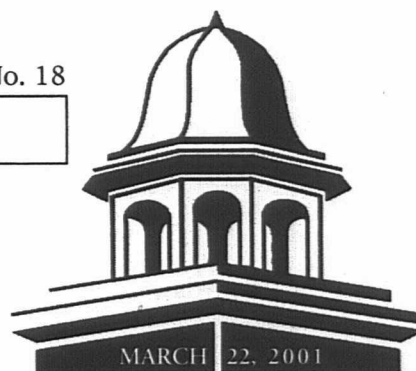


STAR

The Houghton

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE



Ziefle, Albrecht lead new guard in SGA elections

Glenn McCarty

The changing of the guard for Student Government Association (SGA) will yield familiar faces taking their place in key positions, based on Monday's campus-wide popular election. Juniors Josh Ziefle and Mindy Albrecht were elected as next year's SGA President and Vice-President, and will head up the 2000-2001 cabinet, alongside newly-elected Commissioner of Communications Laura Hess, Commissioner of Finance Emily Roorda, Commissioner of Activities Kevin Wells, and Chaplain Scott Wilkins.

Both Ziefle and Albrecht will bring experience to their position, Ziefle having served both as senator and most recently as Executive Assistant this past school year, and on several committees, among them the Curriculum Review Committee. Albrecht has assisted on several committees during her terms as senator. Both parties emphasized building strong lines of communication as their main goal for the coming year. "I'm enthusiastic for the work next year," says Ziefle, who cites improving a sense of community at Houghton as chief among his goals. Albrecht echoes his sentiments, "We want to work to improve communication on every level, students to students, students to administration, administration to students, and to increase the communication between clubs and the SGA." The pair is already planning an April meeting with the incoming heads of campus activities to strengthen the growing bond among organizations. Some of the specific issues already on the table that Ziefle



Vice-President and President-elect Mindy Albrecht and Josh Ziefle

hopes the SGA can work to address next year include the townhouse construction difficulties, the increase in tuition and its effect on financial aid, and gaining greater student participation on campus.

Ziefle and Albrecht weren't the only elected students with a wealth of SGA experience. Incoming Commissioner of Communications Laura Hess served on class cabinet for two years, and new Commissioner of Finance Emily Roorda has

been a senator for two years as well. In other elections, Juniors Krestia DeGeorge and Hillary Trelease defeated current editor Nate Fealko for the position of *Lanthorn* editor, and incumbent Colin Ryan retained his position as General Manager of WJSL in an unopposed election. For the second year in a row, publications the *Boulder* and the *Star* lacked any challengers for editorial positions, and so students now will go before the Senate to be selected to these positions.

Townhouse construction creates community tension

Colin Ryan

On March 2nd, the fifty-one residents of the Leonard Houghton townhouse complex awoke to find their backyard snowplowed. Six days later, several tons of gravel were dumped on their back lawn, creating a temporary, 30-car parking lot. This was done in order to make it possible for the 68 cars parked outside Leonard Houghton and Hazlett to relocate effective April 1st, the date when the parking lot currently used by the 104 townhouse residents will become a construction zone for a new unit of five townhouses.

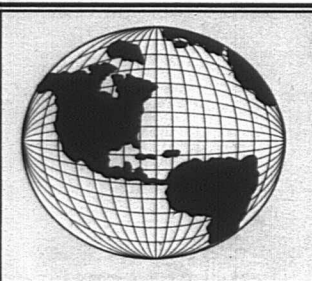
This turn of events has created tension between the community members who live on Leonard Avenue - the street connecting the townhouse parking lot and Route 19 - and the administration of Houghton College. The town of Caneadea, at the request of the community members, placed an injunction on Houghton College preventing any additional parking spaces in the complex. The position of the community members is simple: as parents, they fear every day for the safety of

their children, living on a street trafficked by over one hundred college students. With the addition of more townhouses, their concerns only increase. Their request is that Houghton students bear in mind the dangers of reckless driving in their neighborhood. Director of Student Programs Matt Webb is one who has found himself caught between the two parties. As someone who interacts with students daily, he harbors no distrust in the students' judgment, yet as a parent, he cannot ignore the increased danger to his children that continued construction would bring.

Some townhouse residents feel that this concern, while valid, is not enough to diminish the proposed parking situation. They are wondering why the relatively small number of children who are affected by the townhouse traffic should inconvenience 150 college students' parking arrangements. As long as the injunction stands, immediate logistical parking problems arise. Next fall,

when the number of townhouse residents grows from 104 to 144, and 61 cars becomes a projected 95. If the injunction stands, only 68 parking spaces will be available at the current location.

