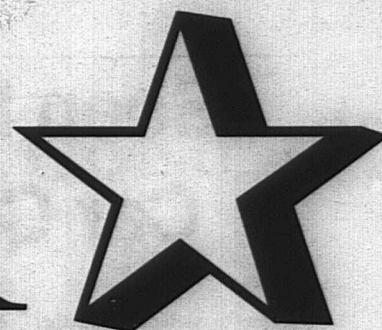


THE HOUGHTON STAR

Volume 91.7
December 13, 1996



LOCAL EVENTS

Dec. 21:
*Choral concert, "A Child's Christmas," 3p.m., Asbury First United Methodist Church, Rochester, \$3 - \$5 (\$15 fam.)

Dec. 21 - 22:
*Family theater: "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," Sat. 11a.m. & 1:30p.m., Sun. 1:30 p.m., TAP, \$2 - \$6.

Dec. 21, 28:
**80s Laser" show, 10:15 p.m., RMSC, \$5

Dec. 23 - 24:
*Star Show: "The Universe Tonight," 1p.m., RMSC, \$2.50 - \$4

*Christmas Laser show, 3p.m., RMSC, \$2.50 - \$4

Dec. 26 - Jan 5:
*Star Show: "The Universe Tonight," 1p.m., RMSC, \$2.50 - \$4

*Christmas Laser show, Tues. - Fri. 7:15p.m., Sat. 3p.m. & 7:15p.m., Sun. 3p.m., RMSC, \$2.50 - \$4

Dec. 27:
*Family concert, "Let it Snow," 11a.m., RMSC, \$3.50

Dec. 30-31:
*Family Theater Organ Celebration with Don Hall, Mon. 1:30p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Tues. 1:30p.m., RMSC, \$5

Dec. 31:
*Shanghai Acrobatic theatre, 6:30p.m. & 10p.m., NCAC, \$30

Jan. 4:
*Laser show: "25 Years of Rock," 10:15p.m., RMSC, \$5

Jan. 8:
*Buffalo Guitar Quartet: "Around the World on 24 Strings," 7:30p.m., SM, \$8

KEY:
NCAC = Nazareth College Arts Center, Rochester
RMSC = Rochester Museum & Science Center
SM = Strong Museum, Rochester
TAP = Theater Arts Playhouse, Penfield, N.Y.

QUOTATION OF THE WEEK

"The point is not that God will refuse you admission to his eternal world if you have not got certain qualities of character: the point is that if people have not got at least the beginnings of those qualities inside them, then no possible external conditions would make a 'heaven' for them."

-- C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Easing Validation Pains

Doug Burns

For many years the words "Validation Day" struck fear deep inside the souls of Houghton students. Those two words conjured up images of winding lines, tired feet, and countless wasted hours. For those of you who stood patiently in line, you will remember the surprise that waited at the end. It was most likely a person sitting at a desk whose job was to punch a few buttons on the computer and send you away with a card telling you that your account was clear. It was clearly not important that you could have told them that an hour and a half ago. Those of you who find another Validation Day too much to bear, the Financial Aid Office has developed a plan to eliminate all validation lines.

A few weeks ago, there was a bright yellow sheet that was sent to all students through intra-campus mail. I am willing to bet that most of you have no idea what I am talking about because the sheet probably spent about a second in your hand before you tossed it into one of the nearby trash cans already spilling over from the tremendous amounts of bright yellow sheets. But this is okay.

I am going to explain to you how to avoid the validation lines.

By now you should have received a bill and a validation worksheet. Return the validation worksheet with a check for the full amount to student accounts by Jan. 2, 1997, and you have successfully finished the first step. If you have any questions about your bill, be sure to contact the Student Accounts Office at ext. 319 or ext. 326.

For those of you who participate in the AMS monthly payment plan, your payments must be on schedule, and the remaining contract amount must be sufficient to cover the second semester. If the amount is insufficient you will be unable to validate. Any of you who need to increase your AMS contract amount, must do so by Dec. 24 to avoid the lines.

After sending a check for the amount of the bill, or checking your AMS plan, you may move onto the second and final step by making sure your financial aid paperwork is on file with the Financial Aid Office. This includes loan applications and, if requested, the verification worksheets and

1995 tax returns for you and your parents.

By following these simple steps your return from Christmas vacation should be easy and relaxing. As you walk to your mailbox and peer inside you will either see a green or a red card. All students who have successfully met their financial requirements and have a clear account will receive a green card. This card must be signed and returned by Jan. 8 to avoid problems. If, however, you receive a red card, your account is not clear and you must follow the directions on the card which will notify you of any remaining requirements. Report directly to Luckey Building with your signed red card and you will also avoid many problems. Anyone who does not receive a card needs to call Student Accounts.

I am very hopeful that validation next semester will pass with little or no problems. I am sure that you have better things to do than stand in line. If you have made it this far into this article you are either a friend of mine or you had nothing else to do while you waited in line for the cafeteria.

Madrigals Make Music

Liz Niles and Dale Schuurman

Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th marked the 31st annual Madrigal Dinners. This year, director Jean Reigles and a cast of 15 singers, 2 jesters and a piano accompanist brought to Houghton a spectacular program. The performers' mix of humor and drama portrayed the amount of talent present, while the authentic decorations and costumes added a sense of realism to the performance.

The evening began with a social gathering on the main floor of the campus center. Upon arrival, each guest's name was announced in Renaissance English by Eric Williamson. While mingling among guests, Renaissance men served hors d'oeuvres on silver platters, and the choice of beverage consisted of wassail or eggnog. After all guests had arrived, they were invited up to the banquet hall following a poetic community Grace.

quert hall following a poetic community Grace.

Dinner this year consisted of Cornish hen served over a bed of wild rice, cooked carrots and potatoes, dinner rolls, and a spicy crab apple garnish. In previous years, roast beef was served, and the change to Cornish hen this year was a welcomed one. Following dinner, figgy pudding was served, brought to the table in flames. The dining experience was enhanced by the performance which took place throughout the meal. The performers made rounds to different tables, serenading various guests with Christmas carols.

The King and Queen, Marc Falco and Kara Scott, were wonderful hosts as they and their court heralded the service of each course during the meal. Just to mention a few, such

Houghton students as Allison Bixler, Katherine Rundall, Danielle Frink, and Ben Eckley joined voices and served as part of the royal court. Dave Pedersen and Joel Meiners, the jesters, were quite successful at making people laugh.

Special recognition is deserved by director Reigles whose dedication to this event and many long hours preparing are evidenced by the quality of the show, which was a sell-out every night. Also, Bruce Breneman, Kim Weaver, Lisa Bennett, the food servers, and a host of other people are responsible for the successful evening.

