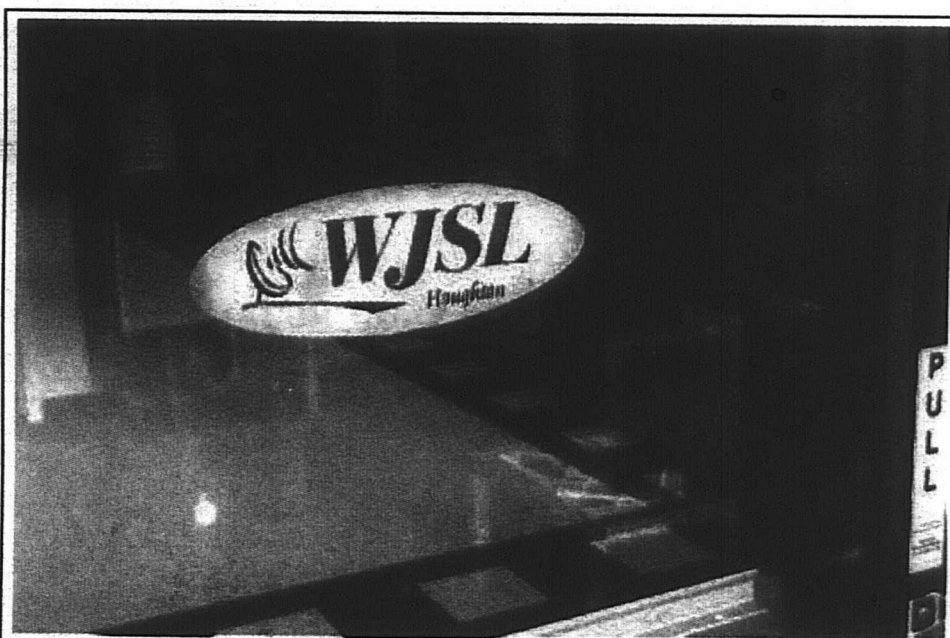


PHOTO BY NATHAN BOYD

The reflection of the Big Al's area is all that can be seen in the darkened windows of the scaled back Houghton radio station WJSL. Lack of a federal licence, lack of funds for potential royalty fees, and lack of a faculty supervisor are reasons WJSL is minimizing its broadcasting for the time being.

BY D. ELLIOTT TAIT
STAR STAFF WRITER

In August, Houghton College Radio's top players convened for a meeting to determine the fate of the descending radio station, commonly referred to as WJSL. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) had backed the station and others like it into an uncomfortable corner with its ever-changing regulations and legal predicaments that left WJSL without a broadcasting permit.

WJSL's only warrior qualified to battle such an intimidating foe - Professor Prinsen, the station's advisor - had already resigned his position at Houghton College, however, and was in the process of his move to South

Dakota.

Pinned in this corner with hands tied, Dr. Chamberlain, Dean David Tilley, Danielle Luckey, and Dr. Douglas Gaerte, the station's previous advisor, decided to "scale back" WJSL indefinitely.

Katie Felton, the elected General Manager of Houghton College Radio (HCR), was not invited to the meeting, but was later informed by student body president Luckey of the group's decision. "We aren't saying that [WJSL] is shut down," Felton said, "but it's 'scaled down.' We still do sports...and chapels."

This 'scaling down' has been a gradual process for the radio station. Beginning in the late 1990s, Houghton

College administrators found the upkeep of the school's radio station to be "too expensive," according to Dr. Douglas Gaerte. At that time WJSL was broadcasting to Allegany County in its entirety, but after attempting to market to Christians of all ages, the station was unable to capture any audience at all.

HCR then gave its 6,000-watt 90.3 frequency to WXXI of Rochester, in exchange for its help in creating a 250-watt, student-run station that would broadcast solely to Houghton College and its immediate residents. "I think it was a very good deal," Dr.

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From world news, page 1

Israel and the U.S. were among those that rejected the resolution. The U.S., which had previously vetoed a comparable Security Council resolution, criticized the resolution for not explicitly condemning Hamas and other specific Palestinian groups for their violence.

The U.S.-proposed "road map" towards Israeli-Palestinian peace dictates that Palestinian leadership crack down on its militant groups. Israel has recently resumed military strikes from the air and on the ground against such threats, accusing the Palestinians of failing to take action themselves. In response to Israel's renewed operations and recent attacks by the Palestinians, Arafat proposed a new cease-fire. His offer was quickly dismissed by the Israeli government, which had labeled the previous cease-fire as a Palestinian ploy.

Thus, despite the U.N. resolution and Arafat's call for a truce, violence continues between the Israelis and Palestinians. The same day the resolution was approved, Israeli troops destroyed the houses of two Palestinian suicide bombers. Also that day, an intense firefight took place outside of Jenin, and Israel charged a Jewish settler with weapons theft, linking him to Jewish militants accused of killing eight Palestinians.

The recent spate of violence immediately followed the September 6th resignation of Palestinian prime minister Mahmoud Abbas. Soon after Abbas stepped down, Israel vowed to remove Arafat from power, possibly by expelling or killing him. Arafat has remained defiant, and appears to have an ally in the replacement Prime Minister, Ahmed Qureia, whom Arafat appointed.

The Bush administration has denounced Arafat for apparently undermining Abbas, and strongly opposes his involvement in the peace process. While it sees Arafat as an obstacle in the road map, the U.S. government also opposes Israel's decision to forcefully remove him.

[For more news and analysis of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, visit: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/world/issues/mideastpeace/>.]

U.S. Seeks International Assistance for Iraq

The U.S. has requested that Turkey, Pakistan, and South Korea provide up to 40,000 troops overall to help stabilize Iraq. The appeal for

troops came as a part of President Bush's aggressive pursuit of international cooperation aimed at securing and rebuilding Iraq. None of the three nations have formally announced a decision so far.

Turkey, Pakistan, and South Korea are all expected to encounter strong internal resistance towards the requested deployments. Many in Turkey, including its parliament, oppose assisting the U.S. with its operations in Iraq. Hard-line Islamic clerics in Pakistan have condemned sending troops. South Korea's government faced violent protests earlier this year when it sent 675 military support personnel to Iraq.

