

the HOUGHTON STAR

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

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THE World OUT there

BY BEN HUGHES
STAR STAFF WRITER

China Completes Manned Space Flight

On Oct. 16th, China's first man in space, Yang Liwei, returned safely from his mission as a national hero. The historic space mission lasted 21 hours and included 14 orbits of the earth.

With the success of its Shenzhou ("Divine Vessel") 5 capsule, China became the third nation to send a human into space. Soviet Russia and the U.S. first accomplished the difficult and expensive feat in 1961.

Initially shrouded in secrecy, Yang's mission inaugurated an ambitious space program for China. Chinese officials believe that the achievement and future space plans will solidify national pride and international respect for the emerging world power.

[For more information about China's space program, visit: <http://edition.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2003/china.space/index.html>.]

Iranian Human Rights Activist Awarded Nobel Peace Prize

On Oct. 10th, Shirin Ebadi, an Iranian human rights lawyer, became the first Muslim woman to win the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize. Known for her devotion to the rights of women, children, and the oppressed, Ebadi is a prominent leader in the Iranian reform movement.

Ebadi served as the first female judge in Iran until the 1979 Islamic revolution forced her to resign. Her passionate advocacy on behalf of human rights issues has often brought her into conflict with hard-line Iranian officials and clerics. In 2000, she was convicted of slandering government officials and imprisoned for three weeks.

During a news conference in Paris, Ebadi declared, "The prize means you can be a Muslim and at the same time have human rights." The Nobel Peace Prize committee praised Ebadi's achievement

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Benedict Receives Fulbright Scholar Award

BY MELANIE MARCIANO
STAR STAFF WRITER

Director of the Political Science and International Relation programs at Houghton College and former American diplomat Dr. B. David Benedict has been granted the

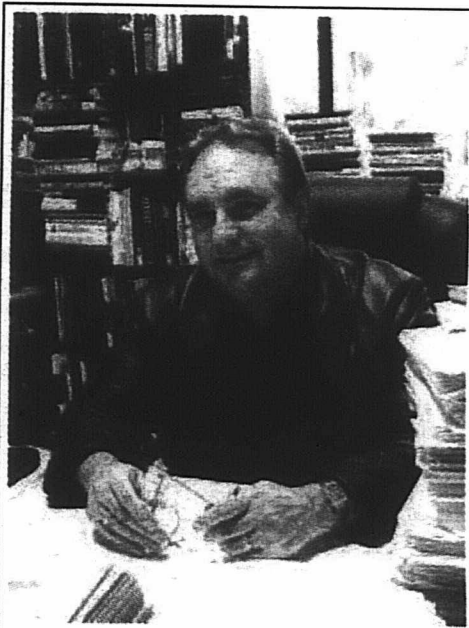


PHOTO BY NATHAN BOYD
Dr. B. David Benedict, seen here in his book-lined office, will be researching and teaching in Armenia as a recipient of the Fulbright Scholar award.

Fulbright Scholar award, which will allow him to conduct research and teach graduate and undergraduate courses at the Brusov Institute, Yerevan State Linguistic University in Yerevan, Armenia. During the next semester, Dr.

Benedict will work to form a connection between the United States and Armenia through his experience, teaching and research.

The Fulbright Scholar Award is presented by the U.S. government to applicants who demonstrate exceptional professional and academic achievement as well as excellent leadership capabilities. Dr. Benedict is "excited and honored" to be able to teach and study in Armenia, he said.

Recently independent from Soviet control in 1991, Armenia, located in Southwestern Asia between Turkey and Russia, offers unique research opportunities. Dr. Benedict will see what is developing in the political and economic systems and structures. He will be analyzing how these systems function and where governing power lies. Will the new, independent country easily fall back into its past authoritarian patterns, or will Armenia adopt a democratic,

capitalist approach? Armenia seems to be leaning towards an authoritarian government again, and Benedict is interested to understand why. He also will be researching the reasons behind the authoritarian leaders' "hard-line" view and its effects on the people. Benedict will be studying the Armenian genocide of 1915 as well.

Dr. Benedict will be teaching international politics and is interested in discovering what the Armenian students already know as well as what they are like. As a former U.S. diplomat he hopes they will benefit from his practical experience. Dr. Benedict will be teaching the Armenian students English and will learn to speak Armenian in order to facilitate his stay there. Benedict desires to create ties between the university in Armenia and Houghton College by encouraging exchange between professors in both countries and acting as a transporter of information and culture.

Upon his return to Houghton, Dr. Benedict's goal is to bring back knowledge of former soviet states, which will be especially helpful in his "Russia and the USSR: History and Politics" course, and share his firsthand experience with all of his students here.

Ted Murphy Receives Annual Excellence in Teaching Award

BY KYLE NAGY
STAR STAFF WRITER

In chapel on Wednesday the 15th, Professor Ted Murphy (commonly called Murph by his students) was honored as this year's recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award. This award is sponsored by the Independent College Fund of New York, and includes \$1000, donated from New York State Electric and Gas. The award is used to support teachers in undergraduate education and to reward them for their accomplishments. Murphy, a professor of art, was nominated and selected by his fellow faculty members to receive this honor.

Many of Professor Murphy's pieces of art can be seen around the Houghton College campus, including his paintings of floral arrangements and other more abstract works. Murphy is very gifted

in art, but is also very knowledgeable in many other areas. As another member of the faculty put it, "Murph sees learning as a great adventure." His love that he has for learning is considered by some of his students and coworkers to be infectious.

been given in his earlier years. He personally thanked his parents, who were present at chapel on Wednesday, for their commitment to putting him through college.

For the chapel talk, Murphy did an art critique of one of his favorite

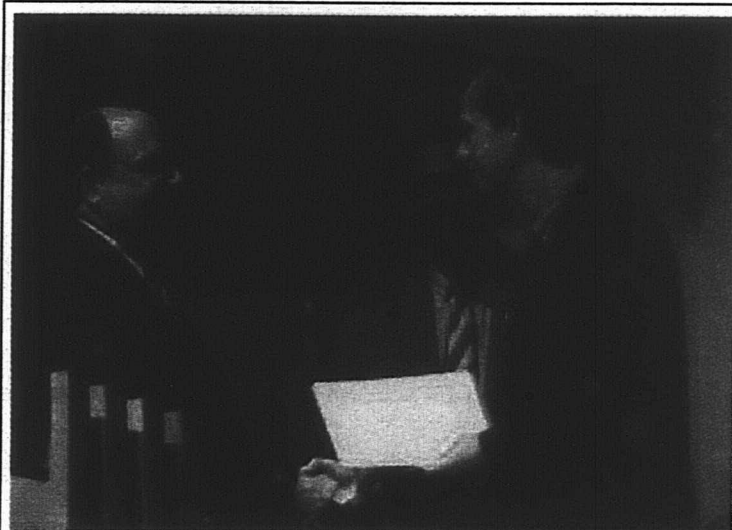


PHOTO BY NATHAN BOYD
Ted Murphy, Professor of Art, is congratulated by Dr. Carlton Fisher as the recipient of the 2003 annual Excellence in Teaching Award. Following the award ceremony, Murphy gave a talk about Bellini's *Pieta*.