Overall, the 31st annual Madrigal Dinners were a wonderful initiation to the holiday season. The music was festive and the food was delightful. Thanks to all who contributed. Merry Christmas!

Senate Report:

Danielle Phillips

The Student Government Association has been busy voicing the concerns of the students and making good things happen. The reason is to make Houghton a better place for students. The SGA faced many issues in many areas over the past few months. One of the areas involved a concern regarding security.

It was brought to the attention of the SGA that for a period of one hour there was no means of contacting someone for help in an emergency situation since security's shift ends at 6:00 am, and the information center opens at 7:00 am.

The SGA discussed the issue, came up with a couple of ideas, and made a proposal to the administration. The decision to open the information center an hour earlier has now increased our security to a 24-hour system.

The SGA is excited to see issues resolved and is looking forward to serving the students in the future. However, the job starts with you, the students. Continue to raise the concerns that you feel will make Houghton a better place now and in the future.

Becky Tanner

The Student Senate is collecting Christmas presents the week after Thanksgiving for the youth at Gateway youth home in Buffalo. Gateway is a home that provides services to over 500 children and families who may be facing severe social, emotional, behavioral, and (con't on page 2)

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Shen Hosts Car Clinic

Liz Nies

Due to inclement weather during the wintertime, many experience frustrating car troubles. Bob Whiting, aside from his duties as a member of Houghton College's maintenance team, also serves as Houghton's mechanic. Servicing cars for Houghton's faculty, students, and community residents, Whiting ensures quality work and trustworthy service. On Nov. 20 Shen Residence Life Staff held a seminar in which Whiting offered a few winter car maintenance tips.

Whiting continually stressed the importance of using the car manual. This book of information contains many answers to questions you may have, allowing you to solve car problems on your own rather than going to a mechanic. The manual should be the first reference point when concern for your car arises.

When fueling up, be cautious of the pumps you use. For example, if using an unleaded pump on the same island as a Diesel pump, often times the Diesel fuel leaks into the regular gasoline, causing car problems. Also, if the underground tanks are old, they may have become susceptible to water leakage and this water may travel through the fuel lines and into your car's gasoline tank. If your car begins running rough, consider the fuel you use as a possibility and try a different gas station.

Dry gas is smart to use during the wintertime to prevent

gas lines from freezing. A bottle of dry gas, which costs approximately \$1 per bottle, should be added before a fill up. Also, if your gas tank is kept full during the winter, there is less chance for condensation to form in the gas lines that may freeze, which is another good reason to use dry gas.

Some quick tips by Whiting:

~Allowing your car to warm up for about 5 to 10 minutes prevents unnecessary wear.

~Always carry a set of jumper cables in your car in case of a run-down battery.

~Change antifreeze every couple of years.

~Check the belts, especially the timing belt, for cracking or drying out. This could be a small, but very expensive repair if it wears down unnoticed.

~Some numbers to call if you find yourself in need of professional help:

General Repairs:

Bob Whiting -- 567-8240,

ext 488, or e-mail: rwhiting@houghton.edu (Houghton)

Dave Myers -- 567-8864

(Fillmore)

Gary Wolfer -- 567-8035

(Fillmore)

Sissons -- 365-8884

(Belfast)

Towing:

Gary Wolfer (AAA) -- 567-

8035 (Fillmore)

Fillmore Collision -- 567-

8714 (Fillmore)

Youngs (AAA) -- 437-2951

(Rushford)

Sissons -- 365-8884

(Belfast)

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The Houghton

STAR

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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 5:00 p.m. Wed, and they should be no longer than one typed double spaced page. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions. The views expressed by the reporters and essayists of this publication are not necessarily in agreement with those of Houghton College.

Senate Report

(con't from pg.1)

educational difficulties. It provides care and treatment for young people ranging in age from infancy to 21 years and their families. Programs include a residential treatment center, foster care and adoption services, therapeutic preschool, and more.

The week before Thanksgiving, Senate had a Christmas tree in the Campus center lounge. The ornaments on this tree each had an item from

Gateway's Christmas wish list. Those who took the ornaments will buy the item on the ornament and donate it to Gateway for a Christmas gift to the youth of Gateway.

The needs list for Gateway includes a wide variety of things, some of which are school supplies, athletic equipment, household and kitchen items, clothing, and toys. Gateway's various programs have such a wide scope that almost any size or

type of the items on this list can be used. Gateway does ask for new items, not used items.

Boxes to collect the gifts are in the campus center for about a week after Thanksgiving break. If anyone did not get an ornament but would like to give a gift to Gateway, please just drop a gift off in one of the collection boxes. If there are any questions, call Becky Tanner at 567-9211 or 567-5197.

ISA/MSU Quake Campus

Jon Makay

On Saturday Nov. 23, the ISA (International Student Association) of Houghton College put on what they dubbed a "culture quake". Guests were greeted by many signs (written in foreign tongues) saying "hello". The ceiling was strung with paper birds of various sizes and colors. They were an example of the Japanese art called origami.

The culture quake introduced a few of the students who were from foreign cultures/nations. Among these

nations, ethnic groups and geographical locations were Asians, Filipino, Chinese, Japanese, Taiwanese, West Indians, African, Brazilian, Hispanic, and Europeans. When asked, one ISA member Melanie Petersen said the purpose of the culture quake was "to inform and introduce Americans to other cultures. It is important to introduce.. [Americans] especially in this predominant, white American College".

A small survey of the students at the culture quake was taken, asking them what other

cultures had a more than passing contact with and what cultures they have an intense interest in. The majority of students found were first year students and sophomores, but among them was found a wide and diverse mixture, such as German, Japanese, Costa Rican, Chinese, Dutch, Spanish, Dominican and Kenyan.

The activities were games, cultural dancing, food, and music from the background of the ISA members involved with event. All in all, it was a fantastic evening ending at 12:00.

Spear Shares Faith

Jen Greggo

Faith Journey series? Some students scoff saying, "Who wants to hear a person I do not even know share about what is happening in his/her life?" This was not the case on Friday, Nov. 22, as Eileen Spear shared in a witty and inspiring manner her own personal faith journey. Houghton students were privileged to hear first a softly sung ballad written and performed by Karyna Roeder and Andy Thompson. This was followed by a crowd pleasing display of yodeling talents used to praise the Lord, and finally, the handbell choir demonstrated their talents for musical expression.

Then Spear, a member of the Development/Library staff, shared with students "decisions that made a differ-

ence" in her life, beginning with her initial decision for Christ. While growing up she "went forward" at numerous revival meetings. She realized, however, it was not until she offered the Lord her will that she was really giving Him her life. The next step in Spear's journey was the decision of what to do with her life. After struggling with being able to pay for college, she was finally able to achieve a degree in music education at Houghton. She was able to use this training to support her family in future years. She also shared how God helped her in the decision of who to marry and how this decision shaped her life.