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Gaerte said.

Also part of the deal was WXXI's assistance in forming and sending HCR's application for a new radio frequency. After Congress' ordering of the FCC to do everything in its power to "open up the radio waves," however, the FCC was flooded with applications, "bogg[ing] down our application," Dr. Gaerte stated.

Many of these applications were for the same frequency; thus the FCC was forced to create a "points system" that would determine which applications would be granted over others for the same frequency.

"The stations that didn't get a frequency," Dr. Gaerte said, "didn't like the points system," and in turn sued the FCC. "The FCC is not granting any licenses" until the legal matters are settled, which leaves WJSL without a frequency and without a license - the

There are currently 140,000 U.S. troops patrolling Iraq. The U.S.-led coalition troops face daily attacks amid general instability and hostility. While some nations have already rejected the possibility of supplying troops to ease the U.S. burden, over 20 others are currently providing around 20,000 troops. The Bush administration points to the Polish-led, multinational force of 9,500 troops already in Iraq as a model for international military assistance.

President Bush is also seeking non-military aid from the international community. The administration is currently pushing a new U.N. resolution that would facilitate international contributions of both

first of the three main reasons WJSL is "scaled down."

The fine for operating without a license is up to \$10,000 a day, according to Dr. Gaerte.

Other fines and royalties regarding analog and digital radio are "constantly evolving" and have made small radio stations like WJSL reconsider their immediate future because it takes experienced professionals to remain up to date with the rules. According to Dr. Gaerte, "Many colleges find it too risky" and have simply canceled all radio programs.

One of the most significant of the pending royalties is the possible payment for music played over a webcast, and even more significant is the possibility that these royalties will be forced upon past webcasts. This is the second of three main reasons HCR went from a full-service digital station last school year to a "sports...and chapels" digital station.

The third reason is the lack of an experienced advisor, now that Professor

finances and troops.

On September 19th, the President personally called Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and pressed for assistance in rebuilding Iraq and Afghanistan. The Japanese media is reporting that Japan will present \$1-3 billion towards the rebuilding efforts. In July, Japan's government approved a troop deployment to Iraq, but this decision has been mired in controversy and no troops have been dispatched yet.

[For further news and commentary, visit: <http://story.news.yahoo.com/fc?cid=34&tmpl=fc&in=World&cat=Iraq>.]

Prinsen has resigned and relocated. "We were really lucky with [Prinsen] because he was qualified in so many areas and had 'significant radio experience,'" Dr. Gaerte stated. The professor was found by Houghton College after three searches. As previously stated, it takes trained personnel to keep up with the FCC regulations, and without one, stations run the risk of paying thousands of dollars in fines.

In the 1980s and 90s, HCR hired a full-time manager of the radio station. Hiring a professional to run the station and teach a few radio classes, however, would "not be a good use of resources," according to Dr. Gaerte because radio is a very small part of the college. He estimated a \$60-70 thousand annual salary for that position alone, not counting the other engineers that would have to be hired.

Since a permit for web casting

See WJSL, page 3

GETTING TO KNOW ...

Dr. Brandon Paige Johnson

by MATT AUYEUNG
STAR STAFF WRITER

Age: 31

Marital Status: Married (Danielle)

Alma Mater: Concordia College

Hometown: Brainerd, Minnesota

Previous Position(s): Director of Choirs at Duluth East High School, Conductor of the Symphonic Choir @ University of Arizona

What are some of the qualities about Houghton that particularly appealed to you?

Both Dani and I love that Houghton is a small, christian liberal arts college that has true community nature. The students, faculty, and staff are all genuinely concerned for the spiritual and academic growth of one another. I continue to be impressed with the quality of student who attends Houghton College; they tend to have qualities that any conductor would love his/her singers to possess.

Schubert or Schumann? Schubert

Favorite Concert Hall: Lincoln Center

Favorite Cereal: Frosted Flakes... "They're Terrific"

Favorite Book: The Bible

Define "Excellence:" I would define excellence in music as performing the work in such a way as to unlock the expressive qualities thereby experiencing the truth as the composer intended.

As Director for Men's Choir, Who Would You Rather Have: N'Sync or the Backstreet Boys? Who?

A Bible Verse that Best Defines Your Character: This is a difficult one. I have selected a verse that I hope others would use as a description of my character. Colossians 3:12-17. Dani had this verse engraved on the back of my wedding band to remind me of what we aspire to be.

I understand you have a voice studio. Who's your favorite voice student? I have only two voice students (Matt and Matt.) While Matt is very good, I feel that Matt is slightly stronger.



PHOTO BY NATHAN BOYD

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Houghton Ministry after OneThing

BY KYLE NAGY
STAR STAFF WRITER

original material without music is unnecessary and the current four-man staff is experienced and trained enough to broadcast chapels and sports, Dr. Gaerte agrees that it is possible to begin broadcasting talk and/or news shows, insofar as the HCR staff agrees to do the necessary work.

Before hearing Dr. Gaerte's statement, general manager Felton said that without an advisor, WJSL would only be able to broadcast chapels and sports.

On September 17, the station applied for \$4000 from the Student Government, a significant drop from last year's \$8500. The elected body, however, approved WJSL for only \$3000, \$1000 to be used for maintenance and \$2000 to be used for upgrades. Felton herself receives \$1200 in scholarship money for her service to the school, and her three staff members also receive scholarship money.

After three years of waiting for a frequency and license, Dr. Gaerte sent the FCC a letter demanding the status of our application. In reply, an individual from the FCC called the professor, informing him that the "application is active...and it's in the pile." The individual from the FCC was confident that WJSL would receive its requested frequency and license, but not within the school year.

In response to the bad news, Felton said, "We are all disappointed; we've been dedicated to the station for three years. But we are keeping our fingers crossed." Felton is a senior this year and is doubtful she will see the rebirth of HCR as a student at Houghton College; however, she is excited that the three years of radio silence will soon come to an end and the college will, once again, be able to enjoy HCR to its fullest.