This issue was scrutinized at last week's Senate meeting, and continues to be the subject of debate. On Wednesday night, the Allegany County planning board met to determine a reasonable solution to this problem. Among the 26 individuals in attendance were representatives from the community, the administration, and the students, who hammered out the logistics, and ultimately arrived at a proposed solution: that a recommendation be given to the community zoning board that a sidewalk be built along one side of Leonard Avenue as an interim safety measure until, within the next two years, the administration can provide an alternate entrance/exit to the parking lot. This is by no means a resolution, but simply the latest step in a project that drastically affects the campus.



Rosa Gerber

Russian Plane Hijacked

Three men hijacked and threatened to blow up a Moscow-bound plane last Thursday shortly after it took off from Istanbul, Turkey. The plane carried 174 passengers, the majority being Russian. After the plane landed in Medina, Saudi Arabia, security forces tried negotiating with the three hijackers. Forces then stormed the plane, freeing the majority of the passengers. The hijackers killed two hostages before officials shot and killed one hijacker and arrested the other two. The Chechen suspects, according to Russian spokespeople, hijacked the plane in an attempt to draw world attention to Russian military and Muslim rebel fighting in Chechnya.

Outbreak of Livestock Disease in Europe

After an initial outbreak last month, British agricultural officials confirmed that the number of cases of the highly contagious foot-and-mouth disease have risen to 200. Earlier last week, French officials announced that the first case of the disease on the European mainland was found in a herd of cows. The disease outbreak has put farmers across Europe on high alert, resulting in the slaughter of tens of thousands healthy cows, sheep, and pigs in an effort to stop the disease. The European Union veterinary committee and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) placed temporary bans on the exporting and importing of certain animal products in attempt to keep the virus isolated. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization warns of a possible global threat to livestock from this disease. The foot-and-mouth virus does not affect humans, but they can spread it, and the USDA is working to



A farm worker removes a diseased cow from the herd in Ameghino, Argentina.

educate travelers on how to prevent further outbreaks.

Continued Fighting in Macedonia

Troops and ethnic Albanian rebels persist in their two-weeklong clashes in Macedonia. Thousands of civilians have fled the villages where fighting is occurring. In

hopes of driving out the approximately 200 heavily armed rebels from Kosovo, NATO recently increased the number of alliance troops along the Macedonian border. Officials fear that the Albanian rebels want to unite their groups from Kosovo, Macedonia, and Albania into one country.

SPOTLIGHT ON NATIONAL POLITICS

Rosa Gerber

The Senate approved a bill, last Thursday, that would reconfigure the federal bankruptcy code, making it difficult for people who are not paying their debts to obtain government protection. The controversial bill passed with an 83-15 vote. Opponents of the legislation argued that it was unfair to poor or recently unemployed people, while supporters stated that the bill would end abuse of the bankruptcy protection system. Last Friday, the Bush administration announced that

it would bend the federal pollution rules dealing with mixing ethanol into gasoline for the Chicago and Milwaukee areas. The government is trying to prevent a fuel prices from rising higher than record \$2.75 per gallon this summer.



The Houghton STAR

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

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Merit-based pay plan tabled in response to concerns

Stephen Maxon

The controversial merit-based pay plan, first introduced to much of the community by the *Star* in early February and the subject of much recent debate, has been tabled.

According to an email by Dale Wright, Director of Human Resources, the college "has decided not to implement the merit pay plan for salary increases," in response to the concerns of several employees. "Advancement

increases," Wright wrote, "will be calculated in the same manner as the rest of the staff."

The opinions and concerns of the Advancement staff will be independently evaluated over the next three months, Wright added, and no system will be implemented "until employees who would be directly impacted have the opportunity to voice their opinion." He went on to say that

"no merit system will be implemented anywhere on campus if there is not a minimum level of acceptance from those who would come under the plan."

Two weeks ago, the *Star* published a letter written by math professor Jake Jacobson, in which he attacked the merit pay idea as "a serious insult to those employees who are working to serve their Lord," and declared the suggestion of monetary

motivation to be "a cancer in the community." This response followed on the heels of the original announcement in the *Star* a week earlier, where VP of Advancement Larry Johnson described the plan as "the last component in a two-year restructuring process, designed to increase productivity, enhance morale, and lower staff turnover."

Weightlifting competition seeks to raise awareness

Maria Behrns

Seeking to raise awareness about what they feel is the beleaguered condition of the Houghton weight cage, juniors Andrew Ayres and Bryan Huot have organized a campus-wide weightlifting championship to be held Saturday, March 24. The students organized the competition with the intention of providing an exciting event for the Houghton community while also collecting proceeds to improve the weight equipment. Their ultimate goal, however, is to bring attention to neglected weight room.