Yet, the most moving decision Spear shared with students was concerning her struggle with the Lord following her husband

Jim's death. She claimed she was as "a child having a temper tantrum" in her relationship with the Lord and became very depressed. Overcoming these attitudes, she thought she had accepted her husband's death. However, she realized she carried "residual anger and pride as well as a lack of trust in God," revealed only when hardships such as breaking her arm came. She discovered she had to let God be God and stop striving to do things on her own. She offered students the thought that "when trials come we should welcome them as friends and use these trials to allow us to become mature." Her experiences reminded students of the truth that "through these times of trial, we should rely on the Lord and realize that He will help us to make decisions that will make a difference!"

Meerdink Performs Senior Recital

Jon Makay

On Monday, Nov. 25, Connie Meerdink presented her senior recital in the John and Charles Wesley Chapel. The recital was a requirement for Connie's bachelor's degree in applied voice. Assisting her were Eileen Swanson

on the piano and Christopher Meerdink on the baritone.

Some of the pieces Mrs. Meerdink sang were "How Beautiful Are the Feet of Them," from Handel's *Messiah*, "The Mermaid's Song," by Joseph

Hayden, "Porgi, Amor, Qualche Ristoro," from Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, "Romance," from *The Desert Song*, "One Kiss," from Sigmund Romberg's *The New Moon*. Meerdink's recital was worth seeing and hearing.

Her Coin

Gleanings from the Monastic Traditions II. Hospitality

L.J. Arensen

Hospitality, the practice of generously welcoming guests and strangers into our lives and homes, is a concept that is fast becoming an anomaly in our culture. The monastic traditions have preserved the practice of hospitality, but western culture at large has always viewed them as extremists anyway; nuns and monks are people by whom we are intrigued, but whom we do not expect to imitate.

However, many other world cultures view hospitality as an essential aspect of life. A man of the Wodaabe tribe in Niger described their tradition of hospitality as the "true wealth" of his tribe. He continued: "When someone comes to your camp, it is because of the tradition of Mbodangaaku that you welcome him. You take him water to drink. You light a fire for him even if it is not cold. You take him food. Even if you yourself do not like your guest, when his foot comes to your camp, you go to welcome him as if he were your God. The proverb says: 'Your guest is

your God'." In a very similar manner, Saint Benedict instructed monks in the sixth century to receive all guests as Christ.

That this sort of statement seems radical to us is a tragic indication of how materialistic our Christianity has become. In East Africa, people with far less economic means than my own family habitually cooked grand meals whenever we visited them -- no matter how unexpected our visit, no matter how little they had or how uncertain their future. I do not know how to give like this: generously, with joy, without thought of self. Why is it so hard for us to give something away, to release our possessions, our time, our money? We live in a society that teaches us to take and to possess. We have a strong concept of what is ours -- what we have earned, what we control. We are taught to be primarily concerned with ourselves; we believe in the necessity of material things. We reflect upon Christian ethics with our arms unconsciously clasped around

what we consider our own. When we do relinquish something, we consider it good of us. Like our understanding of love, our notion of hospitality has become one of charity: we give because we have enough to give; we give to those who have less, or nothing. Fortunately, other cultures and the monastic traditions can reveal our ignorance, if we listen. They point out our skewed motivations. They demonstrate this truth to us: True hospitality is when you give because another stands in front of you. You give because they are your guest.

Where I lived as a child, the "poor" gave to the "rich." The understanding of hospitality my African friends possess enriches their spirituality and their lives. Here in America, Christians are increasingly spiritually impoverished. Like the church in Laodicea, we say, "I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing." We too must realize that in truth we are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.

Editor's Column

Dear Over-anxious-to-criticize-everyone-except-yourself-Houghton-College-Community,

It has been my privilege for the past semester to serve as co-editor-in-chief of the Houghton STAR. An enjoyable experience for the most part, my job is to put together a newspaper that is the voice of the community--all of the community. I am not the editor in chief of the Pro-life Gazette, the Pro-choice Sun, the Anti-homosexual Inquirer, or the Homosexual Herald. I do not support gossip in any form and to purposefully beat a very dead horse, I admit that printing "The Buzz" was a mistake.

Frankly, I am not impressed with the over-abundance of unwarranted harsh criticism floating around. I am not going to mention specific names. I am not going to present a list of 20 Bible verses taken out of context so that my fellow sinners can better themselves. I am not going to call anyone, tell on anyone, put anyone down, or slight any individual in any way. I feel that as a reporter it is my duty to express any and all views affecting our community.

Whether or not you are willing to accept this fact, there are positive views about homosexuality on Houghton College campus. There are students and probably faculty who are pro-choice. I am not saying that I believe the status quo of America is acceptable; I am simply saying that these issues exist and that ignoring them will not make them go away. I am not a homosexual, nor am I pro-choice; however, if I were I would be no more a sinner than you who left your tray on the table after dinner or took a cup with you when you left.

I am not sitting here unaware of the fact that in order to make my point I am doing exactly what I am against doing. How does one effectively criticize criticism? In any case, my point is simple. Fellow sinner, sin as little as possible. When you do sin, I will cry with you. Repent openly: I will pray with you. Now rejoice with the Angels in the glory of your blessed forgiveness and salvation. I will celebrate with you. For God's sake Christian, Love...Love. And let he who is without sin cast the first stone.

Dale C. Schuurman

The Vagrant Within

Matthew J. Essery

In the summers I have been a counselor at several camps that focus on camping, hiking, rock climbing, and other outdoor activities. The purpose of camp for me is to get away from the materialism and other reductionist ideas that are rampant in society and focus on important issues, such as the state of man, the character of God, and my purpose of existence as well as encourage deeper thought in the campers that attend the camping sessions. On one hike up Baldface Mountain in the White Mountain National Forest in Maine I had the chance to introduce eight campers to the beauty of the mountains and I was very excited to see their reactions to a huge world without microchips, CD players or Nintendo Entertainment Systems. "So what do you think?" I asked one of the wide eyed campers.

His response made me choke. "I like this," he said, "It's almost like the video game Boulder Dash!"

No. I'm sorry kid, but this is nothing like the video game. This is the real thing.

I have pondered this and I am shocked at how easily we humans consider our own inventions, our own technology

as more important and more real than anything else in the world. Reality has been turned upside-down. Sweeping vistas and brilliant sunsets inspire statements such as, "That's almost as pretty as a postcard" as if a postcard is the source of beauty! This backward view of what is real is apparent especially in National Parks. Everywhere, tourists (a cross between a tourist and a moron) seek, not to enjoy the natural wonders and beauty all around, but to get better pictures, as if the experience is not real unless it can be proven to others in the form of photographs or the annoying video camera.

