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May 2, 2007

Students have a sufficient amount of
options when it comes to Integrative
Studies requirements." *How students
feel about this statement and more.*

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Volume 103 Issue 12

★The Houghton Star★

Ondeng visits Houghton

Chloe Ackerman, Staff Writer

This past week Pete Ondeng, author of *Africa's Moment*, visited Houghton College to discuss the role of Christianity in global issues. Ondeng, a native of Kenya, attended college in Texas thanks to a missionary family who donated their son's college fund to Ondeng after their son tragically died. "Coming to the United States was a miracle," Ondeng said in chapel on Wednesday. "Mission work had a profound impact on my life."

Ondeng studied accounting in college, then went on to work as an internal auditor for MacDonald's in Chicago. In 1984 he felt the conviction to return home to Kenya, realizing that he needed to use his blessings to improve his country. He worked in the Netherlands for four years with Oikocredit, a microfinance corporation, before returning to Nairobi to be the Chief Executive of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) for Eastern Africa. An organization headed wholly by African heads of states, NEPAD's objectives are to eradicate poverty, to place African countries on a path of sustainable growth and development, to enhance the role of African countries in the global economy, and to accelerate the empowerment of women.

In sharing a little about his journey, Ondeng reflected, "A lot of what God does in our lives only makes sense through a rearview mirror." Ondeng explained that he had been making a substantial amount of money

in the Netherlands, but that God had called him back to Nairobi to work in a growing church. Looking at the differences in salary and the prestige, Ondeng told God that he didn't want to go. "I decided to put a fleece before God," he said, declaring to God that he would ask his wife if she thought they should go back to Nairobi and take the church job. If she said, "If God wants you to go, we'll go," then he would not go. But if she said, "If God wants us to go, we'll go," he would know God was truly calling him. His wife said the exact words he did not want to hear. She said us. And so they moved to Nairobi to serve in the growing church.

Ondeng focused a large portion of his lectures on the issue of money, and understandably so. He explained that often Christians worship money without even realizing it. If God calls us to a location, we first ask, "Do I have the money?" If yes, that means go. If not, we will not go. Faced with the choice to quit his good job and accept a pay cut and a demotion, Ondeng said yes.

Christians aren't the only ones worshipping money, though. Most people assume that money is the answer to "the problem of Africa:" the severe poverty, the spread of AIDS, the oppression of women, the famine, and the lack of participation in the global economy, among other things. Microcredit, for example, focuses on providing small loans for the impoverished inhabitants of an area with the goal of enabling them to start their own busi-

ness and become self-efficient. Ondeng was quick to say that microcredit is a good idea, and can work, but it must be partnered with other programs that address such issues as health, the environment, and education. The most important aspect of a successful plan to fix "the problem of Africa," one that the West often forgets, is the people. "Clinton almost had the right idea," Ondeng said of Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign slogan, "It's the economy stupid!"

"No," said Ondeng, "it's the people, stupid!" He offered three specific paradigms that need to shift before change can be achieved in Africa:

1. We must realize that there is not one quick fix to poverty.
2. Without the help from the people involved in the problem, we won't get far.
3. It's not about money. Money is not the answer to man's problems.

Ondeng does not condemn the West for its involvement in Africa; on the contrary, his statement about how mission work changed his life shows that some involvement is vital. However, he explained that when people outside the problem try to swoop in and fix it, the people within the problem are left without a say and without responsibility. Tony Blair, for example, decided at one point that it was necessary to "go back to the drawing board," to make a new plan for Africa. In the meantime, fifteen heads of state within Africa were doing the same

thing, uniting amidst the turmoil and opening up the communication lines. In one meeting, however, the president of Nigeria was asked what should be done about Blair's plan. He replied, "I have spoke to the Prime Minister and he assures me that he will not undermine what we are doing, so let's wait and see," thus shifting the responsibility to someone completely removed from the issues.

What, then, is the ingredient missing from international development? We have programs, partnerships, funding, microcredit, and plan after plan after plan. Ondeng said first that all of these aspects are missing the love of God. Nothing will be accomplished until we include our faith and the interpersonal relationships so unique to Christianity with the development of African countries. Second, he noted, "You can show me your goals, but show me where you're coming from before you show me where you're going to go." What makes us think we have the answer? What is our relationship to the issue being addressed? Those two ingredients, combined with the paradigm shifts, will lead to the desperately-needed development in Africa.

But one more thing is missing, something that a woman named Esther White taught Ondeng when he first arrived at his new job in the growing church in Nairobi. She told him, "In here, the battles aren't won with our degrees or knowledge. It's won on our knees." ★

"The Best Damn Thing" by Avril Lavigne



Eric Stevenson, Staff Writer

This review is dedicated to Sandra. She knows who she is.

For one of my last reviews, I wanted to do something that was more mainstream than what I usually review and listen to. Because of my preferences elsewhere, I tried to approach this album as neutral as possible in order to give it an honest review. I really did. I don't know if I succeeded, but I did find out that Mrs. Lavigne (that's right, she's married...to the lead singer of Sum 41!) doesn't really like to stretch herself, musically or lyrically. In sum, it's a pretty crappy album. And yet, every song sounds like an MTV hit! Go figure.

I'm not too familiar with the whole emo/pop punk/goth-but-not-really-goth movement, but this really

isn't good music and I can't see many people within the genre liking it either. Perhaps those people who like to flirt with different musical styles in their collection will like this. I don't know, because I'm not one of them. The majority of the choruses are four chords repeated four times, the formula used in punk for the last thirty years. It also follows the standard verse-chorus-verse-chorus-bridge-chorus/verse-chorus method. There is nothing really wrong with these things in themselves, but it's just that it's nothing that hasn't been heard before. In fact, it's been heard millions of times since its invention sometime last century. Plus, I think that it's hard for women to do

punk. For whatever reason, there are only a few of them who do it justice. Avril isn't really one of them.