Have you been spending some of your free time in your dorm doing nothing, and just wish there was "one thing" that could fill the small hole in your schedule?

Maybe this "one thing" you are looking for is Onething, a prayer and worship ministry held at Houghton. As many returning students know, the Onething prayer ministry went by the name "Hungry" last year. Their new name comes directly from Psalm 27:4 which reads, "One thing I ask of the Lord, / this is what I seek; / that I may dwell in the house of the Lord / all the days of my life." This verse not only represents the name of the ministry, but also its heart and purpose: to lift up our campus community in prayer and seek out God's will for our lives and for our school.

Onething's all-encompassing vision is modeled after that of the International House of Prayer in

Kansas City. At all hours of the day, people can be found lifting up prayers to God Almighty and worshipping Him with all their hearts. It is the goal of Onething-to-God willing-have students praying all 24 hours of the

impossible possible."

Onething meets from 9:30pm - 11 pm Monday through Friday in the NAB. The prayer meetings are completely student-led and feature different worship groups each night, with Friday nights featuring an extended time of worship. Onething seeks to provide a place to join with others in prayer, not to force students to be committed to regular attendance. Those who wish to go are encouraged to come when they can, and to stay for as long as they can. New students are always welcome.

The ministry of Onething is to be a part of the spiritual life of Houghton, rather than being separate from it. If anyone is interested in leading a worship group or becoming more involved, volunteers are always welcome. For more information,

feel free to attend one of the sessions if you haven't already. Maybe it will be that "one thing" you've always wanted to be a part of.



PHOTO BY SHANNON CALLAN

Onething participants meet every weeknight from 9:30-11 for prayer, praise, and worship.

day. At a small college full of busy students, this might seem unreasonable and virtually impossible; but as many great believers of the past and present have said, "God can make the

Houghton Sponsors Local Church Fair

BY ALISON YOUNG
STAR STAFF WRITER

Last Monday, the Campus Center was filled from wall to wall with booths manned by pastoral staff and other workers representing their churches. This "church fair" was set up by Student Life in an attempt to introduce students to the various opportunities for ministry and worship across the district.

As students were getting quality

information about services and ministries each church offered, the pastors of each participating church were getting acquainted with one another at a luncheon. They were then introduced to President Chamberlain and our brand-new dean of chapel, John Brittain.

The major goal of inviting the local churches to the campus was to give students options as to where to worship, so they aren't confined to one specific style they may or may not be accustomed to.

Dr. David Tilley believes that it's "important that students find a connection with a local church and not substitute chapel for local church involvement and worship." On the whole, Tilley and Student Life thought the fair succeeded in telling other churches across the district that "while we're a Wesleyan college, we appreciate and support the efforts of all of the congregations in our area that are encouraging the following of Jesus Christ, no matter what brand or label."

CAMPUS STORE BASTS NEW FEATURES FOR 2003-2004

BY SARAH FORE
STAR STAFF WRITER

Where can you go to purchase your textbooks, or to grab a candy bar in between classes? What about a Houghton College T-shirt? Or even a selection from the New York Times' bestseller list? The answer to all of these is the Houghton Campus Store. But where can your parents go to buy you a Houghton sweatshirt for Christmas? And where can you buy hats, mugs, and even Houghton golf balls? The Houghton Campus Store online, of course.

The Houghton College Campus Store has added many new features for the 2003-2004 school year, including the Campus Store page of the Houghton website. The page will debut on September 27. On this page, customers will be able to purchase items, including the works of Houghton artists and authors, both staff and alumni. According to Store Director Phyllis Gaerte, in the future, purchasing textbooks online may be a possibility.

This school year, the Campus Store is carrying secular best-sellers and academic books, "...literature that has value that wouldn't be considered Christian books," Gaerte explained. Also, there is now a local history section, and an expanded reference section. "We've made a real effort to position ourselves as a bookstore," Gaerte said. "We wanted to appeal to a broader customer base to offer a great variety of selection."

Last spring the Campus Store participated in two national reading events: African American History Month and Women's History Month. This year the store plans to start several reading groups. There will be adults' and children's reading programs. The children's weekly reading program will feature readers from the community; faculty, staff and public schools will help with this. An adult reading program will also take place one Saturday a month

during the school year. Also, there will be a regular faculty/staff book, accompanied by discussions.

This school year should be a successful one for the Houghton

College Campus Store. Phyllis Gaerte says that she is excited, and the Houghton staff and students should be also.



PHOTO BY DANIELLE HOBSON

The familiar entrance to the Houghton College Campus Store is the entry to many unfamiliar products and new services within.

Bennett Seeks to Secure Future of Houghton

BY JEN NERONI
STAR STAFF WRITER

Many people have never heard of Houghton's strategic management, yet it's something very critical to the college's future. "Strategic management" basically refers to long-term planning using an informed decision-making process. Lisa Bennett, coordinator for strategic management says that it's about being a good steward and making the most of what's been given to you on an organizational level. It's about being intentional about and securing the college's future, and continuously making it a better place.

In strategic management, there are different levels of planning and action, beginning with the college's mission statement. Most Houghton students have heard this statement dozens of times: "Houghton College provides an academically challenging, Christ-centered education in the liberal arts and sciences to students from diverse traditions and economic backgrounds and equips them to lead and labor as scholar-servants in a changing world." The mission statement sums up the school's reason for being.

The next level is the college's vision. This was created with the input of many students, faculty members, alumni, and trustee members. The vision is the aspiration of Houghton College and says: "By 2008, Houghton College will have measurably elevated its practice of scholarship and service, deepened its commitment to civility and teaching excellence, enhanced its preparation of global Christians, and strengthened public awareness of the value of the Houghton experience." This statement serves as a specific target to aim

at as we fulfill the mission.

