

# The Houghton Star



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## Dr. Howard Wins National Recognition

by Dave Caccia

Dr. Irmagard K. Howard, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Houghton College, has won Honorable Mention in the 1987 Hawkhill Awards Competition. She joins teachers from Michigan, Maryland, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Texas, who were recognized as educators "with the best new ideas for teaching science literacy through audio-visual media." The awards program was instituted in honor and memory of the first citizen-astronaut, Christa McAuliffe. It is sponsored by Hawkhill Associates of Madison, Wisconsin (a firm which specializes in sound-filmstrips and video-cassettes relating science, technology, and society). One first-prize and five honorable mentions are given each year. Winning ideas are used in Hawkhill productions and science newsletter. Dr. Howard's award includes a cash prize of one hundred dollars.

She contributed six ideas relating to teaching scientific literacy. She feels that communication about science, especially at an early level, has been inadequate. She expanded on this by saying that oftentimes, an early interest and creativity are stifled by an

inflexibility to student's perspectives. It was also her feeling that the demands placed upon science students at a secondary level, such as Regents tests, may discourage capable pupils.

Her purpose was to find ways of evoking scientific pursuit from students. One of her ideas is to raise a question to students out of its context and then explore the principles which lead to an answer. This way, one avoids a string of obvious questions. Curious students will be stimulated by lack of a readily apparent answer to pay close attention to the explanations.

Dr. Howard also proposes the establishment of an audio library of sayings by famous scientists. These recordings would introduce students to scientific philosophy. Again, the idea is to evoke interest toward science from students.

Another idea expressed concerns the contributions toward science made by minorities, including a disproportionately high contribution given by people of Asian descent. She feels that this shows both minorities and people of non-minority ethnic origin that scientific endeavor is open to any able-minded person.

## Professors Present Papers at National Convention

Two Houghton faculty members presented papers during the 77th annual convention of the National Council of Teachers of English in Los Angeles, California, Saturday November 21. Dr. Charles Bressler, chairman of the division of languages and literature, and Ms. Sue Crider, head of the communication department, shared the platform and addressed the topic, "Dynamite in the Literature Classroom: The Delicate Art of Handling Untouchable Topics."

Mrs. Darlene Bressler, as-

sistant professor of education, and Ms. Lola Haller, professor of education and coordinator of teacher certification, also participated in the convention.

Some 5,000 teachers and supervisors of elementary and secondary school English, college faculty in English and rhetoric, and teacher educators from all parts of the United States and Canada attended this year's NCTE convention. On the agenda for the meeting were over 200 concurrent sessions and workshops focusing on all aspects of the teaching of

*We believe no  
evil till  
the evil's done.*  
-Jean De La Fontaine

## Campus Rumors

by Annie Lennox

In the somewhat isolated community of Houghton, rumors of prank phone calls, dead animals, and strange men are becoming increasingly common.

The incidents began early in the semester with an attack on a male student near the New Men's Dorm. Security was notified and Ray Parlett, Head of Security, recommended that the police also be notified. This was the first reported incident.

Since then, several rumors have been circulating concerning dead animals found near the chapel and on the Lambein bridge. A dead fox was found on the Lambein bridge and dead squirrels have been found hanging on the front entrances of the chapel. The fox incident has been verified by the RD of Lambein, Myrna Chance. Contrary to the rumors, Parlett believes the fox in question was just a road kill which somebody thought would make a good joke.

English, talks by well-known educators and authors, exhibits of new teaching materials, sessions of working committees, and business meetings.

The National Council of Teachers of English is a professional organization made up of more than 55,000 teachers and supervisors of English at all levels of education. Its aim is to improve the teaching of English and language arts in the nation's schools and colleges.

Prank phone calls have become a problem for both Lambein and Steese House. Steese House is now keeping a record of the calls to turn into the telephone company if they persist.

A female student says that while she was jogging on Tucker Hill Road a man in a truck approached her. He then drove ahead and waited for her. However, this was not reported to Security.

The only other report on file occurred approximately three weeks ago. Two women were walking across the quad when a truck approached them by driving down between the library and Luckey Building. Although he allegedly propositioned the women, he did not harm them physically. Unfortunately for him, he gave the women his real name. Parlett is, at this time, in the process of bringing charges against him after checking his record with the Allegany County Sheriff's Office.

Parlett doesn't believe the two reported incidents are related. "However, if we bring [the man] in, and he fits the description, we'll have [the male student] take a look at him also," he stated.

Parlett said his biggest concern was women jogging on Route 19 at night. He mentioned that there have been complaints in Allegany County from two or three women who say they have been harassed by a man trying to pick them up in a fairly new black van with octagon windows on the sides.

He recommends that if you do go out at night, it is safer to go in twos or threes. Even though the library incident is an exception to the rule, a group of two or three is more likely to be approached than attacked.