Moving on, lyrically, it seems that she's taken every cliché in songwriting and decided to write an album about it. These clichés include "I wanna stay like this forever", "I don't care what you think of me", and my favorite "I've never felt this way before." On top of that, her songs only have three themes: it's either (1) "I want to be your girlfriend", (2) "I don't want to be your girlfriend anymore", or (3) "I'm glad you're my boyfriend right now." There really is not a song on

-AVRIL continued on pg 8

Apocalypse now?:

A 2nd letter of dissent from concerned students

Michelle Bodle, Adele Cameron, Scott Gilbert, Charlotte Keniston, Ryan Knowles, Daniel Lewis, Inti Martínez, Steven Matiasz, Christopher McKinstry, Joshua Nolen, Sarah Paige, Phillip Roushey, Susanna Thomforde-Garner, Alicia Walms, Heather Wells

We want to thank everyone who responded to our first dissent letter. The multitude of responses shows us that Houghton really wants to be a community—a group of people who care about each other enough to dialogue about serious community issues. We also want to make clear that we are in no way attacking individuals. We respect each person's prerogative to come to his or her own conclusions about Christians in military service. After reading the published and unpublished responses to our first letter, we came to the conclusion that it would be best to reply to all objecting responses via a second dissent letter. In our analysis of the different responses, we noticed that virtually all of them had two intrinsic argumentative defects: firstly, they strengthened our argument that there has been an apocalyptic discourse prevalent in America for the past half century, which is used to invigorate and drive the American population into believing the US has been, from its inception, a benevolent Godsend to the world and whoever opposes her should be crushed; secondly, the alleged counterarguments were already addressed in our first letter and for some reason were overlooked by the respondents. Perhaps we can use this second letter to expand upon and elucidate several points that we intentionally left undeveloped in the first letter.

In response to the first letter, we would like to expand upon our two central points: firstly, that we believe that militarism disguised as patriotism in America is dangerous for the world

and ultimately harmful for America; and secondly, that the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), since it is connected to the US military, ultimately behaves as a preparatory platform to embrace and enhance militarism-as-patriotism. Thus, we oppose Houghton College's support for it.

As many political science courses would tell you, America is a global phenomenon characterized by economic hegemony and political domination. When America's interests or influence are resisted (often legitimately) by other nations or structured groups, American political rhetoric demonizes these nations and groups in order to invalidate their potentially valid moral force. And such is the apocalyptic rhetoric and indoctrination: They are evil; the US is good—they are the enemy, and they must be destroyed by America. We believe that, in almost all instances, America's hegemonic, imperialistic and intrusive behavior deepens the world's derision towards her, which feeds the apocalyptic discourse over and over again. This discourse is rooted in the Christian apocalyptic narrative, but has been distorted, creating discriminatory stereotypes and denying the offer of salvation to all human beings. Sadly, American Christians often continue to be some of the greatest supporters of this apocalyptic discourse.

What does any of this have to do with the US military and its training corps? Well, ROTC, as a national program, provides over sixty percent of recruits for the US Armed Forces, which is a tool of the US govern-

ment—like it or not—used to crush real and imagined enemies. While we recognize that US military power is remarkable, we do not believe that, in the long run, the use of force and violence will create a better and safer world. We believe that it is wrong and self-damaging for the US to continue to behave as a superpower that uses its military as a prime tool of intimidation or that actually practices a might-makes-right doctrine, while denying it in theory.

What does all this have to do with ROTC at Houghton College? Well, as mentioned before, ROTC is a preparatory stage for the Armed Forces. We do not believe it is Houghton College's duty to explicitly fund and support a group that emphasizes the use of force to achieve goals that could be achieved through less violent means. In fact, by explicitly funding and supporting ROTC, Houghton College is implicitly expressing its approval of the use of force to solve problems. We believe strongly that Houghton College should refuse to provide both funding for activities related to military training and propaganda, and any kind of support for such activities, whether overt or implicit.

We know that ROTC is a chartered organization at Houghton College and has the "right" to request funding. We do not challenge the legality of this practice. We are deeply concerned, however, about the legitimacy of these requests. It seems fair to us that Evangelicals for Social Action or Global Christian Fellowship, with

50-70 members, each receives \$2000-\$3000 for their yearly community-wide activities. ROTC, with 9 members, gets about the same amount—not used to strengthen our community at large, but rather mostly to pay travel expenses for 3-4 students to take military classes at St. Bonaventure University. This arrangement, it seems to us, is clearly unfair, irresponsible and illegitimate. The Student Government Senate, in charge of allocating Club Event Funds, is becoming increasingly aware of this inequity, which might partly take care of our concern with funding. But there is more to our opposition to ROTC than its yearly funding.

ROTC's desire to expand its visible presence on the Houghton College website, to have its classes promoted in the academic Master Schedule, and to receive more credit for ROTC classes which would then count toward fulfilling the graduation requirement seems to us as a threat to our college's reputation. Do we want to be widely known as a Christian college that firmly supports militaristic programs? How would the different sectors of Evangelical Christianity see this? How motivated will our Mennonite, Brethren and Quaker sisters and brothers be to come to Houghton College? We don't think that it would be wise for our institution to allow ROTC to expand its presence and influence at Houghton College.

Even though our college might face problems with the federal government if it were to rid itself of ROTC, we believe a compromise can be reached. ROTC can be allowed to continue its operations at our college, but should not receive explicit support or funding related to its training and propaganda. Any expenses in these areas should be covered directly by ROTC students or the federal government. ★

Neoliberalism in Latin America and "illegal aliens" in America

Inti Martínez, *editorialist*

If you're familiar with the terms "Monroe Doctrine," "Washington Consensus," and "neoliberalism," you have received a good American education. These terms have been real expressions of America's influence in Latin America. While a supporter of truly free markets, I believe American economic policy towards this region, fueled by American ethno-cultural ignorance, has created more harm than good. The belief that free market capitalism works everywhere is outright wrong. It can potentially work in any country, but several criteria need to be met beforehand. For example, there should be a nationwide adherence to the rule of law and property rights, and a critical mass should be well-educated and equipped to compete against foreign products and services. These criteria have not existed in Latin America, thus leaving the region's

economies to the mercy of multinational corporations and national monopolies.