From the vision, six goals were made: 1) *Enhance both spiritual formation and theological understanding among students, faculty and staff.* 2) *Foster greater student engagement in the learning process.* 3) *Strengthen support for faculty scholarship and development in pursuit of teaching excellence.* 4) *Better equip students to discern and pursue their calling to serve others in a culturally diverse church and world.* 5) *Enhance the mutual respect and cooperation, both among members of the Houghton community and with our neighbors.* 6) *Increase public awareness of the demonstrated value of the Houghton experience.* The rationale is, if these goals are reached, the vision will be attained.

Based on these six goals, the college formulated plans of action that will hopefully attain them. Some of these plans are already being carried out. The first goal has begun to be fulfilled (enhancing spiritual formation and theological understanding) by hiring the new Dean of the Chapel. Part of the plan was to hire somebody whose work would be focused solely on the spiritual life of the campus, and Dr. Brittain now fills that role.

Another part of the plan works on the second goal (student engagement in the learning process). Student life is going to be implementing (possibly this fall) a program called "Common Grounds." This program would foster engagement between students and faculty outside of the classroom. One way to encourage these interactions will be through coffee houses, where students, faculty, and staff would come and discuss current issues. This would allow the students to hear professors' opinions and views on different topics and help them be

aware of current events and the world outside of Houghton as well. Other facets of this program may be life-skills seminars presented by faculty, and book reviews and book clubs on books chosen by faculty (which would be sponsored by the Campus Store).

It is important to realize that every person at Houghton is involved in strategic management. While it's something that the leaders of the school must be committed to working at, every person on campus is involved. The goals that are being pursued need to be things that students find important. There are five councils that work toward this planning: student life, advancement, enrollment management, finance, and academics. Each council has a vice president over it and has two students serving on it, as well as other faculty, staff, etc. These student roles are critical because they represent the student body in the decisions that are being made. These ten students aren't the only ones with a voice, though. There are other channels of communication that exist through which students can be heard. You can go to an RA, SGA representative, professor, etc. Students can influence the decision-making process associated with strategic management

by articulating their perspectives upward through the councils. Another effective way for the student voice and opinions to be heard is by filling out surveys and questionnaires when you receive them.

Strategic management is about continuing to make Houghton a better place through changing times. Hopefully by planning now, crises in the future can be avoided or dealt with easily. Strategic management also hopes to convince all members of the Houghton community that everything that is done here (whether directly or not) will be working either towards or against fulfilling the goals, vision, and mission of the college. Because of this, strategic management promotes stewardship, effectiveness, accountability, and being intentional—qualities that will help produce the ideal Houghton community.

This plan is not meant to be something secretive. In fact, the entire operational plan will be published on the Houghton website in the near future. If anyone has questions about strategic management, they can contact Lisa Bennett in Fancher Hall or e-mail her at lisa.bennett@houghton.edu.

TECH CORNER

by DAN PERRINE

Turning the Page

I was in somewhat of a quandary when it came to writing this week's column as most of the tips and tricks I know are related to enhancing your Internet usage. When I sat down to brainstorm ideas, I realized that suggestions for optimizing your data transfer rates are fairly useless when you don't get any data transfer to begin with. I hope this problem will be resolved in a timely manner as I'm getting very tired of hearing every AIM program on the floor squawk indignantly when it gets disconnected every five minutes.

While there might not be much you can do about your "hi-speed connection" not being hi-speed (other than complain as loudly as possible in hopes that something will be done), you can speed up your own computer. There are many, many things that can make your computer run slowly, but one of the big ones is insufficient system memory. I would probably get in trouble for instructing you as to how to add more hard memory to your laptops since that would definitely violate the warranty, but you can boost your system's performance by optimizing your virtual memory. Virtual memory is hard drive space your computer can use as RAM when your hard RAM runs low. The space allotted to virtual memory becomes a paging file. Windows automatically sets minimum and maximum paging file sizes. The problem with this is that your paging file size constantly changes, which can rapidly fragment your hard drive and eat up valuable disk space. To avoid this, you should lock your paging file size at approximately 1.5 times the amount of RAM you have. So if you have 128 megabytes of RAM (juniors), you should set your paging file at around 200 megabytes. It's very simple math; if you really need it your computer has a built-in calculator.

To set your paging file size under Windows XP, go to Start -> Settings -> Control Panel. Open "System" and click the "Advanced" tab. In the "Performance" box, click "Settings," then click the "Advanced" tab again. In the bottom box labeled "Virtual Memory," click "Change." Select "Custom Size," and enter your minimum and maximum sizes. In the case of a laptop with 128 Mb of RAM, you should enter 199 Mb as the minimum and 200 Mb as the maximum.

In Windows 98, the process is the same until you get to the "System" window. Click the "Performance" tab, then select "Virtual Memory." Specify your own settings and enter the minimum and maximum. Whatever you do, do not disable virtual memory as it will basically make your computer stop working.

Keep in mind that not every fix works on every computer. There's a possibility that tweaking your paging file could actually slow your system down. On the off-chance this happens, you could try making the paging file larger, or revert to letting Windows manage it. Questions or comments, feel free to email me at daniel.perrine@houghton.edu.

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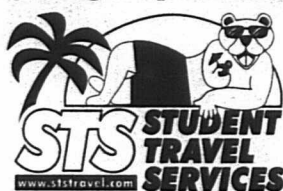
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Stretching Worldviews in the Land Down Under

BY LIZ SANDS
STAR STAFF WRITER

Did you know that if you were studying at Kingsley College in Melbourne, Australia, this semester with the Houghton Down Under program, you would not have any classes this week or next week? Actually, if you were studying at any 'uni' (i.e., university) anywhere in Australia, you would have these two weeks off. Really. "That's not fair!" you might exclaim. True, it's not. But national 'holidays' rarely are fair.

Our Houghton friends are off to amazing often-photographed places all across the Australian continent: some are on 14-day rail passes with planned stops in Sydney, Coff's Harbour, Byron Bay, Brisbane, and Surfer's Paradise; and some are on a wild camping trip to the outback to hang out at Uluru ("Ayers Rock") and Alice Springs. Others, according to Junior Joey Ruscio, are simply "excited about going to see the Giant Pineapple near Brisbane." Dare we ask?