Parlett also warns away from dark areas. Norm Emery, Paul Kennedy, and Parlett are

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## Committee on Minorities and Women Created

by Patricia Uleskey

In the October 26th issue of *US News and World Report*, President Chamberlain was quoted as saying, "The percentage of minority students is increasing in our society and decreasing in our colleges. We must do more to prepare such students for college and also provide them with incentives and assistance for attending college." In order to address the needs of women and minorities in the Houghton community, President Chamberlain has formulated an *ad hoc* committee on women and minorities.

Since President Chamberlain began his presidential term in office, the number of women in the student body has fluctuated between 55% and 61%. Currently, only 15 women hold positions on the faculty and only 20 women work in an administrative staff positions.

In the case of minorities, Houghton College currently serves approximately 70 minority students which is 6% of the total student body (that statistic includes Buffalo Campus students). Unfortunately, since 1976 there has been little or no representation for minorities among staff, faculty, and administration.

The administration believes that it is important to consider ways in which the number of women and minorities serving as role models in Houghton College can be increased. This increase in these types of role models would then hopefully bring about an increase in minority and female student enrollment. President Chamberlain, in his memo to the *ad hoc* committee on women and minorities, calls for the administration, "to be more aggressive in our recruitment posture."

There are three principle objectives of the *ad hoc* committee on women and minorities.

First, the *ad hoc* committee will try to provide a working definition which will provide a measure for defining Houghton's performance with regard to recruiting women and minorities to serve as role models on the Houghton Campus. This should include a consideration of federal and/or state guidelines as well as a relative comparison with other appropriate institutions of higher education.

Second, they want to try to clarify the degree to which administrative and faculty representation plays a critical role in the recruitment and the

### **This increase in these types of role models would then hopefully bring about an increase in minority and female student enrollment.**

retention of women and minority students.

Third, the *ad hoc* committee would like to establish a specific set of recommendations for recruitment of women and minorities for faculty, staff and administrative positions. They desire to provide role models for these groups through other campus events that may include chapel, Lecture Series, and Artist Series. Also they plan to indicate how the college should proceed in regards to future enrollment plans for minority students. By reviewing, revising, or creating all appropriate institutional policy statements or goals regarding women and minorities, the administration seeks to provide recommendations regarding the hiring practices, program planning, and enrollment strategies as they are

appropriate to the purposes of this study and for the benefit of Houghton College.

The *ad hoc* committee on women and minorities have been asked to complete its report by May 1, 1988.

However, there are certain problems with recruitment of minorities to a predominantly white middle class liberal arts college. In the case of the largest group of minorities on campus, blacks, there are many obstacles to overcome. The majority of blacks come from highly populated urban areas and recruitment of these students is difficult because the typical college bound black student tends to enroll in a college that is urban and has a higher population of peer minorities and role models.

Because there has been very little expansion in teacher recruitment, the candidates for the teaching positions that have opened up have not produced minority candidates. While there were several women candidates for some of the positions, all of these perspectives pulled out before the interviewing procedure began. There are two main reasons why more women are not teaching at Houghton College. First, women, like blacks and other minorities, express a need to stay in urban areas where their social and spouse prospects. Second, for those potential female professors who are already married, oftentimes their husbands are unable to find jobs in the Houghton community and their husbands do not wish to commute to Buffalo or Rochester.

There are, however, two minorities who are helping to integrate minorities the predominantly white middle class population. Parker Jonathan, a Native American, recruits other prospective Native American students. Charlie Moore, who works in Student Development, is interested in helping develop better rela-

tions between students in general and as "director of fun" he feels he's in a good position to be a role model to all students not just minorities. President Chamberlain remarked that the administration has attempted to ask minority students to return to Houghton after graduation as recruiters and teachers but with limited success.

Robert Beckford, Student Senate president and international black student at Houghton College, remarked concerning the *ad hoc* committee and other administrative efforts for recruitment of more minorities and blacks, "First of all, the figures include overseas minorities and minorities from Buffalo campus; there are actually more like 20 students who are American minorities on Houghton's main campus. As a black student, I do not believe the institution is concerned about me as a black student. There needs to be more done for the American black student not just the international student who happens to be black. The administration is more preoccupied with internationalizing the curriculum and recruiting overseas students. They are not that concerned with the American black student. I feel it is a case of international trickle down theory. They deal with the differences between international students and the white middle class but they neglect the special adjustments that American minorities face when they begin to interact with white Americans who may never have been exposed to the American minority. The committee is a first step to rectify some of the intellectual racism that exists here at Houghton, but they need to do more. This is not a new problem and the future accomplishments of the committee may be a case of too little too late to counteract the administration's lack of vision."

## Results of Alcohol Awareness Survey Released

The Alcohol Awareness Survey was developed by the Student Development Council and administered to the student body of Houghton College during the last chapel of the Spring Semester, 1987. A total of 598 handed in completed forms. About 43% of the respondents are male and 57% are female. The respective percentages from the Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior classes are 19%, 28%, 25%, and 28%.

The survey consists of 18 questions about the respondent's and his or her parents' attitudes and practices regarding the use of alcohol, whether or not the respondents believe that drinking is a problem at Houghton, where one would go for help, and the alcohol awareness issue.