"We want the Administration to see that four machines, or one-eighth of all the existing weight machines, are in need of repair. We want people to realize that there is a need for both improvement and expansion there," says Ayres eagerly. In their preparation for the event, Ayres

and Huot discovered that the College does not have any type of budget for the weight cage, a fact that seems ironic when one considers that over 350 students and 30 senior citizens utilize the area each week. "I want someone to seriously sit down and address the problem of the weight cage—a recognition that it's too packed and too overlooked," Ayres continues. Huot nods in agreement: "We have a beautiful track and beautiful fields," he says, "but how can we support our athletic teams if we don't have an equally useful weight cage? We owe it to both the teams and the community to treat the weight room better."

The two have been as serious in their logistical preparation as they have been in their goal development. Genisoy, for example, will be sending

protein supplements to be used either during the competition, or as prizes. Although Vitamin World is still deciding whether it will support the competition, the campus bookstore has donated T-shirts and water bottles for the event, and women's soccer coach David Lewis and Resident Director Mike Smolko have agreed to judge the contest.

Registration will be held from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. on March 24, the day of the competition and participants will have the opportunity to warm-up from 9:15 - 10:30 a.m., after which the official competition will kick-off promptly at 10:30 a.m. Each competitor will have three attempts—similar to a batting lineup, Huot explains, in each of three categories: bench press, squats, and dead lifts. A specific formula, based on body weight, will ensure that all participants

compete on equal levels. Based on this criterion, Lewis and Smolko will declare the winner.

According to Ayres and Huot, approximately 25 people have expressed interest so far, but they don't want the participation to end there. "We really want both males and females of all ages and interests to get involved," Huot says. "I even got a phone call from a 14-year old boy in Angelica who had heard about the competition," Huot continues, "and that's been the most exciting development so far."

The cost of the competition is \$5, to be paid during registration on March 24, and all proceeds will directly benefit the weight room fund that Ayres and Huot plan to initiate upon completion of what they hope will become the first of an annual contest.

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TOP TEN...

Alternate Uses for the Top Ten List

Stephen Maxon

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>10 Soak it, twist it up, and whip the dickens out of your ant farm</p> <p>9 Lighten up those awkward firings with a wacky "Top Ten" pink slip</p> <p>8 Come on! No one really believes "Kick Me" signs went out of style in middle school!</p> <p>7 Gives you an extra page in that term paper you know the professor won't read</p> <p>6 Tasty newsprint flavor bound to give an extra kick to cafeteria's clam chowder</p> | <p>5 Crumple it up a few times and it's soft enough for even the sorest nose</p> <p>4 Add toothpaste and a paper clip and build a bomb, just like MacGyver!</p> <p>3 Nothing says love like the gift of spitwads!</p> <p>2 Read it backwards for a secret, heavy-metal message from Satan</p> <p>1 Three words: full-contact origami</p> |
|--|---|



Spring Break REINVENTED

Houghton students discover exciting alternatives to a sun and fun February break



Heidi Bressler
Special to the Star

As I basked in the warmth of Mediterranean sun shining upon my pale Western New York face, I heard my father's voice saying yet again, "Heidi, go stand over there with your mother so I can take a picture." I rolled my eyes and chuckled softly to myself, then exclaimed to Dad, "There's a 12 step program for your disease of photomangia, you know. That happy trigger finger on the camera can be cured." Taking one last big family vacation before I graduate, my family-Dad, Mom and I-journeyed to Rome, Italy for seven days. We stood out in the friendly city as typical American tourists visiting most of the popular tourist attractions with our cameras and guidebooks in tow. Throughout our five days of touring we gazed with awe at the Pantheon, we marveled at the construction of the Colosseum (whose 80 exits are called vomitoria-yes it's pronounced exactly what you're thinking), pondered the history of the Forum and the Palantine (where legend says Romulus founded Rome in 753 B.C.), and stood in amazement at the beauty of Michaelangelo's Sistine Chapel. We stared at the immense Trevi Fountain, walked up the Spanish Steps (which in

actuality are stairs that lead nowhere), visited the Vatican City missing the Pope by only fifteen minutes, and imagined what Mussolini must have spoken to the masses from a balcony atop the Victor Emmanuel Monument in the Piazza Venezia. My life as an English major was fulfilled as Dad and I visited the Keats-Shelley Memorial House and I stood in the room where 19th century English poet John Keats died-eat your heart out Dr. Wardwell! We stumbled upon numerous Basilicas and extravagant cathedrals filled with bright colors depicting stories of my faith I have known since childhood.