Dr. Walters, co-founder of the Australia Down Under program and chaperone of the first set of would-be Australians last fall, thinks this unique study experience is important to "stretch students' understanding on what it means to be a Christian" and gives "students the benefit of seeing how others look at things" without the language barrier. Although, Walters acknowledges, there are Australian

language "subtleties" that make us smile. For instance, the funniest Australian slang senior Charity Brooks has heard so far is the Aussie (read 'Ozzie') term for weed whacker: "whipper snipper." As the Houghtonites and their fellow students from other Christian colleges across the U.S. (like Westmont in Southern California) adjust to the new lingo all around them in Melbourne, most are struck by how one phrase in particular permeates the Australian culture. "No worries" is "not just something Crocodile Dundee says," writes Dave Lilly, one of our students who compared the laid-back, friendly, and accepting Australian culture to the "self-protective" one of America. Lilly is doing an internship at a local church of about 25 people in Melbourne. Charity Brooks agrees. "Australians aren't afraid to say what they feel. They're really straightforward. They'll say what's on their mind, even if it's offensive or critical, while a lot of the time Americans are more ambiguous. ... Australians are



PHOTO FROM DR. WALTERS
Guys on the Houghton Down Under program get their first tast of the Aussie sausage. Don't be fooled by appearances, they are not like hot dogs. Neither is tomato sauce like ketchup.

also generally more tolerant than people in the States as well."

Although our friends in Melbourne do miss many things about America, the weather at Houghton is not one of them! One student was quick to remind us that "when we are on the beach, you all will probably be getting your first frost!" Brooks misses her friends, Taco Bell, and Popeye's chicken, and what Lilly misses "most about home is the randazzos and chicken wings."

This year's students have fallen in love with Kingsley College, Houghton's brother Wesleyan school in Melbourne. For those of you unfamiliar with Australian geography, Melbourne is in Southern Australia, so the weather is not hot and sunny nor conducive to the "I-am-going-to-hang-out-at-the-beach-all-semester" mentality. Groups of two to four students were assigned to a family on the Kingsley College campus in order to help form relationships between the Americans and the Australians. Darcy Stevens, impressed by the warm-hearted friendliness of Australians in general and those at Kingsley College in particular, writes that "they go out of their way to help anyone, whether it's directions, a ride somewhere, a place to stay on break, or just borrowing an ingredient [for cooking]." Some students, as part of their intercultural experience, will live with local Australian families on homestays for the last half of the semester, and many have taken opportunities to get involved with ministries at local churches. Stevens's flat, for instance, is starting up a nursery service for the church that meets on campus.

As a former Houghton Down Under student myself, I can attest to the value of intercultural programs such as this one, but you don't have to take my word for it. I decided to ask

Dr. Walters himself why he thought students should go to Australia to study, why he bothered organizing the Houghton Down Under program in the first place. One of Houghton College's strengths, according to Walters, is our location in Allegany County, and yet even in this secluded area we place a strong emphasis on becoming "world Christians," a goal impossible to reach without getting away from our campus. The benefit of intercultural study is twofold, Dr. Walters reminds us. Not only does it provide students with an opportunity to observe and experience a new culture, but it also allows students to take a fresh look at their own culture from a vantage point impossible to get while remaining stateside. Watching world events unfold last fall as the war in Iraq began to brew and experiencing the first anniversary of September 11th from the Australian perspective, I agree with Dr. Walters. How can we as students even begin to understand what it means to be Americans, let alone Christians, in this world without being out in the world?

Are you interested in studying in Australia? Here are a few things you should know. Dr. Walters is now accepting applications for next year's Houghton Down Under program, and the program is not limited to upper-classmen. The core classes and many electives that are offered at Kingsley College can count towards Integrative Study requirements, so be sure to find out from Dr. Walters or on the Houghton website how Houghton Down Under can fit into your schedule for next fall. Favorite classes this semester include "Christianity and Post-Modernism" and "Australian History." Contact Dr. Walters, (Michael.Walters@Houghton.edu), if you have any questions.



PHOTOS FROM DR. WALTERS
TOP: The Houghton Down Under students have a seat and enjoy the sounds of an Incan guitar player in Victoria market.
BOTTOM: Venturing into the unknown, a group braves an Australian grocery store for the first time

Houghton's Own Mike Zale Releases *Pen Paper Guitar*

BY RACHEL BRASK
STAR STAFF WRITER

Houghton College senior Mike Zale recently released his very own CD, *Pen Paper Guitar*. This is the next step for Zale in what he hopes to be a successful musical performance career. Since he taught himself to play the guitar his freshman year at Houghton, Mike has been busy playing any chance he gets at places around Rochester and Houghton, including numerous coffeehouses and Campus Center performances here, and for many other colleges on the east coast. Most recently, he was accepted as one out of over 500 applicants to play at the National

Association of Campus Activities conference (NACA), an organization that finds musicians, comedians and public speakers to tour colleges around the country. From there, over 1500 representatives of the respective colleges will select the acts they want to visit their campus, potentially resulting in more bookings for Zale.

His album, *Pen Paper Guitar*, is rhythmic and fun, inspiring and serious. For a first album, it has a remarkably fresh and professional sound. Zale plays the acoustic, electric and bass guitars, piano, mandolin, cello, looper, and random percussion instruments all by himself, aside from a few guest drummers. He recorded each part separately and then

mixed them in the studio; during performances, he can also play multiple parts at the same time, using a technique known as "looping."

Some of the CD's strongest tracks were 1, 2, and 7. "Shumway" (1) is an upbeat acoustic piece reminiscent of Dave Matthews Band, a song to listen to while driving down the highway. "Stuck Up" (2) is a more mellow song, reminiscing of how, no matter what, God won't let us down. "Castles" (7) is a slower, strings- and piano-laced song about love portrayed through a beautiful picture of a husband and wife dancing on the beach.

Mike intends his music to be his ministry: "I don't want to turn non-

Christians off by giving a preachy performance. I want to create a musical platform for myself, inspire people to come talk to me, and eventually turn them to Christ through the underlying messages of the songs. I feel God is leading me, and I know my job will never be complete because faith is a journey, not a destination...I'm excited to see where God takes me next."