The messages that pervade the radio, TV, shopping malls, etc. teach that meaning in life is attained by chasing after what can be detected by the senses. Money, comfort, and sex are the only real forces in the universe and to chase after anything else is foolish. We are taught that it is a waste to look too deeply into spirituality or to ponder questions such as, "Why do I exist?" or "Does God exist?" or "What is meaningful?" Life has been reduced to a mundane and superficial search for pleasure.

In their song "Even better

than the real thing", the band U2 expresses the backwardness of materialist thought in the words of a desperate commercial, "Give me one more chance and you'll be satisfied... we'll slide down the surface of things." Where does that slide end up?

Meaninglessness.

This is ironic, because people seek the pleasures of a materialistic life to escape the pain of meaninglessness within them. Humans are experts at avoiding the pain that is inside of themselves, running away from it and building refugee camps in the suburbs of materialism, but in the end, meaninglessness is still more real than the transient accumulations and sense oriented pleasures.

In his book, *Can Man Live Without God*, Ravi Zacharias writes, "I am absolutely convinced that meaninglessness does not come from being weary of pain; meaninglessness comes from being weary of pleasure." So, what is to be done? Ask yourself... what is real? Put everything to the test. Is your life a "virtual life," one that is almost real, but not quite, one that values the pictures higher than the scenery? Virtual reality is just a fancy name for death.



CAR CARE CORNER

Prevention—The Best Medicine For Car Care

(NAPS)—You know the old saying, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure?"

According to race car driver and mechanic Pat Lazzaro, that advice also applies to your car.

A recent industry survey revealed that of the nearly 190 million cars and trucks operating in the U.S. today, more than fifty percent require some kind of emergency repair or service each year. These repairs total an estimated half billion dollars each year.

"By following a regularly scheduled maintenance service schedule, consumers may avoid many breakdowns and costly repairs," said Lazzaro, who conducts car care education workshops around the country for Firestone.

Here are a few of Lazzaro's simple check-up procedures that may not only keep your vehicle running but extend its life:

- **Fluids**—Whether you do it yourself or have an automotive shop do it for you, the fluids in your car must be in good condition and remain at the proper levels. You can remember which fluids you need to maintain, by thinking **WASH BOATS**—Washer fluid, Brake fluid, Oil, Automatic Transmission and Steering. Consult your owner's manual for recommended changing intervals.

- **Tires**—You don't have to be a race car driver or mechanic to know what to inspect. The single greatest cause of tire damage is improper inflation. Tires lose pressure over time resulting in unnecessary stress, early and irregular tread wear



Following a regularly scheduled maintenance program could save Americans as much as a half billion dollars a year in emergency service and car repairs.

and poor gas mileage. Check tire pressure once a month. When you do, refer to your owner's manual for the proper inflation level.

- **Engine Care**—One of the most important things you can do to keep your car maintained is to take it in for scheduled engine service tune-ups. Your car owner's manual will spell out when these auto health check-ups should take place. Follow it just as you would a prescription for your own physical health.

For more information about caring for your car, write: Car Care Tips, Bridgestone/Firestone, 2550 W. Golf Rd., Rolling Meadows, IL 60008.

Diminishing Racial Discrimination

Aaron Noll

Racism appears to be rapidly decreasing in the United States three decades after the civil rights movement. Indeed, it appears that as long as counterproductive liberal legislation such as affirmative action and welfare are removed, in the near future racism will be nearly undetectable in our society.

Racism must be distinguished from racial discrimination. Racism is the feelings of prejudice one has against another person solely based upon the color of their skin. Discrimination, according to Dinesh D'Souza, author of *The End of Racism*, is "the restrictive treatment of a person or group based on prejudiced assumptions of group characteristics, rather than on individual judgement." A person can be a racist without practicing racial discrimination.

Accusations of racism in the business community are commonplace. Texaco has received much attention of late because of apparent discriminatory action. Most of these accusations are unwarranted. Many times there are reasonable and rational explanations for actions which appear on the surface to be racially discriminative.

The disparity in income between blacks and whites is a popular argument for racial discrimination. Some point to the absence of minorities among the business elite, such as CEOs, as proof of racism. The reason-

ing behind the derivation of racism from these facts is faulty. To become a CEO, an individual must possess, among other assets, a great deal of education and experience. Thus the average age of a CEO is around fifty. Segregation ended in the 1960s. Obviously not enough years have elapsed since desegregation began for it to be possible for the average black individual to hold a CEO position. Income disparity is easily rationalized with this theory.

Many people argue for existence of racial discrimination by focusing on the obvious lack of promotions of minorities in the business community. Upon closer examination, this deficiency is not so obvious. By nature, businessmen seek the maximization of revenues at the lowest cost. In order to maximize revenues, each employee must be assigned the particular job position for which their opportunity cost is lowest. For example, you would not place a business school graduate on the assembly line in a factory and appoint a recent high school graduate to be manager. Minorities with skills, experience, and education typical of one holding a "higher" rank will not be kept at a "lower" rank under normal conditions. The employer pursues profit at all costs, including the exclusion of race as a factor. The eyes of a businessman see green, not black, white or any other color.

Another target for those who consider racial discrimination widespread is the taxi drivers in U.S. cities. Gregory Wright of the Washington Post described his taxicab experience in June 1993: "As an African American, I am fed up with Washington taxicabs, fed up with having to flag down five cabs before finding one that will take me home, fed up with feeling anger, embarrassment and frustration when cabdrivers swear they are off-duty and then pick up a white customer before I can get around the corner. Taxidivers, many of whom come from Africa, the Caribbean and the Middle East, say they do not want to pick up African American passengers because they are afraid of being robbed, assaulted or murdered. One Nigerian cabdriver told me he only picks up African Americans who are well-dressed and look like businessmen." Most would automatically say that the cabdrivers were racists until they are told that some of the "racist" cabdrivers are minorities themselves. The Nigerian cabdriver discriminates because of the understandable fears present when he picks up a black male. This man discriminates among blacks not because of their race, but because blacks are known to have a high rate of criminal activity. This man discriminates on a rational basis, not a racial basis. Since the Nigerian cabdriver's motiva-

tions for discrimination among his customers are characteristic of most persons in his profession, the argument of racial discrimination in the taxi business does not have much to stand on.

In the 1990s, the predominant stance on racism in America is opposition. No one wants to be labeled a racist. It is precisely the fear of this identification which keeps the few racists in our society from showing their prejudice through discrimination.