Murphy sees teaching as a way to give back to others from all that he's

Cross" as the hymn for chapel.

pieces of art, Giovanni Bellini's *Pieta*. The painting is a 15th century rendition of Christ after the crucifixion in the arms of his mother, Mary. The work also includes Jesus' most faithful apostle, John. Professor Murphy saw this painting in person, when he had the opportunity to travel to Italy. He spent several hours looking at this piece of art, captured by its beauty and meaning. In conjunction with the painting, Murphy chose "When I Survey the Wondrous

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as an inspiration for human rights supporters in Iran, the Muslim world, and beyond.

[Visit the Nobel Peace Prize 2003 webpage at: <http://www.nobel.se/peace/laureates/2003/press.html>.]

UN Troops Respond to Recent Congo Massacre

In an attempt to prevent further massacres, U.N. peacekeepers are being deployed into the unstable Ituri province of Congo, where dozens were recently slaughtered. Last month, about 3,000 U.N. troops arrived in the area to curtail such bloodshed.

On Oct. 6th, 67 or more members of the Hema tribe were massacred in a village, most of the victims being children. According to U.N. officials, militants from the opposing Lendu tribe were the perpetrators.

This latest round of tribal warfare has plagued Congo since 1998, when a multinational war to remove its president engulfed the nation. The war, which is now "officially" over, involved numerous massacres and retributive violence; more than 1 million people were killed in the fighting. Despite a cease-fire agreement, hostility between the rival Hema and Lendu tribes has persisted. These bitter enemies have traditionally fought over territory and natural resources.

[For the latest news and historical background, go to: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/world/africa/centralafrica/democraticrepubliccongo/>.]

South Korean & Japanese Leaders Seek Renewed Support

On Oct. 10th, South Korea's president pledged that he would request the "pardon" of his nation to restore confidence in his troubled administration. Soon after, President Roh Moo-hyun announced that he would pursue a national referendum to determine if he will resign. In recent months, his administration has met with escalating discontent due to corruption scandals involving his aides, South Korea's economic woes, and his handling of the North Korean nuclear crisis, along with other major political issues.

On the 11th, Roh rejected the resignations offered by his Cabinet members and aides. Taking full responsibility for his administration's problems, Roh will take the full brunt of the criticism from the National

See **world news**,
next column

An 'Evening Out' at Houghton Not Your Typical Fall Drama Production

BY LIZ SANDS
STAR STAFF WRITER

Starting next Monday, October 27th, tickets go on sale for Houghton's first-ever Dinner Theatre, which will be performed in the Campus Center Dining Hall November 6th, 7th and 8th.

According to Professor Bruce Brenneman, the director of the three one-act plays that provide entertainment for the evening, it's "a whole different venue for enjoying drama." Brenneman's intention is to "provide a full evening's entertainment" including top-notch drama and a top-notch meal.

Interspersed between the melodrama "The Wild Flowering of Chastity," a stage adaptation of Guy de Maupassant's "The Necklace," and Thornton Wilder's "The Happy Journey to Camden and Trenton," the menu for the evening goes above and beyond typical salads, entrees, and desserts. The buffet-style main courses include a salmon filet, chicken monterey, and roasted tortellini and vegetables, and desserts range from chocolate mousse drizzled with raspberry sauce to New York style cheesecake.

According to Professor Brenneman, the price increase compensates for the

"first rate meal." It's "not just run of the mill!" Tickets (which will be sold at meals starting next Monday) are fifteen dollars each. Because food is the primary expense of the ticket price, there is no student discount. In spite of higher ticket prices, Brenneman hopes that students and community members alike take advantage of this opportunity to dress up and spend an "evening out" right here at Houghton.

The concept of a dinner theatre is new to Houghton College, although other Pioneer-sponsored schools have collaborated between their theater and food services departments with a great deal of success. Brenneman is excited about bringing this phenomenon to Houghton's student body. Not only is adding a meal a new part of the drama experience at Houghton, but this performance will also use arena-style staging, in which the tables will surround the stage on all four sides. There is no front or backstage, bringing a new challenge to the actors and a more relaxed and involved atmosphere for the audience.

By using three one-act plays instead of a full-length production, Brenneman brings a variety of genres to the stage and gives more students the opportunity to participate. These three particular shows are so diverse that "one is bound to appeal to

every audience member," according to Brenneman. "Chastity" is not just any old melodrama; it is "pure fun, pure laughter, [and] pure comedy." Its stock characters are, in Brenneman's words, "pure corn," and require much energy from the actors. The second performance, "The Necklace," (a play many students have read as a short story) is the "middle-ground, classic" drama offering a universal "poignant message" about greed and envy. The third and final play of the evening is "The Happy Journey." As is typical in Thornton Wilder dramas, this play uses common, everyday things to point out difficulties in family relationships and encourages audience members to reexamine their values. Altogether, the three one-act plays and delectable dinner should be worth the ticket price and provide enjoyable entertainment for all.

As tickets go on sale, Professor Brenneman encourages students to reserve entire tables for the evening's entertainment and purchase tickets before the week of the show. Only payment guarantees reservation. Please contact Bruce Brenneman (ext. 9461) with any questions, comments, or more ticket information.

Assembly, a hostile media, and plummeting popular support. Roh, a former human rights lawyer, left his divided Millennium Democratic Party last month, further contributing to his precarious political position.

Roh's initial "pardon" announcement came the same day that the Japanese Prime Minister dissolved the lower house of his nation's parliament, as previously planned. Elections to fill all 480 spaces will be held on Nov. 9th.

Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi posits that the house dissolution and fresh elections will strengthen his ruling Liberal Democratic Party and therefore his reform policies. While he enjoys a high approval rating, the prime minister has encountered criticism over his nation's stagnant economy, hostility from within his own party, and attacks from opposition party blocs.

Seeking to turn Japan's struggling economy around, Koizumi released a 10-

point "Reform Declaration" delineating his economic recovery plans. Although there have been some recent indications of economic revival, the decade-long slump and near-record unemployment continue to plague the world's second largest economy.

[For more news from Asia, visit: <http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=index&cid=731>.]

GETTING TO KNOW ... Dr. Marcus Dean

by MATT THOMPSON
STAR STAFF WRITER

Where are you from? Cadillac, Michigan

Married? Kids? Wife, Dixie and three boys--Wesley (15), Nathan (13), and Matthew (10).