Economic policies carried out by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (both being virtual branches of the US Treasury) emphasize limited government spending in education and health programs. If the government is not investing in these programs, and the private sector is centrally motivated by profit, the general populations of Latin countries are left in educational and health-related despair. Logically, with a poorly-educated and sick population, a country cannot prosper. Furthermore, economic policies are strict about reducing taxes to allow foreign investment in Latin America. While low taxes can be a good thing, when only the national elites and their foreign business partners enjoy these benefits, something is wrong in the equation.

Thanks to US-sponsored

"free" trade agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), there has been an increment of "illegal aliens" (a term used by some TV showmen) in America since the mid-'90s. The illegal immigrant "problem" is two-fold. America has to do something about today's 12 million illegal immigrants, as well as prudently prevent more illegal immigrants from crossing the border. Contrary to popular belief, however, the US-Mexico border is not now and never has been out of control; undocumented migration, while vast, when adjusted for population growth, has not increased in 20 years. Nonetheless, for most of us, the news media is our chief source of information.

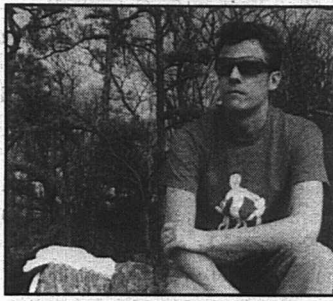
You see, Latinos and Latinas do not cross the border because they are greedy individuals wanting to take jobs from Americans. They don't come here for the heck of it. They come here because they have lost their land to

national monopolies or foreign companies who initially promised them the moon and the stars for their crop productions. They come to America because they are in desperate need for jobs that can help them earn decent incomes. Losing your land, your job, your house and your reputation in society is no joke—it does not leave you with any other option than go where there are jobs and food aplenty. It's understandable that when an illegal immigrant steals a car or robs a store, he (since it's usually a guy) needs to be deported or put behind bars. However, it is unfair and boorish to demonize Hispanic illegal immigrants when, in fact, they commit crimes at lower rates than citizens.

-LATIN *continued on pg 7*

The Star staff would like to remind readers that Editorials are opinion based and therefore slanted by nature.

Top 5 reasons Houghton should relocate to NC



Alec Gilfillan, guest columnist

We all have our reasons for choosing Houghton College to become our Alma Mater. For me, I love the people, the sense of community, the challenging courses, and the personal relationships with professors that seem to be unique to our fine institution. On the other hand, some of us may have been drawn to Houghton College for a number of other compelling reasons. These include but are not limited to: the irresistible intramural opportunities (now with both competitive "A" and not so much "B" leagues), the numerous employment opportunities throughout the Houghton Metropolis, and of course—who could forget?—an annual snowfall that could even make Al Gore a disbeliever.

Before I anger any of our die-hard water polo players, I must admit that the positives of our school greatly outweigh the negatives. I couldn't help but wonder, though, how could

we best improve our college? As soon as I asked myself that question, I realized that since we love the community, the education, and the size of our institution, why not just pack it all up and move south? After a little on-line research, I've compiled the top 5 reasons why Houghton College should relocate to the State of North Carolina.

1. Gas Prices – As I am writing this on April 23, 2007, the price of one gallon of regular unleaded gasoline at the Houghton Citgo is \$2.999. According to www.fuelgaugereport.com the average price in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill region of North Carolina is \$2.854. That's a difference of \$0.145 per gallon, or for my car, about \$1.74 per tank. That means, if we were in North Carolina, I could fill up and get a small Starbucks hot chocolate with change to spare. Mmm, I can already taste the savings.

2. Tyler Hansbrough – Not only did he become the first freshman at the University of Carolina to lead the school in scoring, by the end of his sophomore year he was averaging 18.8 points per game and 8.0 rebounds per game. The entire state of North Carolina is a powerhouse in basketball. How cool would it be for Houghton College to be located right in the middle of this basketball tradition?

3. Weather – The coastal plains region of North Carolina averages

one inch of snow/ice annually. Are you kidding me? For any of you who have grown up in upstate New York, myself included, this statistic is absolutely impossible to comprehend. In addition, the coastal plains rarely drop below 40°F in the winter. How many of us go crazy when it goes above freezing during the thick of winter here at Houghton?

4. Cost of Living – According to www.cityrating.com the Regional Consumer Price Index is considerably lower in North Carolina. This means that if you made \$45,000.00 annually where we live now and you moved to North Carolina, you would only have to make \$41,023.85 to cover the same expenses. Furthermore, comparing two random cities, Rochester's average salary is \$32,588.00 per year, and Chapel Hill's is \$34,866.00.

5. The Beach – North Carolina has 301 miles of "general coastline." Even if New York State had the same climate and the same length of coastline, we would live on the entirely opposite side of the state to be able to profit from this. In fact, Houghton College could build its campus right on the beach. Who needs an indoor track? North Carolina doesn't, that's for sure. Houghton could get rid of buildings all together and just sit outside on the beach for classes. It would be like a PBS version of *Lost*.

All kidding aside, I feel blessed to receive my post-secondary education at this institute. Maybe we need the harsh winter to truly appreciate the warm weather once it comes. It seems like every spring, there's a formative moment when I am walking down the path and I see some sunshine, hear the birds chirping, and see the trees beginning to bud. After the long winter, everyone breathes a collective sigh of relief.

And maybe there is something about having to drive hours to get to the beach in the summer that makes us enjoy it that much more. I'm sure that even the most obsessive sunbather could get sick of the beach at some point.