The media acts as a watchdog. Any person or group suspected of racism is immediately placed in the national spotlight to be shunned by the whole country. In America, there is a high sensitivity to the mere appearance of racial discrimination. How much care was taken in ensuring a fair and non-racially biased murder trial for O.J. Simpson? How fast did the media latch on to the story of an "unusual" number of black church burnings in the South last spring? Those in the media heard the phrase "black church burnings" and instantaneously made the connection of racism. It was later revealed that the majority of the burnings was not the result of racist arson. The media chases after suspected cases of racism as a dog chases after meat, even if it is clear that no racism is involved, as with the black churches. American society clearly does not approve of racism.

There is one development which I have not addressed up to this point. Reverse racism is gaining the approval of many Americans. In an effort to "raise the self-esteem" of blacks, educators have begun to teach a subtle "reversing of roles." Some university curricula has established the myth that the greatness of Western civilization was brought about by Africans. For example, they say that Socrates was an African. Reverse racism is also manifest in the hatred and contempt that some blacks have for whites; i.e. Black Panthers. The fact that a significant number of Americans accept this revision of history is more proof that the majority of the United States is far from pursuing historical racial discrimination.

There is one qualification for the theory of complete extinction of racism in the United States. There must be an end to affirmative action, welfare, and the lenient criminal punishments presently infiltrating our laws. These policies divide Americans along racial lines creating anger and frustration and perpetuate the high rates of poverty and crime in the black community.

It is a contradiction of ideas to say that a culture blatantly disapproving of racism can also be thoroughly infested with it. Racism will continue its quickly decreasing role in America until it is nearly nonexistent.

My Life As A Career Criminal Is All Oprah's Fault

Dave Barry, TMS

Today I would like to explain how I became a career criminal. Basically, it was Oprah's fault.

It started when I was on a book tour, which is when you fly all over the place promoting your book, living out of a carry-on suitcase, wearing the same clothes week after week, until you reach the point where they refuse to let you on any more airplanes because your B.O. vapors keep setting off the smoke alarms.

So on day six, or possibly 74, of the tour, the publisher called to tell me that the Oprah show had called to ask if I wanted to be on. Of course I said yes. Oprah is, by far, the most powerful force in the book industry; when she endorses a book, millions of loyal viewers rush right out and buy it. If Oprah were to mention that she's reading the factory repair manual for the 1957 model F-100 point toaster, it would immediately become the No. 1 bestseller in the world.

So virtually all authors --

and I include Herman Melville in this statement -- will do virtually anything to get on Oprah. We are total sluts about this. If the Oprah people decided to do a show on the topic "Authors With Fruit In Their Ears," you'd tune in to Oprah and see top literary figures such as Norman Mailer and Joyce Carol Oates sitting there with bananas jutting out of both sides of their heads, going "WHAT? WHAT?" So I was more than willing to go on the show. The problem was that the topic of my book, which is computers, had nothing to do with the topic of the show I was going to be on, which was "Things We Do in Secret." As the producer explained to me, the idea for the show was that people would confess to bad things that they had done, such as borrowing something and never returning it. The producer wanted to know if I was willing to confess to something; the clear implication was that if I wasn't, I might not be on the show.

So I said heck yes, sure, you

bet, I would be THRILLED to confess something. I would have claimed full responsibility for the Kennedy Assassination, if necessary.

The crime I finally came up with, however, was hotel theft. The specific incident occurred some years ago when I was staying in a luxury Hyatt hotel. There was a little plastic sign in the bathroom that said:

"Our towels are 100 percent cotton. Should you wish to purchase a set, they are available in the gift store. Should you prefer the set in your bathroom, a \$75 charge will automatically be added to your bill."

This was Hyatt's polite way of saying, "If you steal our towels, we'll charge you 75 bucks."

So I stole the sign.

Really. I kept it in my guest bathroom for a couple of years, to amuse guests. When I told the Oprah producer about this, she decided it was perfect, but there was a problem: She said that it was "essential" that I bring the sign to the show, so I could deposit it, on the air, in a big

"give-back" crate, where they'd be collecting all the stuff that people had stolen. Unfortunately, I was in St. Louis on book tour, and the sign was back in my guest bathroom in Miami.

So I called my fiancée, Michelle, and asked her to send the sign, via Federal Express, to the Oprah show in Chicago. But with only one day to go, I was desperately afraid that the sign wouldn't get there on time, and at the last minute they'd cancel my appearance and put on some diet-book author, who had confessed to the O.J. slayings, and my big chance would be gone forever.

I spent several anxious hours sitting in my St. Louis hotel room, fretting about this. And then, suddenly, a thought struck me: The hotel was a Hyatt. So I looked around, and sure enough, there was a little plastic sign, very similar to the one I'd stolen. It was actually a "no-smoking" sign, but I figured that the TV viewers would never know the difference.

So I stole it.

So at this point, I had stolen a SECOND hotel sign, plus I was planning to lie on the air, all so I could get on an Oprah show that was supposed to be about confessing your sins.

As it turned out, when I got to Chicago, the first sign had arrived, and I was able to deposit it in the "give-back" crate. Also I had a nice chat with Oprah, who is -- and this is my honest, candid assessment, in no way influenced by any hope that she will have me back on her show -- the most perfect human being in world history.

So everything worked out for the best, except I still have a stolen Hyatt "no-smoking" sign. My concern is that the Hotel Theft Police will brand me as a repeat offender and throw me into Hotel Prison, where there's nothing to eat but pillow chocolates and you never get any sleep because every 10 minutes somebody knocks on your cell door and yells "HOUSEKEEPING!"

Actually, that sounds a lot like a book tour.



Editor's Mail Bag

To the editors:

I recently read the article in the Star from Jessica Greggo, a SUNY Geneseo student who has a great concern for us here at Houghton. I guess I was shocked about how much an "outsider" cares and how several here take so much for granted.

I agree with Greggo's statement of "taking advantage of where you are." I have several friends back at home that aren't even going to college, experiencing college life. I am so thankful to even be here. So many people treat their college life as just another day. I suggest that we seize everyday and make the most of it. What we have can be taken away just as easy as it was given.

To me, being at a Christian college has taught me a great

deal about myself. At Houghton we have the best opportunity to grow in the Lord. I chose Houghton because of the Christian atmosphere, small size, and location. Never again in our lives are we going to have such a "perfect", caring community to grow in together.