Alma Mater(s): BA in Christian Ministries at Indiana Wesleyan, MA in Theology and Missions at Asbury Seminary, PhD. in International Studies at Trinity International

Previous Employment Experience: Pastor at a Wesleyan Church in Huntington, Indiana for 3 years; Missionary for 15 years and taught in Bible Schools in Mexico, Columbia and Puerto Rico during that period as well.

How many countries have you traveled to? Eight--Panama, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Columbia, Puerto Rico and Canada.

Favorite Movie and Why? *Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* because, "It was a great movie and Frodo's friend Sam has a lot of great quotes throughout the movie that have a lot of substance to them."

Favorite Song: Currently it is "Paz En la Tormenta (Peace in the Storm)."

Favorite Dish at the Cafeteria: "I haven't eaten there very much, but I do really enjoy the 'Holy Cow' ice cream."

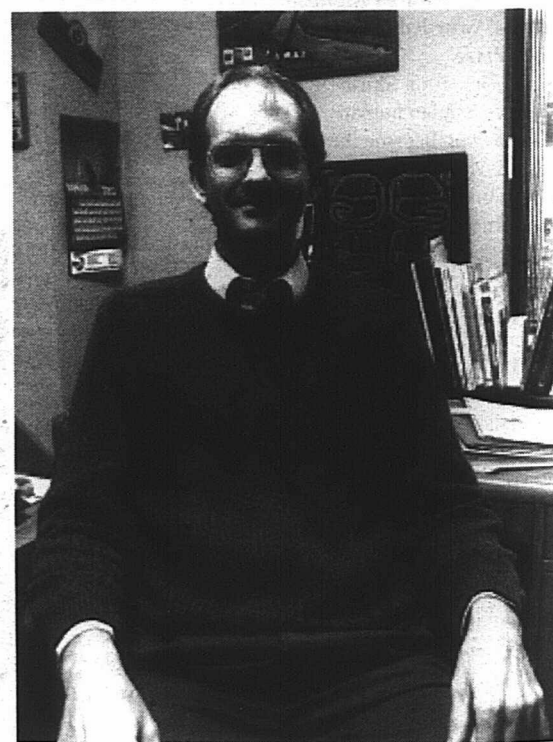


PHOTO BY NATHAN BOYD

Loved by Sigurd, Zale, and Winnipeg Jets Rock Campus Center

BY SARA FORE
STAR STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, October 9th, a concert was held in the campus center at 8 P.M. It featured three musical acts, showcasing Houghton College talent. Loved By Sigurd played first, followed by Mike Zale, and the show finished up with the Winnipeg Jets.

Loved By Sigurd, which featured several male Houghton students, sported a mellow sound. Through the use of guitars, a bass, drums, and keyboard, the band created a somber sound. Loved by Sigurd played a total of seven or eight songs, including one called "Her song," which, according to Sigurd's lead singer Joshua Cowell, has taken on new meaning for him lately. "It deals with relationships and the sort of calming realization

between two people just before or just after a storm hits in a relationship, which is where I'm at right now," said Cowell. The band encouraged the audience to check out its website, www.lovedbysigurd.com, which has

been in construction for about a year and is now up.

Mike Zale, one of the members of Loved By Sigurd, was the second act. He played an acoustic guitar and used looping technology that made it sound

like there was a whole band with him, although he was playing alone. Zale recorded musical segments and beats, then played them back while he simultaneously strummed his guitar and sang, creating the effect of a full band.

The third band that played was the Winnipeg Jets. "Their music had more of a rock sound to it," said audience member Sarah Kuziomko. "I enjoyed them immensely!" "They were upbeat and happy," added another member of the crowd, Lisa Major.

The concert was an all-around success. About one hundred people attended. Overall, the bands were liked and gave quality performances.



Loved by Sigurd rocks the stage at the recent CAB coffeehouse. Many people packed the downstairs of the Campus Center to listen to Sigurd, Mike Zale, and Winnipeg Jets.



PHOTO BY JOSH MILLER

Liz Sands reads at the open mic at the recent *Lanthorn* coffeehouse. Many students and professors took the opportunity to share favorite verses.

Lanthorn Coffeehouse a 'Smashing Success'

BY LIZ SANDS
STAR STAFF WRITER

On October 8th from 8 to 10 pm, the *Lanthorn*, Houghton's very own student-run literary publication, had its first "bring-your-own-mug" coffeehouse of the semester. According to the *Lanthorn*'s editor, senior Elizabeth Larakers, the event was a "smashing success." The audience of students and professors alike sat and stood, ate snacks and drank coffee, read and listened. Few feared the open microphone. During the rare interludes of silence, senior Jon Haley, a classical guitarist, played his guitar and allowed the audience to appreciate a different kind of poetry without words.

Dr. Zoller, professor of Writing and Literature, as well as the *Lanthorn* faculty advisor, started the poetry reading of the evening; and there was

rarely a quiet moment until Larakers' closing remarks at ten o'clock. From Emily Dickinson to Margaret Atwood, Marge Piercy, Theodore Roethke, Robert Frost, and W.H. Auden—whether it was original poetry or a classic, humorous or spiritual, a sonnet or a haiku, there was someone at the coffeehouse to read it.

In an attempt to heighten awareness among the student body about the *Lanthorn* and to encourage submissions of poetry, prose, or art, Larakers decided to have a coffeehouse closer to the beginning of the semester than the typical end-of-semester *Lanthorn* celebration. When the Fall 2003 *Lanthorn* is published, however, the *Lanthorn* staff will host another open-mic coffeehouse. Be sure to watch for signs. In the meantime, send all original, two-dimensional art, prose, and poetry that you've been accumulating to the *Lanthorn*, CPO 387.

Looking for a New Vision?

BY BETH FREEMAN
STAR STAFF WRITER

As October nears its end, New Vision Week swiftly approaches. Once again, World Missions Fellowship (WMF) will be sponsoring a series of chapels and events next week designed to take us out of the Houghton bubble and into the real world. This semester's event promises to be even more relevant and exciting than usual, with the theme, "Do they know?" based on Jesus' prayer in John 17. It will address how to reach people for Christ from Fillmore to the Philippines.

The keynote speaker for this semester's New Vision Week will be Dennis Brice. Brice, a native of the United Kingdom, is currently the

Director of Mobilization for Arab World Ministries. He also served in Taiwan for 10 years. Brice's chapel services will focus on ministering wherever you are, while the evening services will center around reaching Muslims for Christ, an issue that all Christians, especially in today's world, need to learn about.

New Vision Week chapel services will start Monday, Oct. 27, and continue throughout the week. Also, there will be evening services at 6:45 on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. In addition, WMF and the International Students Association are co-sponsoring a coffeehouse Tuesday night. Come and learn how you can make a difference in the world.