About half of respondents report their parents to be non-users of alcohol, and only 9% of parents are rated as frequent users. Also, parents are rather evenly split on the issue of allowing the respondent to use alcohol. However, some students object to the term "allow" in that they feel free to make their own decisions to use or refrain from the use of alcohol. Freshmen are less likely to report that their parents allow them unrestricted use of alcohol.

About one-fourth of respondents report that they have never tried alcohol. (Significantly fewer freshmen report ever using alcohol.) Of the remainder who have tried it, about 90% first did so before coming to Houghton College. Only 10% first tried alcohol after enrolling at Houghton. Over one-third of those who have tried alcohol reported doing so before they entered high school. Also, early use is somewhat more characteristic of males than females.

A little less than half of the sample have taken a drink of alcohol while enrolled at Houghton. Of this number who

reported drinking alcohol during the academic year, about 19% drink at least some of the time on campus, and 20% restrict such drinking to off-campus locations. The remaining 61% restrict their drinking to off-campus during vacations. Seniors are more likely than freshmen to drink on and off-campus during the academic year and during vacations. Females were somewhat more likely than males to restrict drinking to weekends.

(For the sake of clarity, of these data are generalizable to a student population of 1200, about 120 students drink at least some of the time on-campus during the academic year, 120 restrict such drinking to off-campus locations, and 360 students restrict drinking to off-campus during vacations.)

Of those who drink, the kind of alcohol most often used is wine or wine coolers - selected as the most frequent choice by at least half of those who drink. Males are more likely than females to report beer as a most frequent choice.

Of those who drink (about 55% of the sample), about 70% report drinking at least twice a year (but less than once a month), 20% report drinking at least once a month. Only 2 individuals report daily use. On these drinking occasions, 52% have only one drink, 37% have two to three drinks, and the remaining 11% have 4 or more drinks. The data seem to suggest that males are somewhat more likely to have more than one drink.

Of those who drink, about 60% report never getting drunk, a little less than 30% report getting drunk less than once or twice a year, and about 10% get drunk once a month or more.

(Again, if this data were generalized to a college population of 1200 students, this would mean that roughly 70 students get drunk once a month or more, about 200 get

drunk less than once or twice a year, and 930 never get drunk - 540 of which do not even drink.

About 80% of the respondents do not believe that the Bible teaches abstinence from the use of alcohol. Yet, despite this low affirmation of a Biblical mandate, over half report that they personally value an abstinence position. Significantly fewer males, and fewer seniors believe that the Bible teaches abstinence. Greater numbers of freshmen, and fewer seniors personally value abstinence.

The most common reasons selected for personal use of alcohol are "to relax" and "for the taste." However, when asked to rate why they believe other students drink, the answer changes. One student selected "for the taste," 30% selected "to relax" and the rest were evenly divided among other options listed such as change of pace, peer pressure, and to get a buzz. Males are more likely than females to report that other students drink to "get a buzz."

87% of the sample consider drinking at Houghton College to be a problem, and only 3 to 4% are sure that it is not a problem. Of those who see it as a problem, about one-third rate it as a small problem, and two-thirds rate it as a serious or very serious problem. Males are somewhat more likely than females to report that alcohol is not a problem.

If one had a problem with alcohol, about 60% would go to a friend for help, and about 20% would go to the counseling center. The remaining 20% were distributed among the other choices. Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors are more likely to go to the counseling center for help with a drinking problem than are Freshmen.

Just over 90% of the respondents believe that greater alcohol awareness is important for Houghton College, and a similar percentage are in favor of an

alcohol awareness program. Males are somewhat less likely than females to affirm the importance of alcohol awareness.

In summary, these data seem to indicate a greater problem with contextual integrity than with the abuse of alcohol per se. It is the opinion of the Student Development Council that this summary report accurately represents the 40 pages of descriptive statistics upon which it was based. Those interested in examining the results in greater detail should contact the Director of Institutional Research.

**Rumors** *Continued from page 2*  
in the process of putting together lighting proposals to present to Dean Danner and Ken Nielsen, concerning the dark sidewalks around Fancher and other key areas.

Third, he said "meanders" around campus and people taking walks at night are easily spotted and more likely to attract attention than someone walking from point A to B.

So as exams get closer, keep these things in mind if you're studying late in the library or with a friend. And don't hesitate to call security at ext. 333 if someone has approached you or you've been the recipient of late-night calls. They're here to help.

### Summer Missions

by Mark Johnson

WMF is sponsoring two short-term mission opportunities: one to Australia and the other to South America. There will be an informational meeting on Tuesday, December 8, at 9:00 pm in Woolsey, room 222. Please come if you are at all interested in either opportunity.

In last issue, the Student Senate article was entitled, "Senate makes \$549 on The Mission". We goofed. Senate does not make the money, CAB does. In President Chamberlain's article, "Pres. Gets Oriented" the last two words were cut. It should have read, "respective countries."

