

## THE World OUT there

BY BEN HUGHES  
STAR STAFF WRITER

### Special Report: Passionate Controversy over The Passion Continues

Still about four weeks away from its official release, Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* has already provoked heated debate. Gibson-the film's producer and director-and various Christian leaders maintain that the movie accurately depicts Jesus' final twelve hours of life before crucifixion. Some Jewish leaders condemn the movie as strongly anti-Semitic, and therefore damaging to Jews and Jewish-Christian relations.

Primarily based on the four Gospels, *The Passion* commences with Christ's betrayal in Gethsemane and concludes with His agonizing death. To facilitate the immersion of the viewer into the story, the languages spoken in the film are Aramaic and Latin, though English subtitles are provided. The unusual language decision has been assailed by the film's critics.

The dramatic realism of *The Passion* has provided another substantial source of argument. Rated R "for sequences of graphic violence," the film reportedly portrays events such as Christ's flogging and crucifixion with bloody, heart-wrenching detail. Satan even appears in human form, adding to the movie's deep tangibility and controversy.

Yet another point of contention concerns the Pope's opinion of *The Passion*. In mid-December, it was reported that John Paul II had viewed the film and pronounced, "It is as it was." This information was attributed to a co-producer of the film, who apparently had received word of the papal opinion from the pope's personal secretary. Soon after, reports surfaced that countered the claims of papal endorsement.

Last Tuesday, the papal secretary himself, Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz, denied that the pope had made a public judgment. On Thursday, the Vatican attempted to further stem the confusion by releasing an official statement. According to Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the pope's official spokesman, "It is the Holy Father's custom

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BY MELANIE MARCIANO  
STAR STAFF WRITER

## CLEW Speaker Encourages Community to Have the Mind of Christ

The good news is: there is nothing you can do. In the pursuit of meaning and fulfillment in the Christian faith, the best approach is no approach. God loves you and you can't do anything about it.

This was one of the messages that speaker Dr. Bill Ury brought to Houghton last week during Christian Life Emphasis Week (CLEW). With his southern style of tender forcefulness, he used wit and grace to illuminate the way to obtain the mind of Christ in the world we live in.

An old friend of President Chamberlain (since their meeting at Asbury Theological Seminary over twenty years ago) Dr. Ury, Professor of systematic and historical theology at Wesley Biblical Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi, leapt at the chance to minister to the Houghton College community when he received the invitation.

CLEW started off on Sunday morning with Ury presenting a surprising new look at the age-old parable of the prodigal son. In a culture where the individual tends to be the focal point, this story is normally read from the prodigal's perspective. Christians see their own spiri-

tual journeys through the prodigal son's life, as he strays away from his father, squanders his inheritance, and makes his repentant way home. They then see themselves wasting their talents on temporal pursuits, and are inspired to make their way back to their faith. The problem here is that the focus is their journey, their faith. Ury showed how

personal holiness and one's attempts to work things out, Ury encouraged his listeners to shift their focus to the Father, a God who is "bananas about us".

As the week progressed, Ury's message shifted its focus to having the mind of Christ. He stated that Christians, even those who personally met

Christ like the disciples or the most biblically knowledgeable can often lose the mind of Christ. They construct an image of God, stemming from their own self-obsession and forget the true image of the father that the scriptures present. This fundamental issue of a skewed perspective of the heavenly Father affects one's entire faith. Ury declared, "You can't love and think about others when you're so focused on yourself." But, according to Ury, believers can be encouraged that when they yield to God He

can do anything he's promised in their lives. Ury enthusiastically revealed the liberating truth that "Jesus can free us from our self-centeredness."

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PHOTO BY NATHAN BOYD

Dr. Bill Ury shares a personal story during the Wednesday Chapel CLEW service. The visiting speaker shared valuable lessons and was well received by the Houghton campus and community.

self-serving this journey is: Christians invent elaborate, melodramatic supplications and make outlandish and unrealistic promises or resolutions, all the time ignoring the Savior who has already made the effort. Instead of focusing on

## Houghton Welcomes Lingenfelter to New Media Position

BY CHRISTINA TURNER  
STAR STAFF WRITER

On December 8, 2003, Houghton welcomed a familiar face to a new position. Sarah Lingenfelter, who previously served as the Admission Office Coordinator, is the college's new media relations coordinator. Lingenfelter's position as media relations coordinator is an adaptation of the assistant director of public relations position, previously held by Jason Mucher, who is now involved in athletic department publicity.

Lingenfelter is no stranger to the position. Before graduating from Houghton in 1999 with a degree in Business Administration, she completed an internship in the college's public relations department. As media relations coordinator, she is responsible for publicizing campus news, whether relating to upcoming events or faculty, staff, or student accomplishments. She also serves as a liaison between the college and local news staff, suggesting story ideas, and organizing interviews between reporters and individuals on campus.