But of all the marvelous sights we observed, what will leave a lasting impression upon



The heart of the Eternal City: the Roman forum

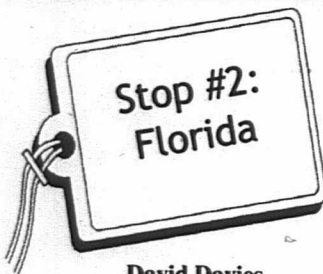
my heart and mind is an experience I had while standing in front of an altar in the church of San

Giovanni a Porta Latina (St. John of the Latin Gate). In American Evangelical Protestant Churches the alters contain almost no decoration or symbolism. Often times a simple cross is placed upon a plain cloth atop the altar. Candles may be present, but rarely lit. In the Catholic churches of Rome, the alters are exactly the opposite. Ornate cloths with

stitching of gold cover the alters that are layered in gold. As I stood before one such extravagant altar in San Giovanni, a favorite worship song of mine came to mind: Make my life an altar, let me give all I am for the purpose of You. This is all I can offer. I give all that I can with a heart that is true. With the image of this elaborate altar in front of me, a new thought entertained my spirit. When I sing that song, or pray asking God to make me an altar, He answers not by making my life look like the plain and simple alters I have always known; He desires to make my life to reflect the beauty and majesty of the golden alters of Roman churches. His longing is to turn my plain and simple dreams into His ornate designs. As I basked in the warmth of the Son shining upon my heart, I thanked my God for His extravagant love, allowing my life to reflect his beauty.



One of many Colisseum photo-ops



David Davies

This past February the College Choir made its first trip to the state of Florida in its annual tour. Planning for the tour began in June of 2000, shortly after the destination was approved. While Houghton is blessed with a good reputation in the northeast, the school is essentially unheard of in many southeastern states, including Florida. It was this situation that I sought to begin to remedy as Tour Director. We chose to focus our itinerary on making Houghton College's name more

familiar to the families, and particularly the students, of the Sunshine State. Florida is blessed with a wealth of large Christian schools, and we performed at four of them. In addition to our school performances, we performed at four churches. Two of these were in retirement communities where several Houghton alumni reside.

The tour began on Friday, February 16th when the Choir and Quartet left the college in our tour bus at 3:00pm. This was the start to twenty-seven hour, overnight drive that ended in Miami at

6:00pm Saturday night. On Sunday we were up early to sing at the two morning services of the Old Cutler Presbyterian Church in Miami. The afternoon was spent recuperating from the trip down and getting ready for our evening concert at Old Cutler. On Monday the Choir visited Bayside in downtown Miami and took a boat tour of the bay. The afternoon and evening were spent in the South Beach area on Miami Beach, before heading to the northern end of Miami to Dade Christian

Continued on page 5

Florida continued from page 4

School. On Tuesday we performed a chapel service at Dade Christian, where two alumni are on the faculty, and then drove through the Everglades on "Alligator Alley" to Ft. Myers, where we performed at the Shell Point Retirement Community. On Wednesday we performed Chapel services at Lakeland Christian School in Lakeland, and Orangewood Christian School in Orlando. The trip between Lakeland and Orlando proved to be the most stressful point on tour as the only highway between these two cities was closed due to the wildfires in central Florida. As we already had a short time to travel between these two concerts, we ended up cutting it very close. The bus finally arrived at Orangewood with 10 minutes to spare and the concert went off without a hitch. That evening we traveled to Kissimmee and performed our third concert of the day at Good Shepherd Community Church in

the Good Shepherd Retirement Community. On Thursday the Choir and Quartet spent the day at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando. The students were free to choose which park they wished to visit and we spent the night at Disney's All-Star Music Resort. This proved to be a welcome break from the previous two days, in which we performed five concerts. On Friday morning we boarded the bus once again, this time to travel to 7 Rivers Christian School in Lecanto, a small town about two hours north of Tampa. That afternoon we headed south to St. Petersburg, where we performed at the Pinnel Park Wesleyan Church. Saturday morning we began our long trip back north, stopping in St. Augustine for dinner.

Looking back on our time in Florida, it seems to me that the best thing that came of our trip was the exposure the college received. In total we performed



Amy Cooper, Erin Scudder, Rachel Wing and Rob Joubert

for around 900 Christian school students and roughly 1850 church-goers, most of whom had never heard of Houghton College. Emotions ran high at times among the students (a total of roughly 65 hours on a bus will do that), but daily group devotions and free times spent with each other served to bring all those who went

of this trip closer together. It is our hope, and the hope of many of those in Florida who housed us and listened to our performances, that Houghton will continue to make its presence known throughout our country, and make an impact in places that had never before encountered what our college can offer.



Jea Adams

My spring breaks have been pretty low key. Granted last year I ended up hangliding in North Carolina, but other than that, I've done no more on my time off than taken an expedition to my hometown of Hershey, Pennsylvania.

When people asked me what I did with the 10 days I had free, I'll have to say it was pretty random; Thursday- Sunday, Arizona, Monday-Thursday, Hershey, then Friday to Sunday my break was rounded out with a trip to Penn State University in order to see my boyfriend, Andy.

Since my dad is a dermatologist, he gets to travel all over the United States in order to learn about the newest skin pharmaceuticals and other medical what-nots that a poet like me doesn't really understand but is glad to have anytime I decide to go out in the sun. My mom usually takes the trips with him to these conferences, but since she couldn't get off work and I just happened to have a break, my Dad asked me to join him in Arizona.