## Senate Approves Winter Weekend Theme

by Anne Valkema

At the Student Senate meeting, Tuesday, December 1, Senate decided that Casda Liddick, Melissa Leax, and Steve Bariteau, will be heading up Winter Weekend this year. They are presently working on establishing several committees to fulfill their needs.

President of Senate, Robert Beckford, stated that fine new telephone lines have been installed at the college. Second, he reported that Ken Nielsen has ordered a free weight cage that will arrive in January. Third, Beckford is still looking for people to present ideas for CID. And fourth, he discussed the possibility of putting together a faculty evaluation handbook.

Three charity drive options were presented. Kim Johnson spoke for *Transformation International*, a non-profit organization that deals with third world hunger problems by developing entrepreneurial businesses within poor countries.

Glori DiBlasi presented a report on the *Polio Plus* campaign, sponsored by the Rotary Foundation. It deals with immunizing children around the world for four cents per child.

ACO representatives Eric Bombere and Donna Dean presented the program *Literacy Volunteers of Allegany County*, a local chapter of the national program not to be confused with *Project Plus*. The charity funds would help supply the needed materials and provide support for the full-time director, who was previously sponsored by *VISTA*.

Professor Van Wicklin and Dr. Lastoria opened the floor for questions concerning the published Alcohol Awareness Survey. Questions included the reasoning behind the difference between freshmen and seniors. They stated that clarifying the questions on the survey sheet would have helped

the understanding. They also believe the 600 students who returned the completed surveys are an accurate representation of the student body. Discussion also centered on the separation of integrity from the actual Awareness Program.

Becky Jones moved that the charity drive issue be tabled until the next meeting in order to get more student input and the motion carried.

Andy Carrigan moved that a letter be sent to Dean Bence, thanking him for the luncheon with the students, asking for more information concerning minority faculty members being added to the staff, and encouraging him to continue in his endeavors concerning this issue. This motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

## WMF Essay Contest

by Mark Johnson

An essay contest will be sponsored by WMF for the purpose of encouraging creative thinking and serious reflection concerning missions. It is open to all Houghton College students.

Your essay, with a length of 8 to 10 double-spaced pages, must be submitted to WMF Essay Contest, Box 386 by Wednesday, February 10. The topic of your essay must be related to missions and may be imaginative in content or reflect scholarly research. It may relate personal experience, may relate and apply some historical incident, may bring to bear Biblical materials or develop a theological concept, may be informational or may be motivational, but it must relate directly to Christian missions today.

Prizes will be awarded for the three best essays: \$100 first prize, \$50 second prize, and \$25 third prize. The prizes will be awarded in connection with the WMF spring lecture on March 24.

## Anywhere but here...

By John Bright

The United States and the Soviet Union have reached an agreement to do away with all intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe and Asia. The agreement was reached in negotiations between Secretary of State George Shultz and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Geneva last week. The actual, technical language of a proper treaty still needs to be worked out, but, said Shultz, "complete agreement on all of the outstanding INF issues" had been reached. "All that remains ... others will be able to do." The treaty will apply to 572 US and 644 Soviet missiles. The missiles themselves will be destroyed and the warheads dismantled over the next three years. After that, on-site verification will continue for another ten years. The treaty will have to be ready to sign in two weeks, in time for the summit meeting between General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan in Washington.

When the State Department announced that it would deport 2,500 of the 125,000 Cubans who came to the United States during the 1980 Mariel boatlift, they could not have possibly anticipated the reaction. Cuban inmates at a Louisiana prison rioted and seized 28 guards and other employees as hostages, refusing to surrender without assurances that they would not be deported. After a second riot during a lunch break in an Atlanta prison, where Cuban inmates set fires and injured at least 30, Attorney General Meese agreed to review potential deportations on a case-by-case basis. The offer fell on deaf ears, with the Louisiana inmates threatening to kill hostages if they were not granted freedom. In Atlanta, one inmate was killed, but a hostage was freed. Finally, on the 26th, 39 Cubans and one American who were involved in the rioting in Atlanta surrendered and asked to be transferred to another prison. The situation was now stalemated with the combined Louisiana and Atlanta hostage totals at 122. Finally, the Louisiana inmates released all of their hostages when a videotaped appeal by a Cuban-born Roman Catholic bishop apparently hit a soft spot in their collective heart. The surrenders in Atlanta, however, must have left only the most hard-hearted in control, for their offering was only four. At this point, 90 hostages are still being held there.

China, long known as a major supplier of arms to Iran in its war with Iraq and just about everyone else, has cancelled its latest planned shipment of arms to the fanatical Moslem regime. Western business and diplomatic sources leaked the story, and the extent of their involvement in the decision remains unknown. The shipment contained, among other things, the kind of surface-to-surface missiles that Iran has been using to cause so much trouble to shipping in the Persian Gulf.