Greggo mentioned that during her visit on Homecoming weekend she was "taken aback" when she heard one of the college's bands playing a secular song with some "choicy lyrics." I agree that there could have been a better selection of Christian music. With Greggo coming from a secular college she expected to hear something different here. We are called to be "little Christs", which is what the word "Christian" means. James 4:4 states that, "You are

called to be different from the world." If we are supposed to stand separate from the world and plant seeds, are we making that visible? I'm not saying that we always need to be singing Celebration songs, but we also have to remember that outsiders are looking in at us. What are they going to see?

I pray for this campus daily and I hope that we as a student body can encourage one another. We each need to be responsible for our actions, concerned, and most importantly as the Bible states, "the greatest of these is love." I challenge you to take a step back and look at where you are, what you have, and what the Lord has done. His blessings are bountiful.

In Christ,
Liana Weirich

This letter is in response to the Opinion Column article "Federal Loans Deteriorate Education," in The Star's December 6 issue.

I think it is wrong that Aaron Noll generalizes all students who receive federal loans in one group of students who party, mate, and spend time left after that in the computer lab playing video games and "wasting time 'surfing the web.'" Is this to say that students who are wealthy enough to not have to borrow money from the government don't "party, mate, play video games, and wasting time 'surfing the web'"? I seriously don't think so!

The article goes on to suggest that the grading scale has changed. My experience tells me grading scales vary from school to school, and some professors are more demanding than others. I am a transfer student from a community college, where it was much easier to get an A, which required a 90 average, than here at Houghton which requires a 95 average.

I also feel it is wrong to say that colleges raise their tuition in proportion to what they know students could receive in loans from the government.

According to Fortune magazine (Tully, Shawn. "Finally, Colleges Start to Cut Their

Crazy Costs." May 1, 1995. 110-114), the more tenure a professor has, it appears that less time will be spent in the classroom and advising students. At Duke in the 1770's seventeen faculty members served one hundred thirty religion majors. In 1995, sixteen professors served only thirty religion majors. Can we not see evidence of this at Houghton? College prices will drop when institutions restructure their operations.

If the suggestion of eliminating federal aid was implemented, I doubt many private colleges would see a significant rebound in enrollment. How are students suddenly going to be able to afford the price of an education if federal loans have been eliminated? In fact many colleges would probably have to shut down.

I receive loans from the federal government. I enjoy spending time with my friends. I prefer to call it dating. I don't take time to play games in the computer lab (but I have a Sega system at home), and I "surf the web" on occasion (sometimes for assignments, other times for my job with the paper, and yes sometimes for myself) and I have just as much a right to be here as anyone who doesn't receive assistance. Thank you very much. Scott Taylor

Letter to the editors:

In the Dec. 6 issue of The Houghton Star, Jason Sika wrote a rather sarcastic and scathing letter describing his interpretation of Houghton students' views on Christianity.

Sika said that unlike people at Houghton, he interprets the scriptures "without the aid of opaque glasses." I would like to know just how Mr. Sika interprets the scriptures. Judging by some of the statements he made, it seems that he tries to make the Bible conform to his liberal, social views. Mr. Sika has every right to his opinions, but he cannot make the Bible support those beliefs!

I do not know of any instances where the Bible comes out in support of homosexuality, but many verses speak out against it. Jude 1:7 warns against sexual immorality and says that those who engage in such practices will face the same punishment as Sodom and Gomorrah. The Bible clearly takes a strong stand against the homosexual lifestyle and other forms of sexual immorality, so it is futile to use scripture to justify that lifestyle.

Perhaps some of us need to be reminded that all roads do not lead to heaven. In John 14:6, Jesus says "I am the Way,

the Truth, and the Life, no man comes to the Father except through me." We need to follow Jesus' way to get to heaven, and we can learn about his way by reading the Bible. We can either accept this and apply it to our lives or reject it and live with the consequences. God did leave us some "gray areas," but we cannot make the Bible change to fit our lifestyle. I agree that Christ is our "sanctuary," but let's not use God's love and forgiveness to justify immoral actions opposed by scripture.

In Christ, Jonathan Heller

Adria and Dale:

I am very disappointed to see the lack of discretion in the last issue of the STAR. I'm talking about the decision to print the two letters to the editors that support homosexuality and abortion.

I'm so disappointed that I ask you to withdraw my "Timeout for Tidbits" column. I'm finished working for an organization that allows such crap to be published on a Christian college campus. I'm embarrassed to have my name associated with such an organization as the STAR.

There are enough newsworthy events in the Houghton area so that news can be the focus, not propaganda. What I read in this week's STAR made me furious. I SUGGEST YOU START ASSIGNING STORIES TO WRITERS. What certain individuals "feel" is not as important as covering the news. Keep that out of the newspaper!

If you should decide to continue printing such blatantly anti-Christian material (and it is that) I guarantee you, others will follow my lead.

Clean it up, Bob Price

To Houghton homosexuals,

In response to the letter in the Dec. 6 edition of the STAR, decrying treatment of homosexuals on campus, I give an "AMEN" to most of what was written. The attitudes, treatment, etc. which the author said exists towards homosexuals at Houghton are saddening, if such be the case. Furthermore, you are quite right to feel betrayed by such behavior from within a "Christian" community.

Such behavior we see all about us in society; it is directed towards racial and social differences as well as homosexual matters. We shake our heads at the "world" but what about when same said behavior

sprouts up among God's people?

The Gospels provide many windows through which to see Jesus' manner amongst all types of people. His is our example and it stands in marked contrast to that described in aforementioned letter. Unconstructive and prejudicial, it seems and lacking much "fruit of the Spirit" and shows a shallowness in one's walk with God.

However, there was one statement in the letter to the STAR with which I strongly disagree: "We are strong Christians." While Jesus personified grace in the midst of varied situations and peoples; he never turned his head the other way

when issues, attitudes, actions, etc. violated the will of the Father or the precepts of His Word. (Mk 11:15-18) Jesus may not have specifically addressed homosexuality but he was sure to make it clear that a change was required of heterosexuals involved in immorality (John 8:3-11). Note the clear warning here despite much compassion for this woman. He loved her but hated her sin -- once again our example.

Basic to Christian belief are the inspiration and usefulness of Scripture (2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). No one engaged in a homosexual lifestyle, who will not repent from such,

has any hope in the eternal blessings God has promised his people. It matters not how accepted this alternative lifestyle is here on earth (1 Cor. 6:9-10; Romans 1:24-28). Furthermore, since God the Father and God the Son are always in perfect accord, it is inconceivable that a person could be at one and the same time a follower of Jesus and a homosexual.