I told professor Leax that I would be missing one of his classes due to the departure of my flight the Thursday before break. "Where in Arizona are you going?" he asked while sipping his ginger ale, "Phoenix" I answered. He shook his head



Hiking in the Tucson hills

replying with, "I'm sorry". I didn't know quite what to make of this comment, but I had never been to Arizona before and figured that my horizons needed to be broadened. After all, isn't college about exploration of oneself and the places which surround?

During the days while my Dad went to meetings, I would explore the resort we stayed at (free thanks to a drug company) and the immediate area. I got yelled at by a maintenance worker while climbing a tree to grab a fresh orange, and spent several hours just reading and writing in a beautiful courtyard full of cacti and other desert foliage that I was not used to. At night my Dad and I would relax in one of the many hot-tubs and enjoy the 60 something weather that normally doesn't happen on the East coast during winter months.

My favorite part of this trip was taking a daytrip to Tucson in order to visit some friends of my parents who there own a winter house. Not only did I get to hike on some beautiful trails but

I saw something that made this Beatles fan ecstatic...Paul McCartney's ranch! Granted he no longer lives there and it is kept up by a care taker, but this was where Paul and Linda rode their horses, watched the sunrise etc. for many years, and this alone made my trip.

Sunday in Arizona my Dad ran a marathon. This is no big deal for him because he had run in 15 before. I helped out with the race, passing out bagels, bananas and other food for finishers to eat, and watched as some people even threw these items back up. Not the most pleasant thing to watch, but I was proud to see that some humans can participate in such a physical challenge and come out alive. During the few days spent in Hershey, I babysat for a family with four children. Over the summer I watched these same kids, ranging in age from 9 months to 5 years, and learned how strong and patient any parent has to be.

I took the older 2 bumper

bowling, saw the computer animated "Dinosaurs" on video and even got to eat Kix for the first time in many years. Of course I didn't try my hardest at the bumper bowling, even though I knew no matter how much I messed up there would never be a gutter ball. (I am unfortunately a horrible bowler) Kids are amazing, they notice and question everything along with seeing everyday things in a new light. It was a nice change of pace to be around these little people because they don't stress about getting papers done or worry about who is dating who—they just live and have fun while doing so.

Lastly, I took the trip to Penn State University to visit my boyfriend. My brother, Michael who is a senior in highschool, also came along for this trip because his girlfriend goes to school in State College as well. He let Andy and I borrow his 1988 Honda CRX. We had planned on driving somewhere to hike, but ended up stranded at a gas station because some part under the hood decided to stop working. Andy and I did have a 007 Marathon on his roommate's Nintendo 64 and stay up late eating Ben&Jerry's while watching SNL on Saturday which was the perfect ending to the spring break of my senior year—my last ever!

(Writers note: If you are looking for extra points on the March Madness brackets...in this article you will find the answer to one of the bonus questions. As Mr. T would say, "Keep your eyeballs peeled" and grab yourself some extra points towards that Benjamin!)

arthouse

A look at the intersection of faith and art

imitation pickles

Philip Hassey

"Flourbag Baby"

In high school, I had to learn a lot of useless stuff. The most useless was Marriage, Family, and Social Issues. I'm pretty sure that Mr. Vriesma, the school's guidance counselor and Bible teacher had good intentions when he concocted this class. People, of course, need to learn about how to be properly married, have a family, and live in a society.

Mr. Vriesma was about 6 feet something inches tall. Taller than me, so I had to look up to him a little. He was probably 38, and grew a moustache to prove it. Something of a reserved fellow, he proceeded to teach us about how children enter into a family.

"Our next project is about having a baby," said Mr. Vriesma, standing before the class in front of a board full of figures on how to arrange your budget. He smiled, and continued, "You will each purchase a 5lb sack of flour and it will be your baby for a week." This idea was obviously a product of the ill-formed middle school, "Let's do projects to learn" theory.

Obedient scholars we were, we all purchased our sack of flour and brought it to class. There were a few rules:

1. Baby cannot be left unattended
2. Baby must not be damaged
3. Babysitters must be paid at least \$1/hour to take care of your baby.

In order to receive an A on our projects, we had to return to class one week later, with our baby intact to prove that we had successfully done the project.

I put my flour bag in a basket that my mom had made. I figured that would make it easier to haul the wretched thing about. Upon entering "Marriage, Family, and Social Issues" class, I got to see everyone else's twerpling.

"Yo Hass," said Doug to me, "What's up with the pretty basket?"

"It's not as bad as Jen's," I said and pointed toward Jen Bedard. Her baby was dressed in baby clothes, in a fancy

elaborate basket with little pillows and pink trimming flowing everywhere.