Lingenfelter plans to continue building

public awareness about the Houghton community. "There is a good foundation on which we can build our media connections," said Lingenfelter. "I would like to further develop our relationships with area reporters and seek to gain some recognition nationally."

In addition, Lingenfelter hopes to work toward organizing Houghton's wealth of human resources. One key step is increasing communication between the public relations department and faculty, staff, and students in order to be aware of ideas for stories and releases. Another step is developing a speakers' bureau. "We have many experts on our campus that could be utilized by surrounding organizations for speaking engagements," Lingenfelter said.

Lingenfelter lives with her

husband, Ben, who teaches English at Houghton Academy, and their daughter, Madison.



PHOTO BY NATHAN BOYD

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not to express public judgments on artistic works, judgments which are always open to diverse evaluations of aesthetic nature."

Regardless of the Vatican's actual viewpoint, Gibson is a devout Catholic and believes that God has been actively involved in the production of *The Passion of the Christ*. Confronted by the growing controversy, Gibson has remained faithfully committed to producing a movie that he believes is both biblically accurate and emotionally powerful. The actor of *Braveheart* fame has even invested as much as \$25 million of his own money into production. Despite Gibson's efforts to promote *The Passion*, the film has imperiled his reputation and perhaps even his career. Since he struggled to find a willing distributor, Gibson will release *The Passion* through his own Icon Productions and independent Newmarket Films.

*The Passion* already has the support of many Protestant and Catholic Christians. Well-known supporters of *The Passion* include evangelist Billy Graham, Christian author Lee Strobel, Breakpoint's Chuck Colson, Focus on the Family's James Dobson, Jewish film critic Michael Medved, and numerous Catholic officials.

Often charging that the film fosters anti-Semitism, the Anti-Defamation League and prominent Jewish leaders are among the film's many vocal opponents. Such critics emphasize that throughout history the Jewish people have been blamed for killing Jesus (e.g., see Matt. 27:25), which has been used as an excuse for anti-Semitism. Consequently, some see *The Passion* as a dangerous test of Jewish-Christian "interfaith" relations. Gibson fervently refutes the virulent claims that his film is anti-Semitic.

*The Passion of the Christ* will open in 2,000 theaters nationwide on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2004. Filmed in Italy, the movie's cast includes James Caviezel as Christ, Maia Morgenstern as His mother Mary, and Monica Bellucci as Mary Magdalene.

Official film website: <http://www.thepassionofchrist.com>.

Yahoo! Movies: <http://movies.yahoo.com/movies/feature/thepassionofthechrist.html>.

Vatican controversy: <http://www.opinionjournal.com/columnists/pnoonan/?id=110004587>.

Controversy over anti-Semitism accusations: [http://www.theamericanenterprise.org/issues/articleID.17815/article\\_detail.asp](http://www.theamericanenterprise.org/issues/articleID.17815/article_detail.asp).

## Are Houghton Students CLEWing In?

BY JOSH MILLER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

During the second week of each semester, Houghton hosts Christian Life Emphasis Week-CLEW for short-in which the college attempts to spiritually stimulate its student body with a series of services complete with praise-and-worship music and a guest speaker. The rationale behind this college-sponsored event, according to President Chamberlain, is to function as "a combination of a spiritual check-up and tune-up...As an academic community we very appropriately put a lot of emphasis on academics," says Chamberlain, "and I think if we're not careful, it's easy over time for our spiritual interests and concerns to just kind of erode." CLEW thus serves as a special time geared towards realigning the priorities of the Houghton community. But does it achieve this purpose?

According to the student body, the answer to this question seems to be "yes." Of 100 students polled, 63 percent said that CLEW is effective in helping Houghton College maintain its spiritual focus. Thirty four percent claimed that CLEW has had a big impact on their spiritual life, while another 38 percent attested to CLEW's moderate impact on their lives. And an impressive 85 percent said that CLEW had taught them valuable

spiritual lessons, such as relying on God and being more intentional about serving others, as well as following Christ even during times when one lacks a passion for Jesus.

Apparently CLEW is doing something right. Nevertheless, students and faculty have noticed many of the week's shortcomings. The students surveyed complained primarily about speaker consistency. Dr. Brittain voiced his own concern for this aspect of CLEW. "Like a revival in the local church, an awful lot depends on the speaker," said Brittain. In the future, he hopes to work with the college and Houghton Wesleyan Church to do a better job of coordinating with and informing the speaker. President Chamberlain also encouraged students to recommend potential speakers for CLEW. Although Houghton Wesleyan selects the speaker, the president asserted that any suggestions given to him or to Houghton Wesleyan's pastoral staff would be taken seriously.