I imagine that I am not the only one who sometimes dreams of graduate school in a warmer state, a beach only 10 minutes away, and a basketball team with future NBA players. That shouldn't take away from what Houghton College truly is, though; it's a community that embraces each other in good times and bad, and a liberal arts education led by dedicated professors that really care about the students. So as we turn the proverbial "corner" from winter to summer known as the spring, don't forget that none of this sunshine would seem as warm without the previous months. ★

Look How We've Grown

Lindsay Yandon, editor-in-chief

Time flies, tempus fugit, temps passe vite. Disregarding how you say it, this life is passing us by at an excessively swift pace. I'm a Junior in college and only yesterday I was eight and picking flowers from my neighbors backyard only to then charge them a dime to buy them back. The elusive "they" tell me that it only gets faster. Not possible.

Recently, I returned to Upstate New York as a college advisor for the annual New York State Youth and Government Conference. The term itself deems me severely older than I would ever consider myself. College advisor. It's almost scary. Three years out of high school and I'm supposed to be equipped to advise, chaperone, and even discipline students a mere four or five years my younger.

The conference was a weekend reminiscent of how far we've come and how much we've grown. I encouraged shaky high school freshmen to ask a question in front of hundreds of the brightest and most intimidating youths that New York has to offer. I stood back and watched the awkward goings on of a high school dance/mixer where girls formed small sweaty circles and the boys swayed with their hands in their pockets on the edge of the dance floor. The experience reinforced the importance of looking back. Take a moment and go back a few years. Go back to the smiles, the tears, the laughs, and em-

brace them all.

Perhaps the only logical excuse for a life immersed in the absence of enough time is, "time flies while you're having fun." We've all had our lame Friday nights, discouraging classes, and frustrating relationships, but it's important to remember to let them go. More importantly, however, is to first look towards these times rather than fixate on the less than satisfying. Coming from the perspective of journalism, it is important for me to not only remember myself but also to encourage fellow writers and fellow humans to look to the bright side. It may be easier to point out faults, to sneer at difference, and to judge the unfair, but it is undoubtedly more rewarding to seek out the good, embrace the blessings, and focus on the positive.

This, the last issue of the Star only reinforces the natural phenomenon of time's tendency to leave us all too fast. From the first articles dabbling on the issue of a substantial handful of new staff members to the final articles exploring a problem or lack thereof with ROTC, we've come full circle and now we find ourselves back at the beginning. If time continues to fly we will soon be at the beginning. The beginning of a new semester, a new first issue, and a new staff.

I can't deny that it will happen that fast and if it does, I only recommend one thing; live it up. Don't grow up too fast kids. ★

CASH FOR BOOKS

TEXTBOOK BUYBACK

Thurs & Fri May 3-4
9 AM - 3 PM

Mon & Tues May 7-8
9 AM - 3 PM

Wed May 9
9 AM - 12 PM

Textbook section of the Campus Store

Off Campus Programs Photo Contest

Thanks to all those who participated. With over 150 entries, the judging was difficult. This year our winners are:

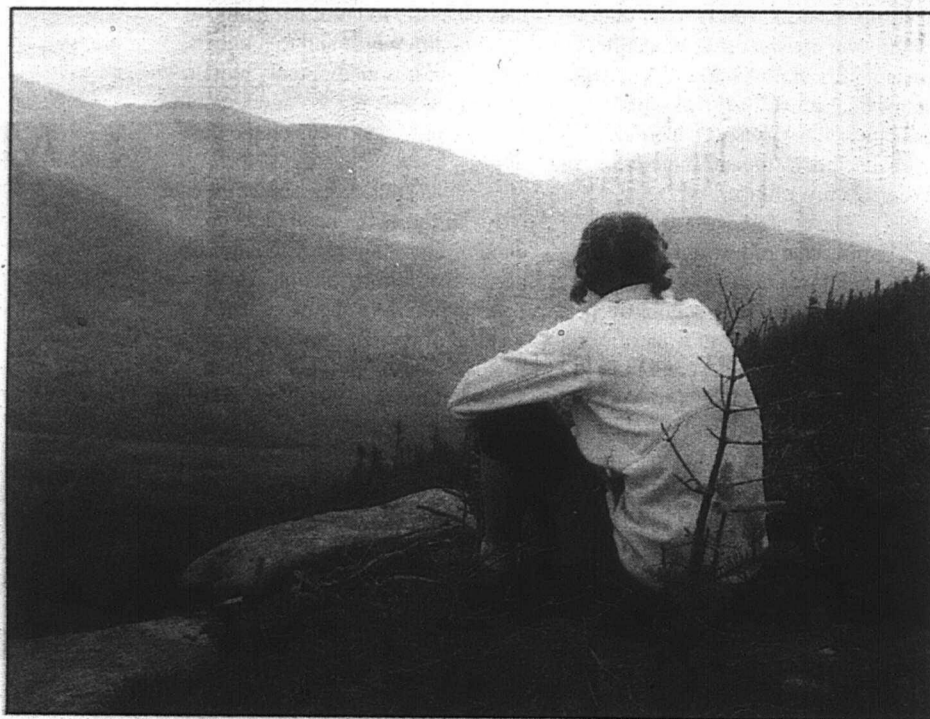
First Place Overall:

"Students at Stonehenge" taken by Josiah Nunziato of the First Year Honors Program. Prize: \$25.00 gift card to the Campus Store



Second Place Overall: "Daniel Rechlin in Front of Waterfall" taken by Cynthia Castle of Houghton in Adirondack Park. Prize: \$20.00 gift card to the Campus Store

Third Place Overall: "Student on Mountain Top" taken by Kaitlyn Berger of Houghton in Adirondack Park. Prize: \$15.00 gift card to the Campus Store





Honorable Mention First Year Honors Program: London. "Multi-Tasking" taken by Rebekah Giammarino. Prize: One free drink at Java 101



Honorable Mention Houghton in Tanzania: "Lazy Lagoon" taken by Christopher Marshall. Prize: One free drink at Java 101



Honorable Mention GoED: "Students on the Equator" taken by Heather Hill. Prize: One free drink at Java 101