"My baby is beautiful, because I care," Jen said as she saw me and Doug commenting on the pink trimming.

"Hope your baby doesn't suffocate under all the atmosphere," said Doug.

"She won't!" cried Jennifer, as she glared at us. She didn't notice Steve briefly interacting with her flour bag.

"Where is she?" I asked with a grin. Jen looked down at her basket, and to her horror and dismay, her flour bag baby was gone.

A second later Steve walked into the room with a large grin on his face. He cast a large knowing glance towards everyone, especially Jen, and sat down. Before Jen could clobber him, Mr. Vriesma entered the room to begin class.

At this point, I suppose some explanation should be made about the behavior of the students at Whitinsville Christian School. It wasn't really our fault. See, the week before Mr. Vriesma had taught us about relativism.

"Imagine," said Mr. Vriesma, "That you are a poor man. Your family is starving because of government oppression. Your baby cries constantly for lack of nourishment. One day as you walk down the street you see the bread shop at closing time, and you notice the rather plump store keeper leaving the shop to go home. You walk to the window and see that inside there is a lot of tasty bread and morsels. Things that would keep your family alive and well for weeks."

Mr. Vriesma felt he had to pause here for a moment to let the dramatic suspense build up. A screeching of a car could be heard in the distance, and some of us looked towards the window, as if it was our child crying out for food. Then the noon bell rung at the Catholic church. It was almost lunch time. Mr. Vriesma smiled after the effect had built up sufficiently, "Now, you notice that the store keeper didn't close his front door hard enough. 'I can probably get in!' you think. What



do you do? Is it wrong to steal bread to feed your starving, dying, sad, suffering family?"

Us, being intellectually sharp 11th graders smiled comfortably. Now, we knew, that getting our way was more important than other things. Of course, in this case it was fairly simple. Steve wanted to irritate Jen. He was successful. Had he not taken the flour bag, he wouldn't have irritated her.

After class was over, I looked down at Doug's baby and had to comment.

"You're a disgrace, Doug," I said.

"Naw," said Doug, "You're just jealous."

I guess I sort of was. Doug was destined to get an A on his project. His flour bag was completely wrapped in duct tape about four inches thick. From one side, a rope hung out of the bundle. As Doug strolled out of class later, I became jealous. I had to carry my baby, but Doug got to drag his.

"Oh here it is," whined Jen, when she got to her locker and opened it to find her flour bag baby. She rolled her eyes, and took it out and put it back into its basket. Then she screamed.

"Steve! What did you do?" she yelled.

It was fairly obvious what Steve had done when we looked at the baby. It she now had a lovely handle bar moustache.

"Ha ha," laughed Steve as he walked by. He stabbed her flour bag with a pen and ran off. Jen's face turned reddish. I'm pretty sure she was thinking bad thoughts.

Later that afternoon, Doug and I had class together again. This time it was American Lit with Mr. VanTol.

"Douglas," said Mr. VanTol, pointing at Doug's baby, "You're a disgrace."

"Thanks," said Doug. We sat comfortably down with our flour bags and looked lazily out of the window that was halfway open. We probably would stay in that position for the rest of the class, watching the maintenance guy riding his mower back and forth near the window.

But we didn't. The screaming from the hall distracted us. Steve ran through the classroom holding a flour bag that wasn't his own. The flour bag was hurled through the opened window. The window was clouded entirely with flour.

It was a priceless moment to see Jen's face when she glared across the room. The rider mower had done a good job shredding that bag of flour. As Jen's eyes grew wider, Steve's presence in the room grew scarce.

The next day in "Marriage, Family, and Social Issues" Mr. Vriesma had to add a few more rules.

glenn's head



In a moment of pure adrenaline, glenn lifted four very large pieces of styrofoam...

glenn's head is not endorsed in any way by editor in chief Glenn McCarty

VOX voice

expressions of a community of faith

Letter to the Students

On the morning of March 2nd, residents of the Leonard Houghton townhouses had their sleep interrupted by the sound of heavy equipment delivering gravel to what was then their back yard.

A full sixteen days later, these same residents were informed of why this had happened, and just what it would mean to them. While the meeting was constructive and informative, it occurred after the fact, suggesting that student input was not a factor to be considered in the

decision process.

Similarly, Will Krause was gone for quite some time before students were informed of his departure. Although students may not need to know every detail behind the decision, again we were told of the resignation as an afterthought; the administration neglected to share even the most basic information, until they were pressed by students.

If this were just a one-time omission or if it were out of the ordinary, we could accept this

as a simple mistake. But we fear that this style of management, which is causing the students to be reactive instead of proactive, is fast becoming the norm. It raises important questions about communication, trust, and community perception that should not go unnoticed by the student body. Are we aware of Houghton's reputation in the surrounding area? Is direct student input considered before important decisions, decisions that affect our everyday life, are made? Are students content with this attitude, or does something need to change?