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Author Middleton Initiates FYHP Fall Symposium

BY RACHEL INGRAHAM
STAR STAFF WRITER

Dr. J Richard Middleton, professor of Old Testament at Roberts Wesleyan and author of several books, including the postmodern primer used in Houghton's First Year Honors Program (FYHP) *Truth Is Stranger Than It Used to Be*, visited Houghton the weekend of October 10th. He spoke in chapel on Friday and at the FYHP fall symposium on Saturday.

In the Friday chapel service, Middleton delivered the message, "Can God Handle My Doubts?" He likened the theological questionings found in Jeremiah 20:7-18 to those found in the song "Dear God," by the '80s pop group XTC. Both texts, he argued, are similar in that they are prayers which are brutally honest about pain. Such prayers, said Middleton, are not inappropriate, but rather, "cries for help" and "bold affirmations of faith" that are necessary in the midst of one's doubt. Middleton ended by saying, "The

church is too silent about doubt and despair. We need an honest articula-

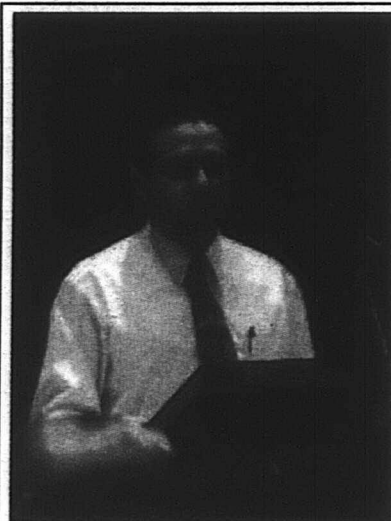


PHOTO BY NATHAN BOYD
Author Dr. J Richard Middleton speaks during the fall FYHP symposium.

tion of pain. We don't have to have answers, but rather trust that God is with us in the midst of our disorienta-

tion." Students responded positively to Middleton's message, calling it "awesome," "great," and "a brilliant message that isn't heard very often."

Middleton spoke again on Saturday, October 11, as guest lecturer for Houghton's First Year Honors Program's fall symposium. Concerning Middleton's role as guest speaker, Associate Director of London Programs and Philosophy professor Chris Stewart stated that, "Given his proximity to Houghton, (and) the fact that we had adopted *Truth is Stranger* as a text in the FYHP... Middleton seemed a logical choice." Middleton's morning talk, "Discerning the Postmodern Crisis," dealt with the historical roots of postmodernism, including the rise and fall of modern thought in the West. In the afternoon, Middleton spoke on, "Responding to the Postmodern Crisis," stressing the need for a biblical vision within the Christian community. Middleton's talks were

part of a larger program which included discussions among former and soon-to-be honors students, and ended with a question-and-answer period.

The response to Middleton's addresses on Saturday was also largely positive. Sophomore Beth Overhauser said, "I really appreciated the opportunity to interact with Middleton personally and to ask questions about some of his ideas. After FYHP, I struggled with the idea of personal faith in Christianity in this world of postmodernity, so after a few months of thinking and rebuilding my faith it was good to address these issues again and find closure."

Freshman Kathryn Henderson, who will be a part of the FYHP this coming spring, said that she "Would have appreciated having an excerpt from the book beforehand so I could understand more of what was going on and ask more questions." However, Henderson also said that she was, "Glad that we had the symposium, as it provided a taste of (what to expect) next semester."

Humor Writer to Visit, Speak at Houghton

BY CHRISTINE TURNER
STAR STAFF WRITER

On Friday, October 24, Houghton will host Dr. Daniel Pukstas, a professor of English at Tompkins-Cortland Community College in Dryden, New York, and the author of *Traveling with Athena: A Blind Man's Odyssey Through Italy and Greece*. Pukstas, who has also written four musicals and two textbooks on the teaching of writing, will be visiting Professor Brenneman's Principles of Writing classes and Dr. Dashnau's Humor Writing class during the day. Later in

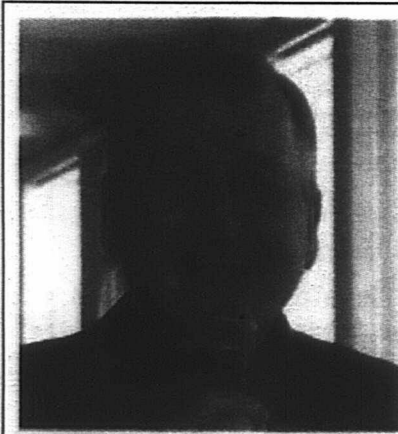
Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Professional Service. "I heard rave reviews about him as a professor, and I was amazed by his energy and attention to students. He is a man with a love of life, a love of people, and a love of travel."

Despite being legally blind for almost ten years because of a degenerative disorder, Pukstas has continued to travel extensively. "It [my blindness], of course, generates numerous situations that can only be described as hilarious," he said. These "hilarious" anecdotes form the bulk of

Pukstas' memoir *Traveling with Athena*, which was published in 2003 through iUniverse. With chapter titles such as "Odysseus Wouldn't Have Made It as a Travel Agent" and "Harpies in Miniature" (an account of the author's losing battle with mosquitoes), the book is a witty blend of Greek mythology and personal experience. An Amazon.com review describes the book as "somewhat intellectual but usually with tongue pressed firmly into cheek."

Pukstas will share insights on humor writing with students, discussing his development as a humorist. "I think my humor derives from several important elements of my upbringing and I will be discussing these when I arrive at Houghton," said Pukstas. "One thing, however, is for sure: it's much more challenging to talk about humor than it is to do it. Explaining why a joke is funny is a task that takes some insight and some luck. I hope I can bring both to Houghton."

Dashnau expects that Pukstas' visit will not only entertain but will



Dr. Daniel Pukstas, author and professor, will be visiting Houghton for lecture and discussion about the writing of humor.

the afternoon, students will read chapters from Dr. Pukstas' book and he will discuss his humor writing in a session open to the public.

Dr. Dashnau, who taught with Pukstas at Tompkins-Cortland, describes him as an outstanding educator and humorist. "When I think of him, I think of two words: zest and wit," said Dashnau of Pukstas, who has also been awarded SUNY

-- TECH CORNER --

by DAN PERRINE

Amp it Up

While I maintain that Norton Systemworks is an excellent investment, a part of my conscience continues to chide me for advising people to actually buy software. I know that we all have better things to do with our money, like buy textbooks we'll never open until five days before the final and pay for girl's lunches. So this week I'm going to look at Winamp, which is the best free music player on the Internet. Next week, I'll review a couple of good video players.