Frank Carlucci was sworn in as the 16th Secretary of Defense after confirmation by the Senate in a 91-1 vote, and is already making his presence felt. The only dissenting vote in the Senate was cast by Jesse Helms, an arch-conservative Republican from North Carolina, who said that Carlucci's influence in shaping foreign policy in the 1970's was far too conciliatory toward the Soviet Union. Carlucci has already replaced Frank Cuffey, the Pentagon's top arms-control specialist and a hard-line conservative who has reservations about both the pace and the nature of the present negotiations. His post will be filled by Ronald Lehman, a National Security Council aide and a member of the negotiating team on the new intermediate-range missile treaty. Calucci has also said that cuts in the defense budget may force the withdrawal of some of the 300,000 troops we have stationed in Western Europe. If this happens it will mean that US strategy in the region will be a two-part program consisting of negotiating a way out of our nuclear deterrent while simultaneously cutting back on our already outnumbered conventional forces.

The Defense Department will ground much of its fleet of F-18 fighter aircraft because of recurring problems with engine fires. The Navy said that the engines in three of its planes have caught fire during flights, and the Marine Corps reported two such fires on the 16th alone, as well as seven other incidents. The engines, which are manufactured by General Electric Co., have compressor blades which may break and cause the titanium parts of the engine itself to catch fire. GE has agreed to replace the blades at its own expense, and the Navy will also have parts of its engines coated with a synthetic chemical that will prevent fires from spreading.

Polish citizens who voted in a referendum needed for approval of the Communist government's major new economic reform package rejected the measures by a 7% margin. The program, which is designed to help save the country's faltering economy and which would make it more free-market oriented, would have meant a doubling of food prices and a tripling of fuel and rent costs for the average Pole. It is now up to the Party elite to rewrite the program in a form sufficiently scaled back to be acceptable.

The UN opened its war crimes archives to outside scrutiny after passing much wider new rules of access. The records contain information on 36,000 people, including former Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, involved or possibly involved in Nazi and Japanese war crimes. The UN had refused to open its files to investigators when Waldheim was campaigning for the Austrian presidency, which he has since won. Six researchers from the Justice Department were the first people to be allowed access to the information.

The head of the American Medical Association came out against mandatory AIDS testing in a report to the President's commission on AIDS. He opposed such a program for several reasons, saying that the less-than-100% accurate process would yield too many false results, and would be a misallocation of medical resources. He also feared that a false positive result could potentially destroy someone's life.

## Merging World: Focus on U.S.-Liberian Relations

The weekly column of the Houghton College chapter of the Overseas Development Network (ODN)

Focus on U.S.-Liberian Relations  
by J. Railey Gompah

A few degrees north of the equator, somewhat below the portion of West Africa bulging farthest into the Atlantic Ocean, lies the small country of Liberia (43,000 square miles). Next to Haiti in the West Indies, it is the world's second oldest black republic. Liberia is bounded on the west by English-speaking Sierra Leone, on the east and north by French speaking Ivory Coast and Guinea respectively, and on the south by the Atlantic Ocean.

A true African nation whose tribes have a common ancestry with other tribes in Africa, Liberia has had over 160 years to develop its resources, and to bring education, employment, and higher standards of living to its people.

Known throughout Africa as "America's brain-child" and "photocopy of American ideals," Liberia traces its birth to 1821 when the then American Colonization Society purchased a strip of land on the west coast of Africa at the time it was called the Grain Coast. With funds from the U.S. Congress and private donors, the first shipment of free blacks from the United States reached the country in 1822 and immediately began building a new nation. The first settlement, today the nation's capital, was named Monrovia, in honor of James Monroe, who was then president of the United States. The country was called Liberia, from the Latin word *liber*, meaning "free." The American Colonization Society administered Liberia until 1847 when it withdrew, and the country became an independent black republic, with its constitution and flag modeled closely after those of the United States.

The settlers, who came to be called "Americo-Liberians," dominated politics in a one-party state for the next 133 years until a violent military coup took the nation by surprise on April 12, 1980.

Today, Liberia's population of nearly three million comprises five percent descendants of the settlers, and 95 percent Africans representing 30 major tribes. Other nationalities in Liberia include some 3,000 Americans.

English is the official language, and is used for instruction, administration, and business. The American dollar is the country's legal tender, and the free enterprise capitalist system is practiced. Since its independence on July 26, 1847, Liberia has relied on its national development programs. Under Samuel Doe, leader of the 1980 military coup, who became president in the controversial 1985 election, Liberia has continued that historic relationship. Washington has donated \$490 million to Monrovia over the past seven years, according to the November 16th issue of *Newsweek*. Notes *African Report*, "U.S. military and economic aid makes Liberia the highest per capita recipient of American assistance in sub-Saharan Africa."

To many people, however, America's role in Liberia is justifiable in view of its massive investments in that country. "The United States has important holdings in Liberia," reports the *New York Times*, "including a Voice of America radio transmitter and communications equipment that relays diplomatic cablegrams between Washington and American posts throughout Africa. Liberia is also the only country in West Africa that has an agreement to allow the United States to refuel military aircraft on 24 hours' notice," the paper adds. Moreover, Liberia has U.S.-manned airforce and naval bases, and the Omega navigational system, the tallest in Africa, that monitors the movements of ships and planes.