Mike Zale will be playing Thursday, October 9th at 8:00pm in the Campus Center, along with bands The Winnipeg Jets and Loved by Sigurd. For more information, check out www.mikezale.com.

Sharing Danner Walls

BY LINDSAY MUSSER
GUEST STAR WRITER

Monday night's gallery opening featured the art collection of Robert Danner and his wife, Roselyn. Entitled "Sharing Our Walls," the collection celebrates the work of over sixty artists that the Danners collected over a period of thirty years. Having been closely connected with Houghton College's art program through Mrs. Danner's job as the Ortlip Gallery's director for 15 years, the couple wanted to share their philosophy on art collecting with Houghton students before Mrs. Danner passes on her position to Anna Marie Johnson.

Why the collection? The Danners' talk addressed various questions about their choice to spend money on art. Economic investment was last on their list of reasons. Instead, the Danners

and...evoke the sacred." Quoting Knippers, followed by Houghton professor John Rhett, Mrs. Danner said, "Our home is filled with images that demand something of us...much like great literature and great music, high-quality original art can help shape us to be more profound people. Art can serve as a stimulant to the mind as well as a balm to the soul."

The Danners also stressed the Church's role as patron of the arts. Individual collectors can do as much or more than the institutional church to encourage the Christians' role in cultural dialogue. In addition to pieces by Houghton faculty members and alumni, the Danner collection included several pieces by various CIVA (Christians in the Visual Arts) artists. CIVA, is an organization dedicated to advancing Christians in the arts. Much of its work involves networking: connecting Christian

artists to other Christian artists as well as financial supporters. A bound codex of prints produced by CIVA participants included the organization's statement of its intent to further Christians' participation in "the free

marketplace of ideas," dealing with the human heart's "deepest longings and understandings...on an intuitive, emotional, and subconscious level" through the artistic dialogue.

Closing with financial and practical advice for those who wished to start their own collection, the Danners expressed their fondness for an old Persian proverb about the role of beauty in human life: "If of thy mortal goods thou art bereft / and from thy slender store / two loaves alone to thee are left / sell one, and with the dole / buy hyacinths to feed thy soul."

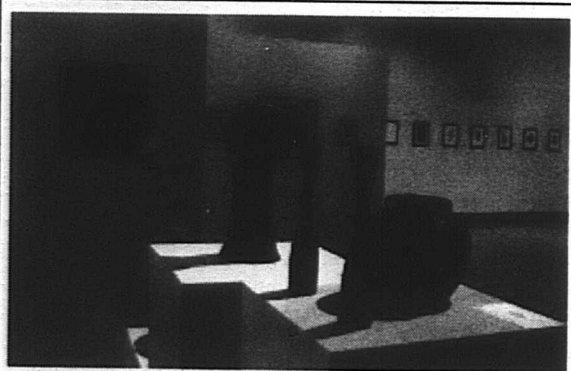


PHOTO BY SHANNON CALLAN
A selection of oil, clay, and wood pieces from the Danners' art collection, currently on display in the Ortlip Gallery

see art as transcendent: dealing with "the 'soulful' part of us" in a way that words cannot.

Also, the Danners pointed out that what a person hangs on his or her walls says something about what he or she values (think of the typical dorm room). Considering the human tendency to accumulate "stuff," what one chooses to display acts as "a witness to what is important in one's life." Like recent gallery guest Edward Knippers, the Danners consider it a deliberate countercultural act to collect thoughtful pieces that "point to ultimate meanings

EDITORIAL

When Heroes Make Zeroes by Mike Mordenga

Perhaps it's the hype of a nostalgic comic book hero that makes everyone want to see Spiderman or Hulk movies. Maybe it's the adrenaline overload that you know that the director will deliver.

I have to be honest with you: movies based on comics aren't that intelligent.

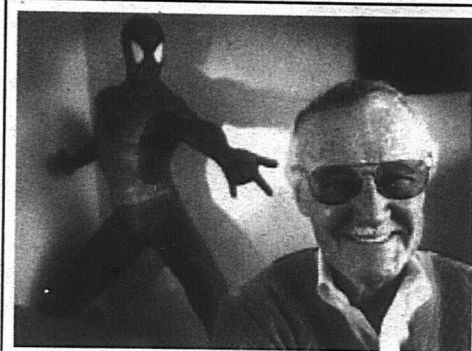
The year 2003 came out with a surplus of movies based on comics including *Daredevil*, *Hulk*, *LXG (League of Extraordinary Gentleman)*, *X2* and *Bullet Proof Monk*. While these movies broke the budget for explosions and cool special effects they aren't that witty or dramatic (and some of them are just painful to watch). Marvel Comics is credited for a lot of these movies, from *Spider-Man* to *Hulk*. Stan Lee (creator of Marvel Comics and executive producer of their films) makes movies that have a habit of creating plot holes and skipping character development altogether in exchange for action scenes.

Take *Daredevil* for example. The blind hero Matt Murdock lives a life of near poverty with a failing law business and yet he can afford a nice apartment and a secret lair with high-powered weapons. On top of that he randomly enters a coffin with water in it every night and the movie neglects to tell you why or what he's doing.

Hulk was directed by Ang Lee, who won an Academy Award for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, but couldn't resuscitate *Hulk* to save his life. The movie was geared toward fatally low-attention-spanned audiences. Not one scene was longer than a minute and they looked like random Power Point transitions. Lee tried to be so abstract that he forgot simple things like plot or movie cohesion. I actually left the movie early and had to sit down and gain composure.

Other comic movies, like *Bullet Proof Monk* and *LXG* were instant flops due to their likeness to other mediocre movies. *Bullet Proof Monk* was a hybrid of *Crouching Matrix Hidden Enter the Dragon* and *LXG* was just a parody of *X-Men*. Even *Spider-Man* needed some serious script revisions as the director tried to boost New York City's ego after 9/11 with the corny line at the bridge scene: "Leave Spiderman alone, we're New Yorkers; all for one and one for all." Is that line even true in New York City?