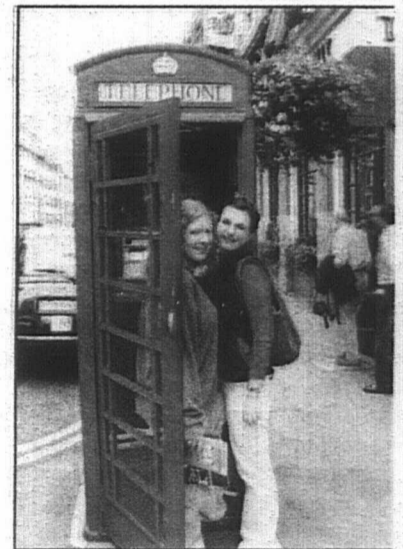


Honorable Mention May-term: (left) "Dome of the Rock" taken by Rachel Nickoloff of the Holy Land Tour. Prize: One free drink at Java 101



Honorable Mention Houghton in Adirondack Park: "In the Classroom" taken by Michael Humphrey. Prize: One free drink at Java 101

Honorable Mention Houghton in London: (right) "Calling Home" taken by Kathryn Kapczynski. Prize: One free drink at Java 101



Honorable Mention Non-Houghton Program: (left) "Climbing Table Mountain" taken by Christy MacBeth of Gordon College Summer in South Africa. Prize: One free drink at Java 101

PoLaRiS: Integrative Studies Requirements

1. Suppose you had the power of choosing which courses would compose the Houghton College Integrative Studies (IS) requirements. For each of the following, please indicate how you feel about the course or area of study remaining or being eliminated as an IS requirement. (On a scale of 1 to 10: 1=Definitely eliminate; 10=Definitely keep)

Advanced Bible:

1-2: 14%
3-4: 4%
5-6: 11%
7-8: 21%
9-10: 46%
N/A: 4%

First Year Introduction (FYI):

1-2: 38%
3-4: 21%
5-6: 17%
7-8: 10%
9-10: 15%
N/A: 1%

The evaluative results of the other 15 IS course requirements will be published online in: <http://thehoughtonstar.blogspot.com>

3. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?:

"Students have a sufficient amount of *options* when it comes to Integrative Studies requirements."

Strongly agree: 10%
Moderately agree: 24%
Moderately disagree (options should increase): 42%
Moderately disagree (options should decrease): 1%
Strongly disagree (options should increase): 19%
Strongly disagree (options should decrease): 2%
Don't know / Don't care: 2%

4. Only for students who have completed at least one FULL year in Houghton College: One of the stated purposes of the integrative studies requirements at Houghton is as follows: "Houghton students will not merely acquire breadth of understanding in a wide range of fields, but will acquire an appreciation of the connections among the various areas of learning, and between the various academic disciplines and the world of experience."

Indicate to what level you agree or disagree that our requirements accomplish this integrative purpose.

Strongly agree: 25%
Moderately agree: 56%
Moderately disagree: 11%
Strongly disagree: 4%
Don't know / Don't care: 3%

2. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?:

"The number of Integrative Studies requirements should be reduced."

Strongly agree: 24%
Moderately agree: 39%
Moderately disagree (requirements should stay the same): 24%
Moderately disagree (requirements should increase): 3%
Strongly disagree (requirements should stay the same): 7%
Strongly disagree (requirements should increase): 1%
Don't know / Don't care: 2%

5. Any comments, questions, or suggestions regarding this specific topic or about PoLaRiS in general?

All 50 input responses will be published in <http://thehoughtonstar.blogspot.com>

Note: PoLaRiS is not a professional opinion survey and its results should not be used as official statistics. Some percentages might not add up to exactly 100 percent due to rounding. Total number of responses for this specific survey: 198. If you have questions, comments or suggestions, please contact Inti Martínez. Keep playing PoLaRiS!

-LATIN continued from pg 2

Moreover, according to research from Harvard sociology professor Robert J. Sampson, when there are massive waves of Hispanic illegal immigrants entering the country, homicide rates drop. "[I]mmigrants appear in general to be less violent than people born in America, particularly when they live in neighborhoods with high numbers of other immigrants," writes Sampson in a 2006 New York Times editorial. David Brooks, from the same periodical, says that "[t]he facts show that the recent rise in immigration hasn't been accompanied by social breakdown, but by social repair." Brooks explains that, since the most recent rise in immigration, "[t]een pregnancies and abortion rates have declined by a third. Teenagers are having fewer sexual partners and losing their virginity later. Teen suicide rates have dropped. The divorce rate for young people is on the way down."

Hispanic immigrants spend more on gifts (even though they are poorer), are more prone to big family dinners, tend to support each other more often during crises, and are more eager to pay taxes than average Americans. According to the Census Bureau, entrepreneurship among Latinos is increasing at a rate three times faster than that of other Americans. This is

admirable and exemplary behavior. Sadly, we only hear about Hispanics when they kill someone or rob a store. Last year, there was much talk about passing House bill 4437, intended to criminalize helping illegal immigrants in any way, shape or form. Basically, you would become a criminal by working in a soup kitchen for a Latino neighborhood, or by driving an illegal Hispanic to the grocery store, or for babysitting in an illegal immigrant's home. For me, this runs against Jesus' teachings. I'm glad Cardinal Roger Mahony of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the nation's largest, stood up and threatened to instruct his priests and followers to defy this proposed law.

This House bill, like others, also intended to build a fence on the border. Trying to protect the 2000-mile-long US-Mexico border with a fence is foolhardily expensive and unrealistic. A much-needed revamping of legal immigration policies can help more desperate Latinos and Latinas get stateside, but that would only be a patch to the source of the vast immigration to the US: abject poverty and misery in Latin America. If America is sincere about seeing long-term prosperity in this region and seeing a reduction of illegal immigrants flooding this country, it needs to suggest more equitable and just economic

policies that conform to the realities of our countries. The US needs to allow Latin America to become increasingly united in order to be able to compete with the rest of the world. For the longest time, this idea has been a heresy in Washington, but, thanks to Hugo Chávez's advocacy, for example, this dream is becoming true.