The historic ties the two nations took a even more tangible turn in November with the United States assuming direct control of the Liberian economy.

*Newsweek* reported that "Washington will over the next few weeks dispatch a team of 17 financial consultants to the Liberian capital of Monrovia" where it said "the Americans will serve as economic proconsuls with unprecedented authority."

The American team is part of an economic development agreement between Washington and Monrovia aimed at economic recovery for Liberia.

According to *Africa Report*, "The U.S. experts are to have 'joint authority' with their Liberian counterparts in key financial ministries and other institutions to

monitor government spending, including disbursement of funds not provided by the Reagan administration." The magazine added that "American managers will be placed at the highest levels in areas controlling imports, exports, tax collection, foreign exchange, and computer operations." It quoted a senior U.S. State Department official as saying that the 'joint financial management program' "will give the U.S. authority to virtually run the economy for an indefinite period," adding that the "official compared the plan to the power that French advisers still have in several former colonies in West Africa."

The new deal has been received with mixed reactions in Liberia and abroad. While it is seen by most Liberians as a pragmatic plan that could benefit suffering people severely hurt by an ongoing economic crunch, some opposition party leaders are opposed to it. Liberian Action Party leader Jackson F. Doe called the agreement "almost an abandonment of sovereignty" and "an offensive to Africa and Liberia in particular," according to *African Report* (May-June 1987). "What this government has told the world by inviting in the Americans is that it is not capable of governing," charged Union Party leader Edward P. Kesselly, according to *Newsweek* (11/16/87).

Moses M. Bility, a Liberian businessman and permanent U.S. resident who maintains offices in the U.S. and Liberia, said in a telephone conversation: "We business people here welcome the idea. We want our American friends to straighten up our economy so as to lessen the economic burdens we are bearing. We do not eat politics," he concluded. Said a Liberian mission executive now studying in the United States, who preferred anonymity, "The church in Liberia and the rural poor will definitely benefit from the economic agreement. It is the politicians who disagree."

One U.S. official was quoted by *Africa Report* as explaining: "The purpose of this program is to help Liberia get back on its feet and to make sure it is following economically sound policies to get there."

Liberia's economic recovery program also means turning over the management of 11 major state-owned enterprises to private cor-

porations. Already, the U.S.-based Link Oil International has been chosen from among a group of some 20 companies to take over the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company. In its November-December issue, noted: "the Doe government is expected to set up a committee composed of several ministers to close the deal with Link Oil, which is to acquire 70 percent of the joint venture. The U.S. firm has sent a team of investigators to examine ways of reactivating the refinery, and may invest some \$10 million of its own during the first year," the magazine concluded.

*About the Author: A Houghton alumnus, J. Railey Gompah is a Liberian, a veteran Christian broadcaster with SIM/ELWA in Liberia, and former presidential press secretary to the present Liberian leader.*

### Stupidity Thrives

Dear Pat,

Is it possible to make a rock big enough to fit in Jack Urso's mouth? It sure would be nice. In brotherly and sisterly love (of course!), Sparky Burlingame James Randall Tricia Higgins Deboralis Ramos Larry Leaven John S. McNeely John Bright

Dear Pat,

Being a stupid person myself, I was astonished by Jack Urso's announcement that there are many stupid people on campus. I think it's terrific that these stupid people are here. I wish I knew before, but I guess I was just too stupid to notice. Stupid people are fun. They make me laugh. Stupid people aren't embarrassed to say they watch *The Munsters* and pro wrestling. In fact, the revel in it.

The surprising thing to me is Jack Urso seems to exhibit all the qualities of stupidity, yet, he is unhappy. Perhaps he is too stupid to know he's stupid. This is unfortunate because he could be having so much mindless fun.

Love,  
Gregg Burlingame  
P.S. Any stupid people interested in meeting can come to Meade House at 8 pm on Monday to watch Alf followed by a discussion on why Soren Kierkegaard was so stupid.

"We could always tell when international protests were taking place...the food rations increased and the beatings were fewer. Letters from abroad were translated and passed around from cell to cell, but when the letters stopped, the dirty food and repression started again"

-A released prison of conscience from Vietnam

## Amnesty Helps Prisoners

Thousands of people are in prison because of their beliefs. Many are held without charge or trial. Torture and the death penalty are widespread. In many countries men, women, and children have "disappeared" after being taken into official custody. Still others have been killed without any pretense of legality. These human rights abuses occur in countries in widely differing ideologies. Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people acting on the conviction that governments must not deny individuals their basic human rights. The organization was awarded the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to promote global observance of the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Now, Amnesty International is coming to Houghton. On Wednesday, December 9, at 7:30 pm two representatives from Amnesty will be on campus. Yve Zinaman, Regional Membership Coordinator and Rachel Hess, a Staff Trainer will be on hand to give a brief introduction to Amnesty and a short question and answer session will follow the introduction. A twenty minute film will also be presented entitled, *Colours of Hope*. Students will then begin to write letters on behalf of political prisoners all over the world.