Please do not consider the last two paragraphs to be gay bashing or looking down my self-righteous nose. God's Word says it and I believe it. It is not a matter of opinion. On the contrary, I write to you because I care enough to think

that perhaps you never heard God's truth on this matter. Just as important, God offers you hope. No homosexual is any more undeserving of God's mercy and grace than I or any other person here were before we repented of our waywardness, accepted God's remedy (Jesus), and surrendered our life to him. When, in your heart, you agree with God on this matter he will welcome you with open arms. Better yet, he will take homosexuality from you. He will remember it no more (1 Cor. 5:17-21). God loves you and wants you to spend eternity with him (2 Peter 3:9), but only on his terms. I'll pray for you.

Bill Sylor

Dear Proud & Friends:

I have tried to ignore the idea of homosexuality at my home, job, and here at Houghton, but like all problems, this needs to be solved; problems do not just go away. I have a few friends who have chosen this way of life and although they are great people, they still need help. In addition to these friends, I also have some who make racist comments and tell bad jokes, but they are not doing it to hurt others. I am also willing to bet that you've participated in one or two of these prejudiced insults yourself. Maybe when we stop laughing at these jokes, people will stop telling them.

As for your Christianity, I feel that you need to rethink your position with the Lord. If

you are reading this and have a Bible handy, please look up 1 Cor. 6:9, 1 Tim. 1:1-20, and Gal. 5:19-21. If you really were a strong Christian, then you would believe in God's Work and here it is, laid out nicely for you: homosexuals will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Maybe we shouldn't be so quick to judge others since we, ourselves, are sinners, but unlike you, most of us are not deliberately disobeying God. Homosexuality is not right; it is a sin. Please don't take this as a personal attack. I do not know who you are, but because you go to Houghton, you are probably straight with God in other matters. Please think about what I said and I wish you only the best of luck.

-- Aimee Figgins

HOW "THE RULES" WORK IN THE REAL WORLD

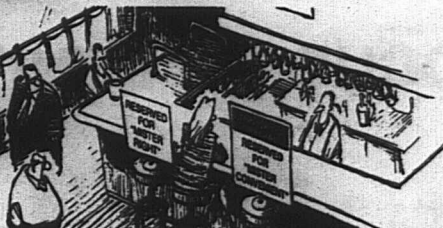
VIEW 11-26

THE NEW AIR QUALITY BATTLEGROUND

VIEW 11-27

HOW TO TELL THAT MARKET RESEARCH NOW INDICATES CYCLIC OUTNUMBER OPTIMISTIC.

VIEW 11-28



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Macarena

David Johnson

Problems attack our society like vicious viruses intent on destroying its hosts. Wars, famines, pestilence, racism, genocide, Kenny G., etc. I would like to address a greater concern that I believe could lead to the complete collapse of the infrastructure of our way of life, and send us spinning into oblivion. Its called the Macarena.

I'm not sure who is responsible for the Macarena but it must have been created by the same people who brought us The New Kids on the Block and asbestos. "Macarena" is a Latin term, "maca" meaning "continuous," and "rena" meaning "agony and sorrow."

For those of you cave dwellers who are not familiar with the Macarena, allow me to clarify. It is a dance craze that has swept the nation faster than "Spray-on-Hair." The Macarena is sort of like a salsa version of country line-dancing (yet another travesty befalling our nation.) Basically, you're trading in your boots and hat for tacos and guacamole.

The actual dance moves are

rather complex to explain, but I'll give it a shot. While really annoying music blares in the background perform these actions: a) extend your arms, palms down, at a 97.3 degree angle, then b) with your elbows slightly crooked, turn your hands up; while continuing to pretend you have a little bit of rhythm, c) clutch your shoulders (I think) and then d) uh...put your...hands on your...uh...forehead...I'm pretty sure you follow this up by e) sticking your right (or is it left) leg out and shaking it all around? After all this, f) call the paramedics.

Tracing the history of the Macarena brings us all the way back to prehistoric man. According to various cave paintings (found in the newest issue of "Various Cave Paintings,") a Macarenian-like dance was performed by a heavily bearded male after successfully taking a heavily bearded female as a mate. Unfortunately, while the heavily bearded male was making a fool of himself, another heavily bearded male would hit him on the head with a large, wooden stick.

You may be asking yourself: "Is it really that bad?" Yes, it is. In a recent experiment that can be found in the newest issue of "Recent Experiments," scientists subjected 10 random Tibetan Monks to 48 hours of the Macarena. Four monks renounced their religion and moved to the high mountains of Nepal to eat acorns, three joined the WWF, two were arrested for making suggestive comments to horses, and one was found in a bus station whistling the theme song to "Family Feud" and chewing on his feet.

Wherever you look you'll find the Macarena; CD's that play it non-stop (a glimpse of what Hell may be like,) music videos, TV commercials, and different lines of "Macarena Sneakers" (pump them up and you'll look like an idiot.) As I close, I hope I have given you a lot to think about. All I know for sure is that you'll never find me dancing the Macarena. I would never bring myself down to that level of idiocy and inanity. I have my dignity and self-respect. Also, I can't dance.



Bob Price takes a shot in the game against Mt. Vernon.
(photo by Bill Greenway)

Little Giants

Josh Daniels

With two of their starters sitting the bench, the Houghton Men's basketball team put up a valiant effort in their loss to Roberts Wesleyan Saturday night 80-59.

Micheal Brundige and Tomas Kersis were not able to play against Roberts Wesleyan due to an altercation with a player in their match against Pitt-Brad. With these two starters sitting the bench, Coach Berry had to quickly construct a new defense and offense to combat the much taller team of Roberts Wesleyan.

Since Houghton was short on size and depth, they decided to play fewer possessions by holding on to the ball longer before taking a shot. They would work the ball around for 20 to 30 seconds before shoot-

ing the ball. This worked extremely well in the first half as Houghton was down by only two and outbounded Roberts 30-8 going into the locker room at half time.

The second half was a different story though as Roberts made a few adjustments in their defense and Houghton began to run out of energy especially their front line lacking size and muscle. Roberts ended up with more rebounds in the second half which proved to be the deciding factor as Roberts beat Houghton by twenty-one.

"My guys did a tremendous job, despite the loss," commented Coach Berry. Dwayne Washington did a terrific job as point guard leading the offense. Bill Price helped out as well leading the team with 18 points.

Classified

RESTLESS to serve God and ready for a challenge? E.S.I. has summer and fall openings for Christians to teach conversational English in Central Europe, the former U.S.S.R. and China. No experience necessary. Housing and living stipend provided. Some cost for program fees and airfare. Call Educational Services International at 1-800-895-7955.

HELP WANTED: Men/Women earn \$480 weekly assembling circuit boards/electronic components at home. Experience unnecessary, will train. Immediate openings in your local area. Call 1-520-680-7891.



Recent studies show that fat calories in the final product are the same whether chicken skin is removed before or after cooking. That's good news because skinless chicken tends to dry out during cooking.