From what I've observed, the two most popular music players in Houghton are RealOne and Windows Media Player. I don't like either of them. RealOne has a habit of making itself the dedicated media center of your computer without asking permission, plus its makers, RealNetworks, have long been pushing a proprietary media format that only their advertisement-riddled software can play. I don't appreciate such business practices. WMP is very convenient since it comes pre-installed on most Windows systems; but frankly it's ugly and has lots of memory-eating features no one ever uses. Plus, it contains the framework for so-called Digital Rights Management software that, if implemented, could make playing and sharing your tunes quite the hassle. If this doesn't appeal to you, you should check out Winamp. I don't like the most recent version and recommend you download Winamp 2.91, which you can get at <http://classic.winamp.com>.

Winamp has a slick interface that you can customize with skins (a great site for this is www.1001winampskins.com) to match your wallpaper or make an artistic statement. It contains no advertisements or draconian "rights management" features, and Nullsoft, Winamp's publisher, has a long history of supporting innovative and independent programs. It does have a full-featured graphic equalizer, the ability to edit the tags on your tunes (to make sure they display the right title and artist in the play list), and the ability to lock it in a set position on your desktop. You can also install the popular Shoutcast plugin (ironically found at www.shoutcast.com), which lets you listen to and even broadcast your own internet radio programs. Finally, for those of you who can't live without them, you can get fancy visualizations to go along with your music.

Hope you found this column useful. Questions or comments, email daniel.perrine@houghton.edu.

also inspire students to pursue writing. "I hope that students who are somewhat unsure about capitalizing on their life experiences in writing will be encouraged and see how writing can be therapeutic in others' lives," said Dashnau.

Dr. Pukstas will be speaking on Friday, October 24, from 3:15-4:05 p.m. in NAB 123-125. The event is open to the public, and students are especially encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be provided.

The Middle States Re-Accreditation Process

BY DR. DARYL STEVENSON
PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

Houghton's mission statement is specific, clear, and found in many of its publications:

"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."

How well is Houghton doing in accomplishing this mission? That is the question the college is trying to assess this year as part of a voluntary, comprehensive self-study process. Every ten years, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education asks its members to analyze and carefully evaluate all that the member does in the service of its mission. Are we actually doing what we say we want to be doing? At the end of the two-year process, if history is a reliable guide, Houghton will qualify for re-accreditation for another ten-year period.

While the main focus of self-study is on the teaching and learning process, as measured by student outcomes, the self-study extends to assessment of buildings and plant management, our governance structures, the general education program, fund-raising and enrollment issues, student services, and just about everything else you might think of with reference to Houghton.

Here is a sketch of the process. A Self-Study Steering Committee was appointed last spring, chaired by Dr. Stevenson of the Psychology Department, and began the process of planning self-study with assistance from the appointed Middle States liaison officer. Using guidelines established by the Middle States Association, the Steering Committee created ten sub-committees with student representation, each to work on a segment of the self-study.

Gathering a wide array of quantitative data and other qualitative information, we assess our strengths and identify our weaknesses in a comprehensive report. The report's first draft will be completed in the summer of 2004, and discussed across the campus during the fall before the final draft is completed. The process culminates in a campus visit by a team of about ten educators and administrators from outside New York State. The college expects that visit to occur in March 2005, followed by action by the Commission on Higher Education in June.

The Middle States process allows much latitude by institutions to establish their own mission and determine how they will carry it out. However, it provides measurable standards that quality institutions are expected to meet.

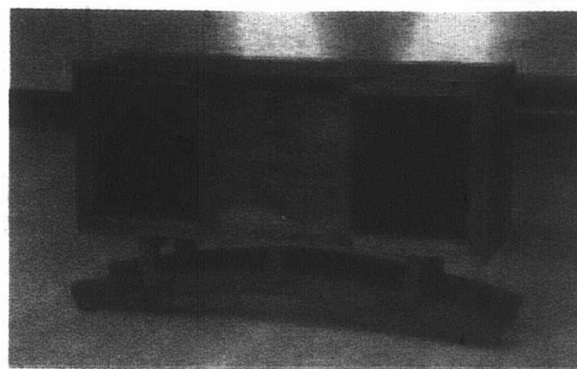
The Houghton campus community, Board members and many alumni have been asked this fall to participate in data-gathering for the self-study through anonymous questionnaires. Questions could range from perceptions of the food services, quality of instruction, campus advertising, to opinions about Houghton athletics, off-campus programs, safety and security, and governance structures.

A recent *Star* article highlighted another campus-wide study taking place this fall by the Crane MetaMarketing firm from Atlanta. The Crane study is specifically focusing on helping our campus with its strategic planning with emphasis on identifying and building upon what is unique about the college. There might be understandable confusion about these two efforts, since although they are conducted separately (one by an off-campus group and the other by on-campus personnel), they are part of an intensive, coordinated campus self-evaluation. Ultimately, the results of the Crane study will be incorporated into the Middle States report, and both will enhance the college's ability to fulfill its mission.

The Steering Committee is hopeful that the questionnaires distributed this fall will inspire students, faculty, and alumni to participate in these efforts. If you receive one, please take the time to provide your anonymous and serious input, as it will have implications for Houghton's mission for years to come.

Following is a list of students and their respective sub-committees.

Mission, Goals, and Integrity—Kristina VanDyk
Institutional Resources, Resource Allocation, and Planning—Daniel Smucker
Governance and Administration—Alex Scott
Student Admissions—Julie Rudd
Student Support Services—Erin Horn
Faculty—Jessica Spear
Educational Offerings—Cheryl Winter
General Education—Naomi Spurrier
Related Educational Activities—Rachael Wightman
Assessment of Student Learning—Rachael Spurrier



Ortlip Gallery Features Artisans in Wood

BY RACHEL BRASK
STAR STAFF WRITER

The latest installment at the Ortlip Gallery features the work of wood artisans Linda Condry and Jeff Wynn along with fused glass sculptures by Carolee D. Ahrens. A gallery talk and slideshow on Friday, October 3, 2003 was presented in addition to the gallery's opening viewing.

Ahrens's fused-glass sculptures consist mainly of a series of colorful, intriguing and entertaining figures and patchwork panels. Each of the figure sculptures feature fun and curious details and movement, including a few where the viewer can look into the "head" of the figure. Contrasting and vibrant colors, creative decorative patterns and a sense of spontaneity keep the viewer looking for more in each of the pieces.

Linda Condry, the first art major to graduate from Houghton College (class of '86) and her husband, Jeff Wynn, have been crafting wood furniture and sculpture for over 17 years, over half of which is commissioned for churches. Linda and Jeff agree that as part of a husband-wife team, "one's weakness is the other's strength." Their work includes pulpits, altars, lecterns, crosses and candle holders, in addition to rockers, tables, chairs and desks. They use a variety of wood, mostly walnut, cherry, and other domestic hardwoods. "We see God in nature," and they use that as their inspiration in crafting the wood into the works of art that they become. Most of their commissions have been successful, although they conceded that "when you're not building furniture, you're building character."