Currently, 170 students have signed up to receive more information on Amnesty. If you are interested in information about Amnesty International contact Derek Smith, box 1554 or Mark Shiner, box 1524.

## Vane Weathers Jack's Stormy Questions

TO: G. Jack Urso  
The Houghton Star  
FROM: Harriet Vane  
RE: Pandora's Box, November 20, 1987

Moving straight to the conclusion: yes, you may ask a question. That's what you are here for.

1. Rocks with colleges on them. This is pilpul. Don't waste your time.

2. *Romeo and Juliet/The God's Must be Crazy*. You have a good point. Nerves over visiting parents, etc. who have not seen such things, possibly. Or, white people are so bare when they are unclothed and black people look so natural. Which may say more about me than anything else.

3. There are mostly white people in school here because that's still where the money is to send kids to college. The college would love to have more international and minorities enrolled. But scholarship funds are finite. It's a hard issue and will only get worse as the American blacks now in elementary school reach college age. Can you think of a solution?

4. Do you really think Houghton has a monopoly on bad professors — really??? How many terrific professors are here? Compare and contrast in a 650 word essay and let me know.

5. If stupidity (re students) is defined as the refusal to keep an open mind, examine the evidence regularly, and hold opinions loosely and humbly, then the answer is "I don't know." If it just means "the other guy who disagrees with me", then you are answered.

6. Business major: To approach the commercial enterprise with a liberal arts education, that is a wonder-full thing. To know ethics and morality though literature and art, philosophy, sociology, history — that would transform society in small, excellent chunks. One does not need a business major to exploit, to pander, to lie. Yes. You pick

that up on your own.

7. One gets entranced with the sound of one's own voice, to a degree. Or, to give it another construction, suppose you get excited about an idea. Really excited. And when you begin to explore it with your friends and colleagues, their eyes glaze over and they quickly refer back to the last episode of L.A. Law. You see, everyone is talking and no one is listening. And everyone is afraid of being found out.

8. It is always possible to change. To admit you are wrong. But it is scary. Refreshing, but scary.

9. How do you propose getting paid? If you are living in society, working for society, then you will get paid by society. If you are working through society to a higher goal, (living a life of love while teaching, for instance), you will be paid by the one whom you follow, however faultily.

10. That bit about Jesus going to chapel is cute, sort of. But I suspect that if he were enrolled as a student, he would meet the college expectations. If he has a test, he would cut chapel to study. That he would not take advantage of a system that is faulty, to be sure. And that he definitely would not carp about it.

11. There is nothing wrong with you for a pro-choice position about abortion or anything else. Just think it through more than once. Keep your mind open and your opinions humble. See #8.

12. If God is supreme (I think he is), then there is room in his contingencies for all of the things that horrify us. If he is not supreme, it is all random. But he is not mediocre middle management.

13. Re dancing. Good questions.

14. Re money and college conscience. No. The conscience of the college is not dictated by money. It may be placed in dilemmas by the controllers of large sums of money. But as long as students do not

have to bear the full cost of their education, and as long as the contributions of alumni and friends support this college, or another, that college will have to work in the minefields of money and power.

15. RE the activities of the cultural affairs committee: are rock groups the only recipients of the censoring of the committee?

16. If I am starving for food, dying of loneliness, if I have lice, and worms, and have buried my family, and know that there is no one to bury me — I would be glad for 10 minutes of loving attention from a college student who cared enough to look at me. To be touched in Jesus' name.

17. Why is there greed in the world? Why is there evil? Why are you surprised that there is greed and evil in American corporations? In Americans? In you...in me? The surprise is that we can be redeemed and STOP the greed and evil.

19. Watch your facts on the ozone hole. Scientist are still trying to work this one out. It's complicated and will take time to know what is happening. U.S. industry has stopped the making and selling of aerosols. But Europe, Japan, Russia continue to use the constituent elements with impunity.

20. If you really want to know where the college investments are placed, ask the people who know. When you have the facts, then your imputing blame will have credibility.

21. The evangelical movement is relatively recent. Ask Jesus said, "What is that to you? Follow me."

22. Christ paid taxes.

23. Does anyone really believe that Jesus drank grape juice?

Don't stop asking questions. But do not think you have arrived because you ask the question. Find the answers, and then ask some more.



by Rob Zarges Jr.

## Men's Soccer Home for Thanksgiving

by Rob Zarges Jr.

The 1987 Houghton men's soccer season ended in a first round elimination from the National tournament in Wichita, Texas last week. On Monday, Houghton played first seeded Simon Fraser, losing 4-0. In their second game of the round-robin tournament, Houghton posed a tie with Avila College. Avila took the lead with a Scott Anderson goal, and Keith Davie scored for Houghton at the 26:13 mark of the first half, ten minutes after the Avila score. The final score was 1-1.

Due to the loss in the first game, Houghton was eliminated and traveled home to spend Thanksgiving with their families. Coach Burke said, "I was happy with the performance in Texas. We earned respect against Simon Fraser and even more in the second game." To beat Simon Fraser, Houghton had to get some breaks. We got no breaks and we came out tentative against Simon Fraser. However, in the second game we came out with intensity and determination."