I can't help but think that these movies are shameless plugs to sell more Hulk boxer shorts and Spiderman lunchboxes. While these movies deliver in action, very few of them actually have good dramatic foundations. The truest fans of these movies are the comic book readers who helped make each movie gross over \$100 million. I hope the sequels will repent of low character development and plot holes (and there will be sequels). As for me, I can't wait for *The Punisher*...



Movies based on Stan Lee's characters have ranged from the incredible "Spider-Man" to the less than smashing "Hulk."

AUSTIN TIME

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

BY CHRISTOPHER AUSTIN
THANKLESS STAFF WRITER

This Week's Topic:

THE LIFE OF THE UNSUNG RECYCLING ENGINEER

Today's article goes out on behalf of all the Recycling Engineers in the world. Perhaps you are wondering to yourself, what is a Recycling Engineer? Let me give you a brief job description.

In layman's terms, the Recycling Engineer is a person who recycles cardboard to make this world a better place for the children of tomorrow (i.e. freshmen). To do this, the engineer must travel from place to place removing all recyclable cardboard, and bringing it to a secret location, where it must be stacked neatly. Although this seems like a job that anyone could do, it is no such profession. The work of a Recycling Engineer requires the utmost in proficiency, dedication, and integrity.

Proficiency is very important because cardboard cannot just be thrown around haphazardly. Rather, it must be chosen-the good from the bad-and carefully handled. It is imperative that the cardboard one recycles is dry, corrugated, and does not have a waxy residue on the outer edges. Wetness equals uselessness. Corrugation, a bit of secret cardboard lingo, means that the cardboard is three layers thick, with a wavy layer of paper separating both sides for reinforcement. If it's not reinforced, why recycle it? Look into your heart and you will agree. Wax ruins the ability to recycle, so don't even try it.

The second skill a Recycling Engineer must possess is dedication. You cannot recycle if you don't genuinely care about each piece of used cardboard. The cardboard must become your friend, your trusted companion, and if you are not dedicated to its health, then recycling is just a game for you. You are just playing with lives.

The third and final skill, as I mentioned before, is integrity. When an engineer sees a piece of cardboard outside of his zone, it isn't left to rot on the ground. Does he not pick it up and rejoice, bringing it safely home? When a piece of uncorrugated cardboard finds its way into the pile, the just engineer will root through until it is found, and throw it away.

Unfortunately, there are hindrances to the work of the Recycling Engineer. The largest hindrance is when a box is not folded down. In order to be stacked efficiently, every box must be broken down. Sometimes, however, people leave the boxes unfolded. Sometimes they leave trash inside the boxes. Sometimes there is ketchup all over the sides. Sometimes people try to throw pop cans in with the boxes. Sometimes there are egg shells with the boxes. This does not aid the hardworking and diligent recycling engineer, but it does anger him. And if you anger him too much, I think it would be fair to say that he won't collect your cardboard anymore, and this means you will be left with much recyclable cardboard that you cannot throw out. It will just pile up more and more until there is no room for you to live or work or eat or paint because cardboard will be everywhere.

With that being said, I think next time you see a recycling engineer hard at work, don't tear him down with unfolded boxes with ketchup on them. Don't throw cardboard at him while he is in the big cardboard chute at the Campus Center. Instead, thank that person for his or her effort in the war against cardboard buildup.

Today's key words are Recycling Engineering and corrugation. Next time you are talking to a friend, you can throw around the words "corrugated cardboard" and catch them off guard with your spectacular vocabulary. Won't that be fun?

EDITORIAL

A Plan of Faith
by Aaron Boynton

I have come to that point in my college career where I am surrounded by a whirlwind of questions and possibilities. "What are you going to do after you graduate?" is the most common one I have been asked since the second semester of last year. It comes with being a senior. I shy away from that question every time, because I truly am afraid of what is going to happen after May 8th, 2004 (well except for the fact that I will sleep more than I did while at Houghton...).

Thoughts of graduate school, the work field, and joblessness run through my head. I get worried and forget who is in charge of my life plan. Why should we worry if God is in control of our lives? It is our human nature to worry, and fear the future. However, we must work hard at relying on God for guidance in our lives. Gloria Gaither made a good point in chapel, stating, "Whatever you're living is God's will for your life. Just live it and he will use it. God's will for your life is this minute. Do it with everything you've got." I did not go to that chapel, but when I read that quote I realized studying at Houghton is part of God's plan, as is being an editor for the Star and being a communication major. God has reasons for these things, although I won't totally know what they are while I am on this earth. I am living God's plan as I write this piece and I am grateful for God giving me unlimited chances.

So I have decided that graduate school is in my immediate future after Houghton. Am I 100% sure that this is what God wants me to do? Of course not, because God hasn't directly talked to me and said, "Aaron, go to graduate school." That is why faith in God and his guidance is so vastly important. We cannot live without it. A favorite verse of mine relating to guidance is Isaiah 58:11, which reads, "The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail."

Have faith, stay strong, let God guide you, and don't stress out. The tests you encounter in some science or history class are not the most important thing. It is nice to do well on them, but that won't matter when we are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven. I am grateful for that fact, because I hope Jesus forgot how bad I did in Western Civ...

Want Cash?

from the Houghton Star?

The Houghton Star is in need of someone who can pick up the weekly editions of the Star from the printer in Olean. The paper needs to be picked up from the Olean Times Herald each Wednesday afternoon between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.

If you are certified on college vehicles and can make this weekly trip, let us know! You will be paid for your time and efforts.

If you are interested in serving the Star and the student body in this way please email the Star at star@houghton.edu, or give us a call at extension 2100.

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The STAR, CPO Box 378

1 Willard Avenue

Houghton, NY 14744

star@houghton.edu

Cross Country Looks Ahead to Competitive Season

BY KATY SYKES
STAR STAFF WRITER

Although the Houghton Highlander cross country team is still in the first half of its season, the team has already demonstrated a new level of competitiveness. Despite being slowed by an unusual number of injuries and illnesses, the team has managed to produce several records. Coach Smalley noted that the men's team is more competitive than in past years, indicated by their placement in recent meets and their victory at the Hobart and William Smith meet this past Saturday. The women's team is looking strong as well and placed third at the meet Saturday.