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!Hero: The Rock Opera

BY KYLE NAGY
STAR STAFF WRITER

"What if He were born in Bethlehem... Pennsylvania!?" This is the basis for one of the latest Christian music releases entitled *!Hero: The Rock Opera*. This two disc compilation, released on September 2nd, is a collaboration of many popular Christian artists. The rock opera features Michael Tait, of DC Talk (*Hero*), Mark Stuart, of Audio Adrenaline (*Petrov*), and Rebecca St. James (*Maggie*). Also featured are John Cooper from Skillet, T-Bone, Grits, Matt Hammit of Sanctus Real, and many others.

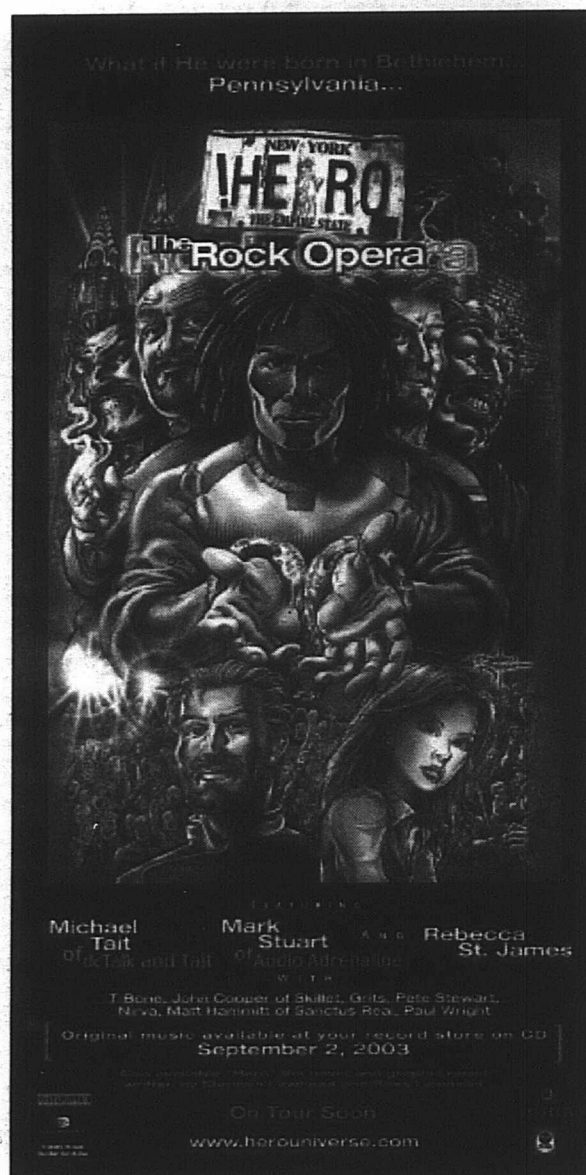
The storyline is generally the same as that of Jesus Christ, but with a modern-day twist. Hero is born in Bethlehem, PA and raised in a Jewish section of Brooklyn. The world is under control of an iron fisted International Confederation of Nations commonly called ICON. Churches and religion are suppressed by the rule of ICON, with the exception of the Jews, who manage to survive. As Hero grows up, he sees the oppression of ICON and begins his mission in speaking out against their injus-

tices. Hero's message of love, including love of enemies, is a threat to the current state of the world. "What they fear most is a champion of the people. A HERO."

The CDs feature a unique mix of rock, hip-hop, R&B, pop and alternative sounds, and do a good job of balancing these musical genres. Using this mix of music, the story of Hero is told with striking similarity to that of Christ, while still within the confines of the Gospel storyline. According to freshman Chris McKinstry, "I think it is a good representation of the life of Jesus in modern times... I can't wait to see it in concert!" The soundtrack itself is about an hour and fifty minutes long, and the two CD package includes the words to each song, along with some stage directions and biblical cross-references. Whether you like the music or not, the story is extremely interesting, and hearing it at least once would be a must for everyone. On a scale of 1 to 10, I would give it a 7 for its good musical mix and storyline.

Also during the month of November, the artists of *!Hero* will be touring various parts of the country. The rock opera will be at

Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church in Williamsville, about an hour from Houghton, on Monday November 10th. Ticket prices for general admission are \$20, as well as an \$18 rate for groups of 10 or more. For more information visit <http://www.itickets.com/events/59075.html> or feel free to contact me at extension 1838 or kyle.nagy@houghton.edu.



Out of Time Definitely not a 'Waste of Time'

BY MICHAEL RUSSELL
GUEST STAFF WRITER

In *Out of Time*, we see Denzel Washington, who plays a small town police chief, get himself into a sticky situation and then race against time to find his way out of it. In the opening credits, an artful sequence of snapshots and use of colors and text provides a creative element that sets up the story very well. The film's opening credit sequence also provides the sense that this small town near the Florida coast is very laid back, a kind of lazy, happy-go-lucky place, through its use of jazzy music. But the plotline moves in a different direction.

Denzel Washington plays the role of Police Chief Matt Whitlock, who is having an affair with his high school sweetheart Ann Merai Harrison (played by Sanaa Lathan). Harrison is married to a former NFL quarterback, Chris Harrison, played by Dean Cain. (And yes, it is the same Dean Cain who hosts the television show "Ripley's Believe It or Not.") To add to the mix, Chief Whitlock's wife Alex, who has left him and has filed for divorce, is made a homicide detective.

During Whitlock's affair with Ann Harrison, he learns she has cancer. Out of love for her, he finds himself committing a crime in order to bring her some money to pay for an experimental cancer therapy. This crime puts

him in a very bad place, especially when he has to investigate a double homicide. The twist is he has the motive and the opportunity to commit the murders, but is he guilty? You'll have to see the film to find out. Guilty or not, Whitlock (Washington) finds himself in a race against time, trying to solve the murders before he becomes a suspect himself.

As a viewer I found myself not completely sympathizing with Denzel Washington's character, but at the same time I was rooting for him. Denzel Washington's charisma as an actor shows in this film; he delivers his lines with power. At the same time, his versatility as an actor is reflected as his character is taken on a roller coaster ride and he has to express a wide range of emotions.

An element of humor is added to this film through the character of Chea (John Billingsley), the medical examiner and good friend of Chief Whitlock. I wouldn't go so far as to say Chea is Chief Whitlock's sidekick, but he does seem to tag along a lot and fulfills the role of the loyal friend to Whitlock in his time of trouble. Some critics may feel Chea's character is a bit too unorthodox, but I feel the humor that his character provides is a bonus feature in this film.