Focus on Brundige

Josh Daniels

Micheal Brundige, a 6-6 ft. senior from Buffalo, N.Y., is the backbone of the Houghton men's basketball team. Basketball is a fast-paced, non-contact sport that requires intense thinking and physical finesse.

Micheal R. Brundige was born on May 8, 1972, in Buffalo, N.Y. He was raised in a single-parent family by his mother Linda.

Micheal went to Hutch Tech High School in Buffalo, where he was recruited, and received a basketball scholarship to Martin Methodist College in Tennessee. Micheal was not satisfied at Martin Methodist and came to Houghton after months of their constant persistence. Micheal has been at Houghton for three years and is a power and stability for the team.

Micheal's mother taught him



the fundamentals of the sport. "My mother played basketball in high school. She used to take me to the courts and teach me how to shoot," said Micheal, remembering his first experiences of basketball.

"The most important aspect of the game is to be able to think as the game is progressing,"

stated Micheal. "Anyone can learn how to dribble or shoot the ball, but to know where and when to be for the plays of the game is extremely important." Micheal went on to add that a player needs hand and eye coordination, flexibility, speed, and agility. This is a fast paced game that requires players to be alert and able to oppose 5 opponents to dribble a basketball and score in the hoop.

Micheal is an accounting major and plans to graduate in May. Micheal also has a beautiful baby boy named Isaiah.

"Right now providing the best for my son is my first priority. I want my son to have everything he needs," said Michael concerning his future and family.

Three Times the Charm

Josh Daniels

Three Houghton women scored 18 points as Houghton College stomped on Roberts Wesleyan 85-64.

Houghton hosted Roberts in their first meeting last Saturday. These two rival schools meet twice a season in a clash of contention for the title of pride and respect. "We knew alot about Roberts Wesleyan coming into the game, since we play them twice a season," commented Coach Lord on his thoughts of Houghton's rival. Roberts had defeated Houghton both times last season, and

free throws were the deciding factor in those games. Coach Lord and his team made sure they were ready this time.

Roberts came into the game starting three guards compared to Houghton's three forwards. Roberts was a faster squad so Houghton decided to play a zone defense to contain their opponents speed and to keep themselves out of foul trouble.

Houghton played tenacious defense and worked the ball until they had open shots. Their depth off the bench is much

stronger this season as well. "The bench provides tremendous support for our starters," said Coach Lord. Houghton has players that can fill the starters positions and provide the needed consistency the coach expects.

Charity O'Connor, Amy Fells, and Faith Winchell each scored 18 points. April Batt followed with 12. The women Highlanders travel to Rochester on Thursday to play RIT. The women will play first followed by the Houghton men.



Akim Antwi struggles to reach the ball before the defender from U. of Maine-Farmington. (photo by Scott Taylor)



John Toohig hurls the ball into the action in the game against U. of Maine-Farmington. (photo by Scott Taylor)



The soccer team excitedly shows off the regionals trophy after their win over Green Mountain Nov. 16. (photo by Scott Taylor)

ACADEMY GIRLS V-BALL SHINES

Jon Field

If you heard the sirens and horns late on Saturday night Nov. 16, you heard the celebration of the win as the Canadea Fire department drove the Houghton Academy Girls volleyball team on top of their hook and ladder with a nearly forty car train following. Not even the bitter cold kept the team or the fans down.

From the beginning of the season their goal was to win the Class D state championship; they not only attained this but they also took home the Sportsmanship award.

Houghton's talented group of girls was led by four seniors: Linda Shea, Meg Stockin, Heidi Bressler, and Kristin Gurley. This solid core was backed up by junior Anna Sorensen; sophomores, Bitsy Mayhle and Mae Inoue; and freshman Sarah Swanson. These gifted athletes were coached by Phil Merrill, who has just completed his tenth year as head volleyball coach. "It is fun to coach girls who have talent and enjoy working hard,"

said Merrill.

Linda Shea gave her thoughts on the victory: "We felt a lot of pressure and excitement being at States which caused us to play poorly in the opening game of the championship match. However, in the next game we realized this was the moment we had worked for. We wanted to do our best so we pulled together, focused more, and our dream came true!"

The State Championship meant a lot to the girls, but the sportsmanship award was equally important. Since this award is given to just one team in the state, it is quite an honor. When asked how it felt to be given this award, Merrill responded, "It feels great since that is what I should be striving for as a coach and what the girls should be also. While the sportsmanship award does not make us any more spiritual than the other teams, it does show attributes of the Holy Spirit."

Men's Soccer Plays at Nationals

Josh Daniels

Over Thanksgiving break the Houghton Men's soccer team was in Birmingham, Ala., for the 1996 NAIA National Tournament.

With Houghton's victory over Green Mountain in regionals, Houghton received a trip to Alabama representing the Northeast in nationals. There were twelve different teams in the tournament, and Houghton was ranked eleventh.

The first team that Houghton opposed was Birmingham-Southern. They were ranked fourth in the tournament and with the home advantage, Houghton had their work cut out for them.

In this first match-up, Houghton stuck to their game plan for the most part. They played well together and their defense was tight letting Birmingham-Southern score only one goal by the end of the first half. Houghton actually scored also, but the goal was called back over a controversial offside call.

The second half looked promising as well with Houghton playing their style of game till about 25 minutes left in the game. During this time, Birmingham-Southern scored their second goal. This goal changed the momentum of the game entirely. Houghton seemed to become depressed while Birmingham became more enthusiastic.

Birmingham-Southern took advantage and scored two more goals as they defeated Houghton 4-0. "They were a very experi-

enced team. Their team started seven seniors compared to our two seniors," stated Coach Hornibrook on the results of Houghton's first match.

With the rule of double elimination in effect, Houghton had one more chance to redeem themselves against seventh ranked Simon Fraser. The Highlanders had seen Simon Fraser play before and appeared to be intimidated by their opponents. Plus, Simon Fraser possessed a player on the Canadian Olympic team, as well as two or three players on the Canadian Youth World Cup Team. "We weren't ready to play. We didn't get the experience we needed from our older players," commented the coach.

Simon Fraser ended up humiliating Houghton 6-0. The coach went on to say that Simon Fraser probably was the best in the tournament, besides Lindsey-Wilson from Kentucky who won the entire tournament.

Houghton is not letting this affect them though. They are looking to a very bright future. In the last two seasons, Houghton's young squad has gone to nationals with Coach Hornibrook, with only two or three seniors each time. The core of the team will be back next year, but will be losing a strong defense when senior goalie David Dixon graduates. Houghton will also sorely miss seniors Mike Freace, Todd Miner, and Greg Hill.