Pack running has been a theme of the cross country athletes; and the team used this to its advantage resulting in high individual and team performances. Chris Buell led the Highlander pack Saturday, and was highly competitive throughout the

race with the top two runners, ending up third overall.

Summer training is essential to top performance in the runners' season. The outstanding summer mileage put in by the team is expected to pay off in the end-of-the-season competition, making the present a strengthening and building phase. While many of the cross country team leaders graduated this past spring, several freshmen and transfers have joined to give the team new dynamics and add to the Highlander spirit.

This coming weekend the cross country team will host the Houghton Invitational and anticipate an exciting race for men and women with Division III powerhouse teams such as Geneseo present. The women race at 11:00 and the men at 11:45 on the college trails and athletic fields.

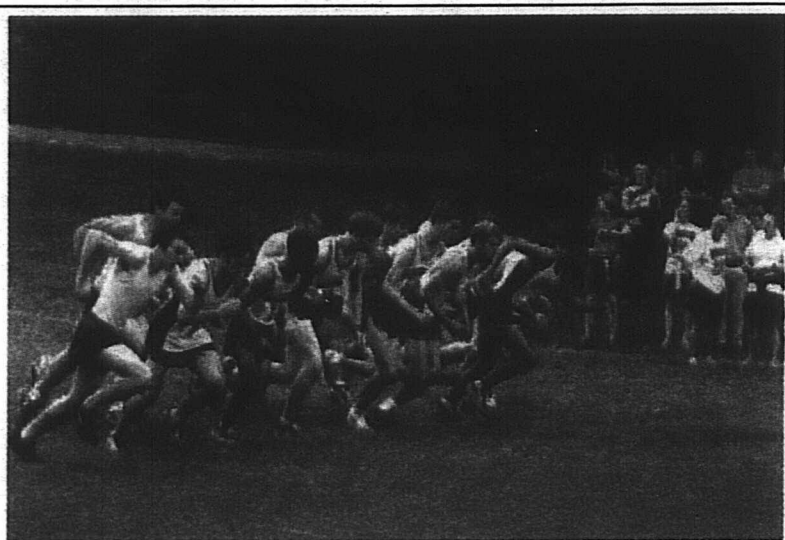


PHOTO FROM WWW.HOUGHTON.EDU

The men's cross country team bursts from the starting line at the 2002 Houghton Invitational. This season, both the women's and men's teams look to improve their speed, competitiveness, and unity.

HIGHLANDER SCORES

FIELD HOCKEY

Thurs, 18 MERCYHURST W 4-2

CROSS COUNTRY

September 20

Hobart Invitational

MEN: 1 of 7

Top Finisher:

Chris Buell, 3rd (27:17)

WOMEN: 3 of 7

Top Finisher:

Katy Sykes, 7th (23:55)

MEN'S SOCCER

Tue, 16

ASHLAND

W 3-1

Sat, 20

NOTRE DAME (OH)

W 7-0

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Fri, 16

DAEMON

W 10-0

Sat 20

GREEN MOUNTAIN

W 9-0

VOLLEYBALL

Fri, 19

LE MOYNE

W 3-1

Sat, 20

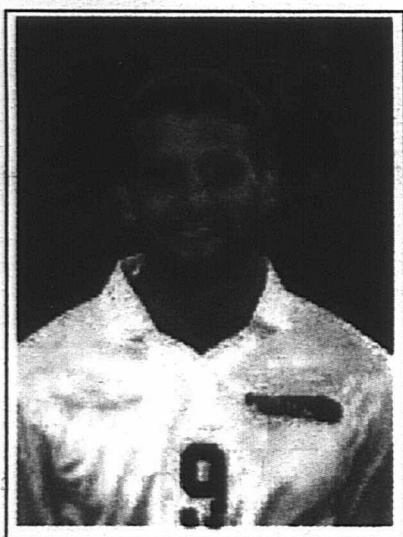
GENEVA

L 3-2

SETON HILL

L 3-1

HIGHLANDER athlete of the week



Trevor Eby
forward, men's soccer

The athlete of the week is Trevor Eby, senior forward from New Holland, PA. In a 3-1 win over Ashland, Eby tallied one goal and two assists. He also added another goal and three more assists in a victory over Notre Dame College (Ohio). For the week, Eby had a total of 2 goals and 5 assists to lead the Men's team to two victories. Congratulations to Trevor on a job well done!

Still Want Cash?

It's still from *the Houghton Star*!
(Did you already read this ad once before?)

Well, we still need you!

The Houghton Star is still in need of someone who can pick up the weekly issues of *the Star* from the printer in Olean. The paper needs to be picked up from the Olean Times Herald each Wednesday afternoon between 3:30 and 5:30 pm.

And as if the joy of serving in this way was not enough, how about money? *The Houghton Star* will pay you, if you can make this weekly pickup. That's right! You will be paid!

Let me repeat... If you are certified on college vehicles and can make this weekly trip, let us know! Did we mention that you will be paid for your time and efforts?

If you are interested in serving *the Star* and the student body in this way, please email the Star at star@houghton.edu, or give us a call at extension 2100.

Top Ten Signs Your Date isn't Going Well

BY SARAH KUZIAMKO

STAR STAFF WRITER

10. Wants to take you to the quad for a night of Ultimate Frisbee with the "good old boys."
9. He uses coupons, on the first date.
8. She asks you out over IM.
7. He asks you to pay for gas to go to the Jub.
6. She goes with you to Big Al's for lunch, but keeps leaving to...uh..." check if she has a package."
5. He picks you up on his bike, and this ain't no Harley.
4. Dinner and a movie means the cafeteria and Chapel.
3. There's just something funny about the way she's always asking about your roommate...
2. When the check comes he tags you and hollers "you're it!"
1. "Wanna go to Big Al's...huh...wanna...huh?"