America needs to stop imposing neoliberal economic policies on Latin America or else it will experience a greater flood of illegal immigrants. The recent Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) has started to prove that "free" trade deals with unprepared countries will raise the number of Hispanics living in poverty and desperately wanting to come to America.

Latin governments should also do their part by defying the Washington Consensus, when needed, in order to educate a healthy population that, in due time, will be ready to compete in this globalized world. They should also invest in strengthening the respect for the rule of law and property rights, as well as crack down on the rampant corruption that permeates the region. Moreover, Latin American governments should make universal social responsibility a high priority for the region. If all these measures worked for the Asian Dragons and Tigers, they can surely work for Latin America. ★

"Favorite Worst Nightmare" by the Arctic Monkeys

Eric Stevenson, staff writer

The Arctic Monkeys exploded on the British music scene a little over a year ago with their debut "Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not." It is worth noting that this was the highest selling debut in the first week than any other UK release in history. They were claimed by many critics as the "best group since the Beatles." This was a little extreme, as the rest of the world gathered, but they were still a band worth listening to. They have somewhat of a new twist on classic rock. I wouldn't call them punk, but not straight up rock and roll either. It's something else, something different.

It worried me when I heard this new album was going to be released. Just a year after their previous effort seems a little rushed. I was worried it would suck. Thankfully, it doesn't, but it's not as near perfect as their debut was. There seem to

-ARTIC continued on pg 8

Remembering Houghton's Senior Athletes

Ben Tsujimoto, sports writer

In collegiate athletics, seniors are relied on for big-game experience and composure under pressure. Their commitment is evident through arduous off-season training regimens, courageous rehabilitation from injury, and tolerance for five-hour bus rides to Point Park. Through their four years at Houghton, each senior has benefited from a Christ-centered approach to sports, as coaches foster a 'servant-like' attitude to honor God through competition. Here are the profiles of Houghton's graduating senior athletes:

Houghton Women's Volleyball

Instead of focusing on individual accomplishment, the Houghton Highlanders Women's Volleyball team has emphasized unity and selflessness. In honoring the graduating seniors, Coach Nancy Cole praises the group as a whole. She comments, "We graduate seven seniors this year. It has been so rewarding to have them on this team the last four years. They have instilled such a strong sense of team over individual in this program. They have a great love for each member of the team and for God and His purpose in their lives. It has been so awesome to watch them develop as volleyball players and women of God. Our team verse this year was Colossians 3:23: 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord and not for man.' I believe these young women are striving to do that in each aspect of their lives. It will be hard to see them go. They have each brought so much to this program. The stories I could tell...Ladies, thank you for your positive attitudes under such adversity, you outstanding character, your desire to work hard, your love for each other and God. We will miss you!"

Hilary Black: Hilary appeared in 21 matches and saw action in 58 games, helping the Highlanders to reach the 1st Round of the AMC Playoffs. She was selected as a Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athlete. Her stats include an average of 1.98 kills and 0.97 blocks and tallying 115 kills, 12 digs, and 16 blocks.

Elizabeth Gardner: Elizabeth graduated in December after the conclusion of her final season. She saw action in all 29 matches and all 103. She was selected Second Team All-AMC North Division, Third-Team All-CoSIDA Scholar Athlete for the College Level, and was also selected as a Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athlete. Elizabeth averaged 11.24 assists per game finishing with 1158 assists altogether. She led the team in assists while tallying 19 kills, 15 aces, and 283 digs.

Robin Frost: Robin also graduated in December. She appeared in 29 matches and in 99 games. She was selected as a Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athlete and led the team with 291 kills

and attempts with 874. Robin tallied a total of 2 serving aces, 198 digs, and 22 blocks.

Emily Kuvshnikov: Emily appeared in 28 matches and 99. She was selected as an Honorable All-AMC North Division. She tallied 225 kills, 38 assists, 17 digs, and 6 blocks.

Teresa Rose: Teresa saw action in 29 matches and in 93 games. She led the team with 39 serving aces and 27 blocked shots. She also tallied 147 kills, 12 assists, and 49 digs.

Audrey Seldomridge: Audrey appeared in 27 matches and in 93. She was selected as an Honorable Mention All-AMC North Division. She tallied 248 kills, 649 passes, 238 digs, and 9 blocks.

Women's Soccer

Over the last four years, the nine graduating Houghton seniors on the women's soccer team have not lost a conference match. During this span, the Highlander squad reached the NAIA National Tournament each time, compiling a record of 74 wins, 6 losses, and 4 ties. Perhaps just as impressive as their 63 match undefeated streak has been the recognition received for their sportsmanship; the team has been awarded the NSCAA Team Ethics Award and the Team Fair Play Award nearly every year. Here are the Highlander seniors:

Bridget Toth: A 3rd Team NSCAA NAIA All-American, Bridget Toth orchestrated the Highlander attack from the center midfield position. Following in the footsteps of her sisters Hannah and Heidi, Bridget finished her career with 25 goals and 32 assists. Coach David Lewis adds, "She always worked hard and gave a consistent second effort; Bridget became a respected leader on the team." In addition to her accomplishments on the field, Toth was selected as an NAIA Academic All-American after her junior year. A steady presence in the midfield and a selfless leader, Bridget has left her mark on Houghton soccer.

Krista Fowlkes: Possessing a booming left foot and an accurate cross, Krista Fowlkes surpassed Cassandra Mills' Houghton record for career assists. Finishing her career with 21 goals and 51 assists, Fowlkes provided a dangerous option on the wing, often setting up easy goals for Highlander strikers. Because of her excellent field vision and her ability to find lanes for through balls, Fowlkes remained an integral part of the Houghton offense during her career.