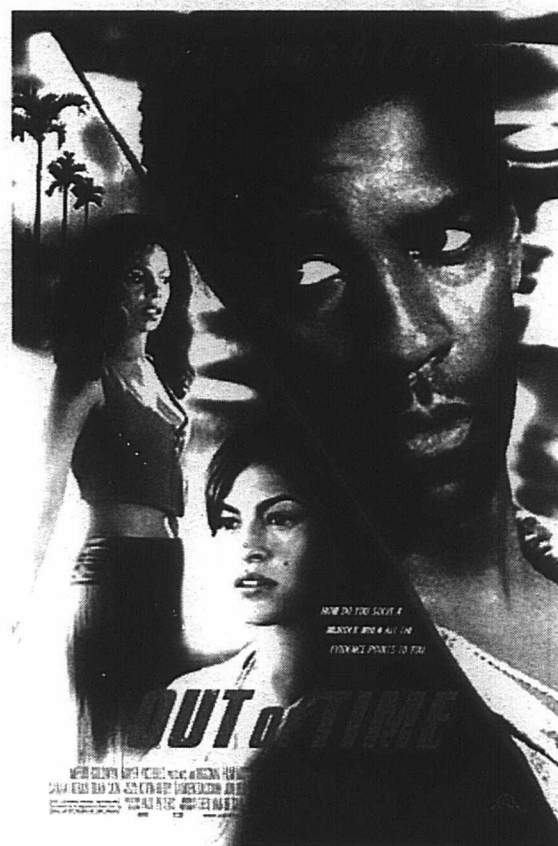
This film is well done, but is lacking in a few areas. In the first half hour of the film, the plot development

is a little slow; but this can be overlooked because once the plot gets off the ground, it kicks into high gear. Also, in the opening scene the viewer witnesses a sexual encounter between Chief Whitlock and Ann Harrison. While it is not explicit, it seems a little out of place, especially as an opening scene. I do give director Carl Franklin (*High Crimes*) some credit for not going over the top in this scene by showing too much. Lastly, while the film did have a fast-paced plot development once it got going, I felt that it was a little rushed near the end. The concluding scenes seemed to come about a little too quickly. Overall though, the plot development was well done.

Out of Time is definitely a film you don't want to miss. Not only was the plot full of twists and turns, but it showed an

artful side with excellent cinematography and an editing style that paralleled the pace and tone of the film. Don't look for this film to be nominated for an Oscar, but you can count on it to be highly entertaining.

My rating: 7.5/10



AUSTIN TIME

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

BY CHRISTOPHER AUSTIN
ILL. STAFF WRITER

This Week's Topic:

DEALING WITH DISEASE

I have received a few more questions, but I am spreading them out for a couple of issues this time. So we will only address one question today.

Chris, I sometimes feel like the floor is moving when I'm in the NAB. Should I be concerned?

- Nauseous Scholar

Well, my nauseous and studious friend, it is important that you be concerned about this. From personal experience I can assure you that feeling odd is not something you should take lightly. My sophomore year, Pioneer catering and I rarely got along. I would eat, and then I would feel sick, in a continuous unforgiving cycle. It was intolerable.

I think that this may have spurred a certain type of sickness within me. As I have never heard of anything quite like it before, I have aptly named it "pushing-in sickness." Christine Armstrong tells me that this is just gas, and everyone has it, but I know she is wrong. It is a sickness that solely plagues me; the only way to appease my stomach is to push in on it. I am not proud of this disease, but I have learned to deal with it. You too can deal with your own pushing-in-sicknesses. Floor-moving sickness sounds serious, but I feel it is possible to overcome. Maybe you just need to push in on your feet a little bit, and relieve the pressure from walking all over campus. Try it. If that doesn't help, I guarantee you will get all your money back that you paid for this issue of the Star.

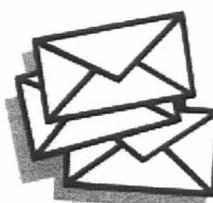
Writing about this makes me realize that I am besieged by another sickness, the I'm-angry-at-people-who-write-their-papers-in-the-print-center disease. I have yet to find a medicine to counter it; which is unfortunate, because I find that I am feeling down about this sickness a lot. Practically every time I need to print something, in fact.

On the plus side, I think I know what the cause of this sickness is, and that is quite simple. I get sick whenever I need to print a paper and someone is in the print center typing out the end of his or her paper. Same as when someone decides to revise a paper in the print center. You see, the key to a successful print center is in the word "print." We do not call that small room with the sometimes-working computers and printers the "revise center," nor do we dub it the "write center." It is for printing only. So if you go in there and use the keys on that keyboard for anything other than logging in, you are guilty of causing sickness on this campus.

Believe it or not, there is a room right down the hall with many computers and no printers. It is a room made especially for people who are not at the printing stage of their journey. Do the world a favor and email or write or play games or whatever in the computer lab. This way I am not tempted to create a pushing-in sickness in you with a punch to the gut. (Just kidding, everyone knows this is a Christian College and punching is bad so of course I wouldn't punch anyone, but it sounded good with the pushing in theme so I put it in anyway with this little disclaimer so the editors don't take it out and also so I am not thrown out of the college for being disruptive).

Editor's Note: Chris, there will be time for punching later.

Today's key word of the day is sickness. There is nothing particularly special about the word sickness that it should be the key word of the day, but I don't mind and neither should you.



letterbox

star@houghton.edu

A Response to a Response

Many women I have talked to were hurt or offended by the "Star Writer's Response to Where Have All the Men Gone?" The article begins well, with a much-needed reminder that men's responsibilities to God and themselves take priority over their relationships with women. The problems begin when the article starts trying to "defend" women. The author states that "desperateness" makes women less valuable to men. Paradoxically, he goes on to say that men love a "damsel in distress." Aren't damsels in distress by definition quite desperate? The author advises that, to get a date I should sit secluded in my room on the top floor of Lambein (my high tower), beset by problems too big for me to handle (dragons). I am not, however, allowed to be even the least bit "desperate;" presumably I can spend my time filing my nails and waiting for a man with a big sword. Unfortunately for the author, women don't really behave this way. Women love a good chase as much as men. The article states that "men want to work for their things of value in all aspects of life; the harder the job, the more valuable the prize." I think that the word "men" could safely be replaced with "human beings." Why do you think the majority of Houghton students are women? Obviously we're not here for the guy-to-girl ratio. We're here because we want to work at learning, at becoming better prepared for our vocations, at becoming women of God. There aren't many "damsels in distress" here.