Students have the responsibility to become informed about these kinds of issues. However, when the information is not made available to the students beforehand, we are forced to take a reactive, defensive position. We challenge students to become involved, and

we challenge the administration to allow this to happen - by opening up new forms of communication. We've mentioned only two possible points of contention - there should be an opportunity for more issues to be raised.

To this end, we propose a town hall forum where questions could be asked, information will be given, and an understanding can be reached, through open and honest communication. The students, the administration, and the community should all have their voices heard, with everyone included in the discussion. And these voices should be heard soon.

Houghton isn't perfect, and that's permissible. The problem is not that issues exist, the problem is that issues are being ignored.

Neil Stauffer and Jay Jennings

Letter to the Campus

Friends,

I'd like to take a moment to share a few things. First and foremost, my thanks to all of those who supported me on Monday. Having your vote of confidence is an honor and privilege that I am only now beginning to comprehend and sometimes wonder whether I deserve. My only hope is that I may be able to earn the trust which each of you have so graciously bestowed upon me. In the end, the goals I held during the campaign remain the same; it is important for me that we all work together in order to bring a greater sense of unity to our campus. I urge each of you to feel free to approach me-whether you voted for me or not-whether you like me or not-whether you

know me or not-because ultimately, this position has very little to do with my desires, but with the wishes and hopes of the Student Body whom I was elected to represent. Without your assistance, I may be able to achieve some things for our school, but with your assistance, we will be able to go far beyond. But more important than all of this, let us remember who we are: members of one Body united in the service of God to achieve His plans for our world. Please keep both the College and Student Government in your prayers and pray that we might remain in His Will in all that we do.

Only By His Grace,
Joshua R. Zieffle
SGA President-Elect

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

"It was long ago, in a country far away, and still the legend resonates. King Gordius of Phrygia, by means of an intricate knot, lashed his chariot to a pole. Whoever untied the knot, Gordius was said to have prophesied would conquer Asia. Understandably, many tried, but none succeeded until-do I grow redundant?-along came Alexander of Macedon, a man of, you might say, businesslike instincts. Untie the thing-h-! What was wrong with whacking right through it, using a hunk of Greek steel? Right then and there Alexander won Asia (in theory at least). Another thing he did was create a metaphor for swift no-nonsense action."

"Scientists, it seems, should be the last people to need reminders about the importance of facts. Why then do so many

scientists ignore certain facts of life as they line up to support abortion and to engage in destructive fetal and embryo research?"

These are quotes from Human Life Review, fall, 2000. The first is from Senior Editor William Murchinson, arguing for judicial remedy for Roe vs. Wade. The second quote is from Mary Meeham and deals with the politics and the morality of human eugenics.

There are also the full texts of the dissenting opinions of Justices Scalia, Kennedy, and Thomas in Stenberg vs. Carhard, the decision that overturned Nebraska's partial-birth abortion ban. These can be found in the periodical section of the Houghton College Library. A small gift from the writer in

Letter to the Campus

"A Warning to Theater-Goers"

I strongly urge you not to bring children to this show.

The Shakespeare Players are performing King Lear this weekend on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. This has probably been the greatest challenge that our organization has yet taken on, and I think that it will be a success. However, I think that it is necessary to warn the audience members ahead of time what they are in for. King Lear is not a play for children. In fact, if you find yourself as an adult easily troubled by violent and sexual content in movies, then perhaps you should consider before attending this play. For 150 years, the original version of Lear was too gruesome and devastating for audiences, and an edited version was the only version performed. Why?

King Lear has the first torture scene in the history of theatre: two characters pluck out an old man's eyes onstage as he is helplessly tied to a chair. Staying true to Shakespeare's original version, we will enact this scene but will do it directly after intermission, so any who wish to stay longer in the atrium may do so. When the scene is over, a crew member will tell those who wish to wait it out when they can come back in.

Another scene in our version involves a male character groping another male character in the genitalia. I should reiterate that this is our production's interpretation of Shakespeare's script. Although to my knowledge, we are the first to

interpret this detail of the play in this way, there is a strong case for our interpretation. This detail fits with one of Lear's overarching themes: the separation of the good and the bad. By the end of the play, all the characters will have been forced to choose between good and evil. According to our interpretation, Oswald (the offender) is not a homosexual, but does this premeditated act in order to get Kent (the victim) in trouble. Kent will be put in the stocks when the authorities find him subsequently trying to pick a fight with Oswald. Kent will be too embarrassed to tell the authorities what really happened, as Oswald knew all along. The actor playing Oswald is not playing him as a homosexual, but as a bully who simply hates all of the characters who are honorable like Kent.