Britany Crozier: While this aggressive midfielder often initiated the Highlander attack with strong tackles, she was equally as capable to finish opportunities herself. Coach Lewis states, "Technically, she was the best

header on the team. We missed her in this year's Regional Final; her absence was a critical loss for our attack." Tough and competitive, Crozier's feisty attitude spurred the Highlanders to success.

Danielle Forland: A reliable defender who made the most of her athletic talent, Forland emerged as one of the most underrated outside fullbacks in the NAIA. "Danielle was one of the most improved players from her freshman year; she was instrumental as the team finished with the second best defense in the country for three consecutive seasons, 2004 to 2006," Coach Lewis comments. The Highlanders will miss Forland's poise and consistency in 2007.

Kim Gehl: An athletic and pesky sweeper, Gehl kept the Houghton backline organized and focused. A starter since her sophomore year, the sweeper's experience proved pivotal in Houghton's push for a national championship. "Kim was our fastest player, and probably will be the most difficult to replace in 2007," Coach Lewis stated. At the height of her accomplishments was being chosen as an Honorable Mention NSCAA All-American.

Jenn Switzer: Switzer controlled the middle of the field from her stopper position; her clever touches and aerial ability kept the play in the opponents' half and took the pressure off the Highlander defense. Coach Lewis describes her as a "steady player and team leader," noting that "she reads the game and her teammates very well."

Meghan Radimer: The Highlanders' keeper, Radimer excelled between the pipes. Despite elbow and knee injuries that forced her to the sidelines, Radimer overcame adversity to play when her team needed her most. Coach Lewis states, "Meghan showed courage and perseverance. I am grateful to God that she healed up in time to play during the playoffs this past season."

Sarah Rowley: After being called up from JV following her freshman year, Rowley provided depth on defense and in the midfield. A diligent worker, Coach Lewis praised her attitude. "She has an admirable spiritual depth and gave the team some of our most insightful devotions," he said.

Marianne Bonifacio: Bonifacio teamed with Forland to form a tough duo of outside fullbacks; she displayed patience on the ball and distributed well to the midfielders. Unfazed by elite competition, Coach Lewis marveled at her poise. "Marianne played her best games against the toughest competition. Her effort in our win against 2005 NAIA National Champion Martin Methodist is particularly memorable."

Field Hockey

Erin Frederick: Erin started in 17 games in goal for the Highlanders helping the Highlanders reach the Houghton's Post Season Championship Game. She had 26 saves vs. Bloomsburg, tied for third all-time for saves in a single game and recorded 102 saves in 1087 minutes of action. She allowed 30 goals for a 1.93GAA including shutouts. Erin finishes her career with 2 goals, an averaged 4.5 shutouts per season. She ranks 6th in most saves in a single season with 124 in 2005 and ranks 5th in All-Time career saves with 251 in 47 games.

Natalie Wenger: Natalie started all 18 games for the Highlanders. She recorded 5 goals and 5 assists for a total of. She finishes her career with 15 goals and 6 assists.

Kristen Mazzeo: Kristen was a starter in all 18 games. She led the Highlanders in scoring and assists scoring 11 goals and tallying 11 assists. She scored a hat trick against Wells and finishes her career tied for 2nd in All-Time with 3 assists in a game, tied for 1st in All-Time with 30 assists in a career. Kristen ranks 10th All-Time for points in a single season with 33 points.

Stacy Garber: Stacy started 14 games and led the Highlanders in goals scored with 11 goals. She recorded 3 assists and finishes her career with 29 goals and 12 assists for 70 points overall. Stacy is tied for 7th on All-Time goals scored in a career with 29.

Men's Basketball

Entering the 2007 season, the Houghton Men's Basketball team knew that leadership would not be a problem. Led by four senior co-captains, Luke Mortenson, Allen Goodman, Corky McMullen, and Anthony Houghton, the Highlanders turned in inspiring performances against elite competition such as Azusa Pacific and Point Park. Without these four starters next season, the Highlanders must find experience and mental toughness from another source.

Luke Mortenson: A Second-Team All-AMC North Division selection, Luke Mortenson sparked the Highlanders offense by averaging 16.3 points per game. Although he was dangerous slashing to the bucket, Mortenson was 'lights-out' from beyond the arc, ranking eighth in the country in three-point field goal percentage. Coach Zarges states, "Luke has been a great example of competitive spirit. His will to succeed, coupled with a desire to please the Lord has developed in the last two years. Luke understands what it means to use the gifts and abilities that God has given him to honor the Lord."

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Allen Goodman: A versatile player who quietly filled the stat-sheet, Allen Goodman averaged 8 points and 5 rebounds in his senior season. Coach Zarges describes Goodman's attitude, stating, "Allen is a study in contrast. He is laid back off the floor, yet plays with tremendous energy. He puts his teammates at ease, but also motivates them to work hard. Perhaps that explains why Allen was such a good leader on the team, athletically and spiritually." Improving in each of his four seasons, especially defensively, Goodman's two-way play will be missed next year.

Corky McMullen: Filling in admirably at point guard after Anthony Haughton's injury, McMullen demonstrated the unselfishness and perseverance that marks a dedicated Christian athlete. Possessing shooting range from nearly anywhere on the court, McMullen's three-point shooting quickly trimmed the deficit against many opponents. "I am most excited about seeing Corky's faith grow each and every year he has been at Houghton. His commitment to Christ now permeates all that he does as he seeks for wisdom and guidance from the Lord."

Anthony Haughton: Returning from a junior season in which he finished seventh in the NAIA in assists, Haughton held high hopes for his final year. Out with a knee injury for much of the season, however, Houghton sorely missed Haughton's defensive intensity and ball-handling ability. As the team's emotional leader, Haughton managed to contribute from the sidelines with a positive attitude and constant encouragement. "Not only is Anthony a great singer and point guard, but he also enjoys children and loves the Lord. To some, this complete package may sound nearly impossible, but those who know Anthony see it everyday."