The NAIA requires a declaration of intent at the beginning of each season. This year the players decided to go to the NAIA tournament. "The players had played in the NCCAA last year and won it. The NAIA presented a stronger challenge. After winning nationals last year the players made it a goal to reach the NAIA national tournament", said Burke. The team looked as strong in 1987 as it did in 1986. However, the loss of three sen-

iors and four other starters, for a variety of reasons, changed the structure of the team. But, with ten seniors returning, the players chose to remain in the NAIA.

Houghton College, being a private, Christian Liberal Arts institution, has a different philosophy than other teams in the NAIA. The teams they played in the national tournament offered full scholarships to play soccer, but Houghton does not offer any financial incentives to aid in the recruiting of players.

"This season was one of ups and downs. We started strong on offense and weak on defense, but after the first three games, our offense was hard to find and the defense ended up being our strength," comments Burke.

Next year Houghton loses ten seniors. "We'll miss the seniors, and next year will be a year of rebuilding. We have a strong nucleus of sophomore athletes, and recruiting will be a major effort in the years to come." The projection for next year will be entering the NCCAA tournament.

Houghton had three players receiving end of season honors. Brian Thompson, a defenseman from Nunda, N.Y., made first team NCCAA All-American, Tim Kangas, goalie, made second team NCCAA All-American and All-American NYS Division II, and forward Mark Ashley made NCCAA All-District 18. "The players were an excellent representation of the athletic department and Houghton College."

## Lady Highlanders Beat Area Schools

by Kevin Fuller & Rob Zarges Jr.

If there were any questions concerning the caliber of the Houghton College Woman's Basketball team, the Houghton women assured skeptics with their decisive 94-64 victory over Daemen College in their season opener. They also handed University of Buffalo a loss by the score of 71-67.

The two teams remained close to one another during the early stages of the first half. Houghton led 25-22 when Jodi Carlson's lay up ignited the Highlanders, who exploded during the final seven minutes, and went into the locker room with a 50-30 lead. Jacki Carlson scored an astounding 20 points during the first half, while Paula Dorett and Jodi Carlson each added 8 points.

As the action resumed in the second half, Houghton continued to play at the same pace as they had in the first. Pam Bigham's steal led to a score by Jacki Carlson, giving the Highlanders a 22 point lead. Jodi Carlson later booted the score to 59-32 following her completion of a 3 point play after being fouled underneath. Houghton lead by 32 points, their biggest lead of the night, after Michelle Morris hit a jump shot from the perimeter. Daemen made an attempt to get back into the game, but could only pull with 19 points. Sensing victory, Houghton quickly scored 14 points within the final three minutes of the game. Ndunge Kitti provided power from the outside, while Jacki and Jodi Carlson dominated under the basket. Daemen scored their final basket just as the buzzer sounded, but Houghton easily retained their 94-64 victory.

Houghton played an exceptional game, both offensively and defensively. The offense consistently waited for their best shot, and posed a 66% shooting percentage, compared to Daemen's 41%.

Houghton also dominated on the boards, outbounding Daemen 35-26. The Highlanders played a well rounded game, and consistently outplayed their opponent.

Forward Jacki Carlson scored a total of 28 points, and pulled down 12 rebounds during the game. Jodi Carlson, the Highlanders center, played well also, scoring 21 points along with 9 rebounds. Cathy Valotta scored 14 points, and starting guard Paula Dorett scored 10 points in her first collegiate basketball game.

On Wednesday, the Lady Highlanders won their second game of the season, defeating UB. Houghton took control and went into the locker-room up by ten points, 41-31.

They maintained the ten point margin for most of the second half until UB came alive with 4:00 minutes left in the game. Behind the offensive efforts of Carol Hafer, 18 pts., UB posted an attack that dwindled the Houghton lead to 2 with 2:01 on the clock.

The two teams traded baskets for 35 seconds and then Jodi Carlston, 17 points, went to the foul line to put Houghton up by 5 points. Houghton was up by 7 with 0:37 seconds remaining and won the match by four, 71-67.

Leading scorers for Houghton was Jackie Carlson with 30, Jodi Carlson with 17 and Cathy Volatta with 8. Michelle Morris added 6, Pam Bigham, Ndunge Kitti and Paula Douth each had 2.

*Due to circumstances beyond my control, there will be no Fridge's Line this week. However, I would like to remind everyone that intramurals is in full force and is a good outlet from studying for all those finals. Men and women's basketball have both started their seasons as well. Houghton sports are for the students. Get involved, come out to the games, join intramurals. Remember, if you don't want to be an athlete; be an athletic supporter. Rob Zarges Jr. - Sports Editor*

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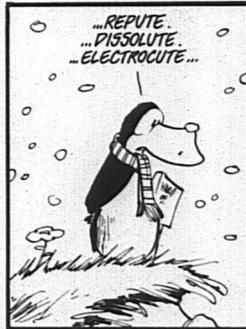
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