I find it necessary to bring this detail before the Houghton public, especially since I do not want to appear a hypocrite after my earlier letter to the Star on homosexuality; and because I do not want our play to surprise and offend anyone. In no way will the audience be invited to laugh at homosexuals in our rendition of King Lear, but rather will be shocked at the actions of the evil characters while suffering along with the good ones. If you believe you will be offended by either of these scenes, close your eyes during them, or do not go at all.

Joel Dunham

appreciation of all I owe the College and library. Any comments pro or con will be most

welcome.
Thanks!
Ernie Preston, 567-8358

Highlander SPORTS

For complete game scores and statistics, visit
www.houghton.edu/news/athletics

March 15- March 21

Outdoor track hurdles forward into new season

Shelley Dooley

The snow is still here and perhaps no one realizes that better than the track team as they spent hours last week shoveling off the track to prepare it for the first purple and gold meet and years last Friday. The outdoor track season is off to a frigid start as the athletes prepare for more promising times.

During the indoor season records were broken across the track as the addition of a sprinting and distance coach made it easier for the athletes to train for their specific events. For the women, Freshman Brianna Clayborn broke school records in the 60m dash and 200m dash as Sarah Gardner flew over the 60m hurdles with her own record time. Sophomore Rose Baum broke her record from last year in the pole vault and juniors Amanda Miller and Jen Schriefer broke

records in the 1000m (Miller), Long Jump and 55m hurdles (Schriefer). For the men, Alfred transfer Josh Stauring slashed the pentathlon record and set a new time in the 55m hurdles. Joining him in the hurdles was junior Phil Andrews who is back after taking last year off due to injuring. He also broke the hurdle record and the 300m record. In addition, Freshman Danny Wicks blasted records in both the 200m and 400m.

The opening meet of the season will take place at home on Friday and Saturday March 23rd and 24th at home. The meet will feature a Decathlon on Friday, followed by the rest of the events including the first ever Houghton steeplechase race on Saturday. In addition to this meet, a second home meet will be run on April 20th and 21st. Coach Smalley

and former University of Buffalo hurdler Coach Lisa Kragbe have been working hard with the team captains to get everything ready for the meet. Included in this preparation is learning how to use the new F.A.T. system that was recently acquired by the program. This system is a timing mechanism that is run by a computer and enables the official timer to take a picture of the athletes as they cross the finish line.

As the coaches prepare on the technical end, the athletes have been working just as hard physically. The team is complete with the recent addition of several women basketball players including senior Sarah Bridges and junior Bethany Eib. The indoor team is aching to race again after a four week break from their last meet and have run



Amanda Miller grabs the baton

endless miles in anticipation of this week's coming event. Records will be slashed as this team filled with remarkable talent from the 10,000m to the 100m, runs their way through another spring at Houghton.

March



Madness

Bonus Point Bonanza

Clip this section, track down the answers and be the 1st caller Tuesday night at 9 on "The All Testosterone Hour" on WJSL to give your answers. 25 bonus points will be awarded per correct answer.

1. Which Sweet Sixteen team has won the most NCAA National Championships ever? (Hint: Bill Walton)
2. Name a famous alum of Temple University
3. How many years in a row has Gonzaga made the Sweet Sixteen?
4. What is the official physical mascot of Stanford?
5. What is a hoy?
6. How many campuses does Penn State University include?
7. What happened the last time Duke played Kentucky in the regional championship?
8. What was significant about Michigan St. grad Mateen Cleaves NBA draft selection last year?
9. What does USC stand for?
10. Which Sweet Sixteen school does Layout editor Jea Adams' boyfriend attend?

The Second Weekend Schedule

Sweet Sixteen

Thursday, March 22

East Region

No. 6 Southern Cal vs. No. 2 Kentucky, 7:38 PM

No. 1 Duke vs. No. 4 UCLA, approx. 9:55 PM

West Region

No. 3 Maryland vs. No. 10 Georgetown, 7:55 PM

No. 6 Cincinnati vs. No. 1 Stanford, approx. 10:15 PM

Friday, March 23

Midwest Region

No. 2 Arizona vs. No. 3 Mississippi, 7:55 PM

No. 4 Kansas vs. No. 1 Illinois, 10:15 PM

South Region

No. 12 Gonzaga vs. No. 1

Michigan St., 7:38 PM
No. 11 Temple vs. No. 7 Penn State, 9:55 PM

Elite Eight

Saturday, March 24

East Region

Duke/UCLA winner vs. Kentucky/Southern Cal winner

West Region

Stanford/Cincinnati winner vs. Maryland/Georgetown winner

Sunday, March 25

Midwest Region

Illinois/Kansas winner vs. Mississippi/Arizona winner

South Region

Penn State/Temple winner vs. Michigan State/Gonzaga winner

Don't forget to check the WJSL lobby for the complete leaderboard Tuesday afternoon, and listen all weekend at 40 past the hour for tournament updates on www.wjsl.com!