Men's Soccer

Despite struggling with injuries, the five seniors on the Houghton College Men's Soccer team were able to help direct a talented yet inexperienced class of freshmen into the program. The perseverance and dedication of the seniors in the face of

adversity was an inspiration to the entire team. Here are the senior profiles:

Pat King: Four years ago, King contributed off the bench for a Houghton squad that reached the NAIA Region IX Final Four; since, King has found the back of the net five times and returned to the Final Four his senior year. Coach Webb states, "Pat has been a loyal member of the team and is one of the most dependable teammates and friends amongst his peers."

Ben Loos: A physical defender with soft touch on the ball, Loos has been a rock in the back throughout his Highlander career. Coach Webb adds, "Ben brought a very strong defensive presence to the team; his understanding of the game gave him an edge in reading the opponent's strengths and weaknesses." In 2007, Houghton will miss Loos' steady contribution on defense. Webb continues, "Having endured some of the strangest injuries ever to befall a soccer player, Ben played through any discomfort and always gave his best effort day in and day out."

Vince Wagner: A leader of the Houghton Junior Varsity Soccer team as an underclassman, Wagner elevated his level of play to be voted captain of the varsity squad his senior year. Due to an unquestioned work ethic and excellent fitness, Wagner wreaked havoc on opposing defenses who could not handle his tenacious play. Coach Webb comments, "A tribute to Vince is how much he has developed, not only as an athlete but also as a leader during his time at Houghton. His hard work and relentless effort on the field will be missed."

Chad Wakeman: An imposing presence up front, senior forward Chad Wakeman's powerful shot and strong aerial ability led to frequent scoring chances. Despite an injury set-back early in the season, Wakeman continued to work hard and contest for playing time. Coach Webb describes Wakeman's rugged play, stating, "Afraid of nothing, Chad created problems for opposing defenders with his aggressive play in the box."

Dan Miller: A backup goalie for his first two years, Miller entered the spotlight unexpectedly in the 2006 post-season after an injury to starter

Erik Lefebvre. With ice in his veins, Miller thwarted Roberts Wesleyan in a shootout to win a conference play-off game, making several spectacular saves. Then, the poised goaltender blanked Daemen College in the regional quarterfinal, pushing the Highlanders to a Final Four showdown with powerhouse Rio Grande. "Knowing that he would rarely see the field, Dan never once slacked off in practice. He was regularly the first to arrive at practice and the last to leave. He always looked for ways to serve his teammates and coaches and does so gladly."

Cross Country/Track and Field

Ryan Fadden(CC and T&F): Ryan has received All-American honors and was significantly successful at both Cross-Country and Track & Field. Assistant Coach, Matt Dougherty commented, "Ryan Fadden has been the consummate example of what it means to be an athlete, sacrificing so much for improvement on the track. He demonstrates what it means to be a teammate and a leader, no one deserves this All-American award more than Ryan. His four years of dedication to improving himself paid off in spectacular fashion for a senior."

Ryan Spear(CC): Ryan ran Cross-Country for three years. He was co-captain for the 2005 and 2006 seasons and this year received an NAIA Academic All-American honor.

Joe Mason(T&F): Joe holds 5 school records in indoor shot put, indoor weight throw, outdoor shot put, discus, and hammer. He has competed at indoor track and field nationals 2 years in a row as the first male thrower to ever go to nationals from Houghton College.

Jamie Mason(T&F): Jamie graduates with honors in Track & Field.

Megan Radimer(T&F): Megan holds records in the following events: 20lb weight throw, indoor shot put, javelin discus, and hammer. She recently received the Velma H.M. Hewson '32 Champions of Character Athlete Award for a Female Athlete at Houghton College.

With the graduation of these seniors, new athletes must take their

place and become Christian role models for inexperienced underclassmen. Undoubtedly, it will be difficult to fill their shoes. Congratulations to the Houghton College senior athletes on fine careers. ★

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the album that's not about one of those three things. I don't really understand why she's singing about high school relationships when she's 22 and married, but I suppose that in the emo world, there really aren't any other topics to sing about.

The only song I felt had any redeeming qualities, musically, was "Innocence." But even then, that doesn't mean I really like the song.

Avril also is following the recent trend musicians like Gwen Stefani are doing by making song around cheerleader chants, but Avril has at least two on this album ("Girlfriend" and "The Best Damn Thing") and I'm pretty sure she's sneaked a few more of them in small sections in a few of the songs. Either way, if I want to hear cheerleader chants, I go to a Houghton Academy basketball game, thank you very much.

It's a terrible album. If you're looking for girl power punk, you might like this. Why you would want to look for girl power punk, though, is beyond me. And if you're wondering what "the best damn thing" is, the title track says it's her. I'm sure Avril is a great person and God loves her, but He did not make all music equally, nor did he make Avril the best damn thing in the world. This album proves that. ★

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be some songs that are based around simple, non-melodic riffs that a kind of fun but nothing special ("Teddy Picker," "If You Were There, Beware"). They're something that any guitar player could play while noodlin' around. But they do a good job of keeping the songs interesting despite the bland riffs.

This album does, however, hold some of their finest work. "The Bad Thing" is one of the best songs they've written to date. "Only Ones Who Knows" is another wonderful

tune, which seems to be the token slow song to the album. Lyrically, the lead singer Alex Turner is praised by many for having excellent social commentary and talk about life in the working middle class, all the while filtering it through intelligent wit; it's in many ways a blue collar version of Colin Meloy from the Decemberists. And what makes the entire musical experience better is that it's sung with a deep Yorkshire accent. Unlike other UK bands like Coldplay in which you can't really hear an accent, it's laid on thicker than molasses for this band. It's a welcome difference from other

rock acts.

When a band makes an album a year after another, since they haven't spent enough time with it, it's not guaranteed that it'll be as good as the last. This falls under that umbrella, but it's still quite a good album; it's just not as good as their stellar debut. I doubt any fans of Arctic Monkeys will be disappointed, though, because this does have staying power. I'm glad rock like this is still being made and since they're still young as a band, it seems that it'll keep being made for a while. ★