The author represents a culture that has traditionally viewed women as a commodity, as something to be won by men. He encourages a woman to play games, to play hard-to-get, and by so doing to "add value to herself." Men, if this is how you truly want women, as inactive but shiny "rare jewels" or indolent "damsels in distress," then you will miss out on learning from and loving the hundreds of vibrantly alive women surrounding you. Get off your white horses and join us in pursuing the things we each value.

-Stephanie Pocock

CAB Presents: a Variety Show

Play a song with your band, do a skit, read a poem, tell a joke! Now's your chance to show the world (of Houghton) how talented you are! Mike Farrow is hosting a variety show/coffeehouse at 7:30 this Thursday night at the Campus Center lounge. There will be lots of food, so take a study break and stop by!

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LETTER GUIDELINES

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Houghton Soccer Heads into the Home Stretch

BY AARON BOYNTON
MANAGING EDITOR

For the Men's Soccer team, the season had been going extremely well with only one loss all season. Their road trip over October Break, however, tarnished the Highlanders near-flawless record. Houghton traveled to Rio Grande University and Tiffin University over the break and lost both matches by a score of 2-1. Houghton had Rio Grande on the ropes until the last few minutes of play when Rio Grande tied the game at 1-1 and then scored the winning goal with twenty-seven seconds left.

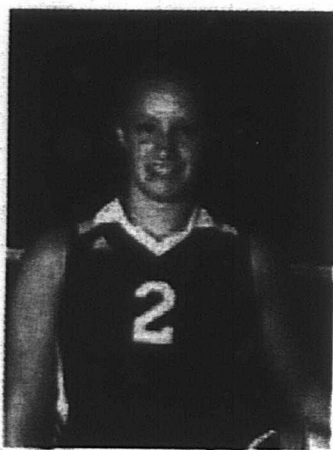
The 16th ranked Highlanders played hard but could not overcome the top team in the country. On Saturday, Houghton traveled to Tiffin, an American Midwest Conference rival. Tiffin got the edge when there was no call after goaltender Steve Cox was taken out by a player from Tiffin. Houghton defender John Ames put up his hand and hit the ball away, which resulted in a red card and automatic ejection. This left Houghton with ten men for the rest of the game. Tiffin scored on the penalty shot, and never looked back, winning 2-1. The men will close out the regular season with games against Point Park, Geneva,

and St. Vincent. Their final regular season home game is this Saturday against Geneva College at 4 pm on Burke Field.

The Houghton Lady Highlanders Women's Soccer Team improved their record to 13-1 with wins over St. Vincent College and NCAA Division III foe William Smith College over October Break. The team braved the cold weather to extend their unbeaten streak to nine games. Houghton came into the game versus William Smith expecting to have a tough match, with William Smith being one of the top teams in Division III soccer last year. There was no score

in the first half, but in the second half Houghton turned up the pressure and broke through the William Smith defense and scored three goals, with senior Johanna Berryman accounting for two of those goals. Houghton frustrated William Smith with the agility and speed of their forwards and midfielders. The Highlanders have their final regular season home game on Saturday the 25th, then finish the season with road games at Ursuline and Notre Dame College. The Women's team remains the top team in the American Midwest Conference and the NAIA Region IX, and are ranked 10th overall.

HIGHLANDER athlete of the week



Sarah Gunder / setter, volleyball

Gunder, a junior setter from Northfield, Ohio, led the Highlanders to a key American Midwest Conference North Division win over St. Vincent College on Tuesday. Houghton won in three-straight games behind Gunder's 35 assists, 4 kills, 4 aces, and 2 digs. She also recorded a .400 kill percentage in the match. St. Vincent had come into the match ranked no. 7 in NAIA Region IX. Gunder leads the team with 8.4 assists per game and 0.61 aces per game.

Top Ten Ways to Prank Big Al's

BY SARAH KUZIMKO
STAR STAFF WRITER

10. Do not name the toppings you want on your pizza; spell them out.
9. Be vague with your order. When asked, say "Oh, a little of this, a little of that."
8. When they repeat the order say, "Okay that'll be \$4.55, and it will be ready in about 15 minutes."
7. Ask if you can keep the take-out box; when they say "yes," breathe a huge sigh of relief.
6. Put a high accent on the "i" in pepperoni.
5. End the call with "Remember, we never had this conversation."
4. When they repeat your order, change it slightly, when they repeat it again, change it a second time. On their third try, say, "You just don't get it do you?"
3. If they suggest anything else (i.e. fries) state "I shall not be swayed by your sweet words!"
2. When they answer the phone, act stunned for a second and then scream to your roommate "Hey dude guess what? Big Al's calls us now!"
1. When they ask, "Will that be all?" snicker and say "We'll find out now, won't we?"

Houghton Club Baseball Rocked by Corning

BY GREG DICKINSON
GUEST STAR WRITER

The Houghton baseball team took the field last Saturday, October 11, against local rival Corning Community College. Warnings of the approaching hurricane, Isabel, had postponed the game three weeks earlier; and both teams awaited the rescheduled game with great anticipation. Matt Moran started the game on the mound, and after two rough innings was relieved by Rob Campbell. Brad Usherwood and John Speta came in later to wrap up the

eight and ninth innings. There were bright spots amidst the gloom, but tough innings early and late in the game led to an unsuccessful 21-0 outing. The starting lineup for Houghton was:

Greg Dickinson - Center Field
Rob Campbell - Second Base
John Speta - Shortstop
Dan Fuller - First Base
Nathan Alcott - Third Base
Alex Wright - Catcher
Matt Moran - Pitcher
Steven Rudd - Left Field
Brad Usherwood - Right Field

HIGHLANDER SCORES

FIELD HOCKEY

Wed.	8	CORTLAND	L	2-4
Sat.	11	ITHACA	W	1-0
Thurs.	16	CASTLETON STATE	W	3-0
Fri.	17	UNION COLLEGE	W	5-0
Sat.	18	ONEONTA	L	3-4 (2OT)

MEN'S SOCCER

Tues.	7	MERCYHURST	W	4-0
Sat.	11	URBANA	W	7-0
Thurs.	16	RIO GRANDE	L	1-2
Sat.	18	TIFFEN	L	1-2

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Wed.	8	CARLOW	W	17-1
Sat.	11	ROBERTS WESLEYAN	W	7-0
Fri.	17	WILLIAM SMITH	W	3-0
Sat.	18	ST. VINCENT	W	3-0

VOLLEYBALL

Fri.	10	INDIANA U. NW	W	3-0
		CORNERSTONE	L	0-3
Sat.	11	TRINITY	L	0-3
		ST. FRANCIS	L	0-3
Mon.	13	ST. VINCENT	W	3-0

CROSS COUNTRY

Sat., 11
University of Buffalo Invitational

WOMEN: 3 of 8

Top Finisher:
Katy Sykes, 13th (20:29)

MEN: 3 of 8

Top Finisher:
Chris Buell, 6th (27:36)