Another problem noted by both administration and students was the lack of follow-up after CLEW. The students who were surveyed proposed a few solutions, including a reiteration of the CLEW theme in chapels throughout the semester and discussion groups during CLEW and/or after the week of services. President Chamberlain also suggested discussion groups, but is hesitant to institute them, fearing that a rigid system may rob CLEW of some of its power. Instead, he hopes that students will "sponta-

neously" discuss CLEW themes and sermons during the week between classes, at the lunch table, and in other social situations. However, the president did favor "some kind of follow-up" that includes "an element of accountability." He believes that adding this aspect could help members of the Houghton community maintain commitments made during CLEW and facilitate further spiritual growth and maturity throughout the semester.

One improvement suggested by the survey that neither President Chamberlain nor Dr. Brittain addressed was a decreased student homework load during CLEW. Numerous students felt that they would fall behind significantly in their courses if they took part in the majority of CLEW's activities. Thus, they thought it would be easier to focus spiritually during CLEW if their assignments for the week were lessened.

At this point in time, it's difficult to say whether or not any of these changes (or other improvements) will be made; but both President Chamberlain and Dr. Brittain seem to earnestly desire to make CLEW more effective. Hopefully their efforts-along with those of Houghton Wesleyan, the student body, and the rest of the Houghton community-will keep the campus CLEWing in to the importance and vitality of Christian life.

## GETTING TO KNOW ... Dr. William R. Doezeema

by SARA FORE  
Star Staff Writer

**Position?** History professor at Houghton College.

**How long?** Since 1979.

**Where are you from originally?** Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**Education?** I got my BA at Calvin College and did my master's and doctoral work at Kent State.

**Why history?** The reason I chose history, after a long struggle over what to major in, was because it was so broad: I could remain connected with many other disciplines. One writer has characterized interdisciplinary research as "the process by which the unknowns of one's own subject are multiplied by the uncertainties of some other science." That is true enough, but there are also benefits of breadth, as suggested by the "Integrative Studies" title of Houghton's general education curriculum.

**What classes do you teach?** In addition to having half a teaching load in Western Civilization, I teach a number of period courses in American history as well as some topical ones like American Women's History and Salem Witchcraft. The latter subject illustrates my point about breadth, for virtually every side humanity has been found to have operated in that tragedy.

**Favorite period of history?** The American colonial period. Though I didn't major in it, I'm very intrigued by how all kinds of different cultures came together during that period.

**Any other special historical interests?** I'm very interested in the Salem Witch Trials. In studying them, I've tried to analyze it from multiple angles to find many of the different factors that motivate human beings.

**Family?** I have three children. Jonathan and Janna are in their early 20s. Judy Congdon and I have also adopted Rachel, who is now three years old.

**Favorite Movie?** *A Beautiful Mind*.

**Favorite book?** *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America* by David Hackett Fischer. This book has been described as "The most splendid book of this generation's most gifted scholar." The book does not neglect the importance of non-English cultures that have shaped American history, but shows how four rather discreet regional cultures in the British Isles came to different America regions during different waves of immigration. These transplanted cultures not only became firmly rooted in the Colonial era, but continue to shape how Americans regionally talk, live, and think. One of the things I like about this book is how seriously Fischer takes religion as a cultural force. The book is also a good antidote to those who exaggerate American exceptionalism.

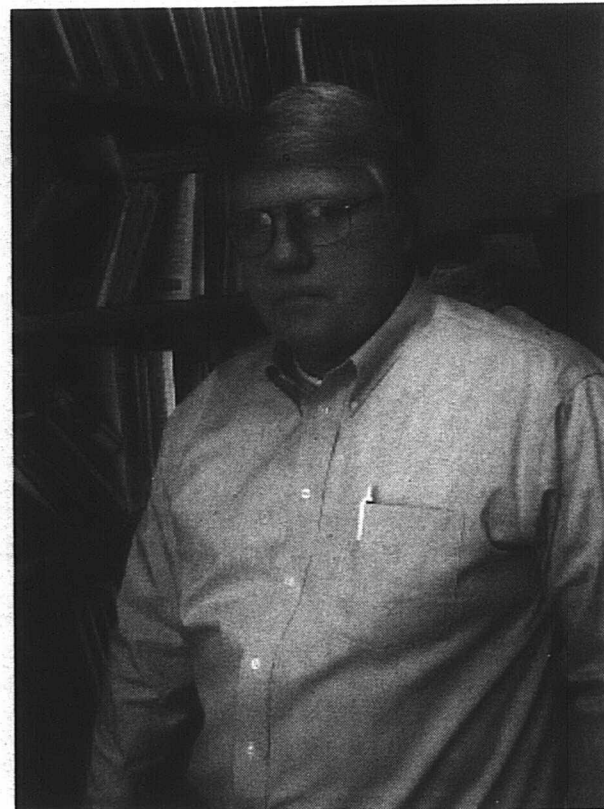


PHOTO BY NATHAN BOYD



## OPINION

## An Unconstitutional Court Ruling

BY ADAM CARMAN  
GUEST STAR WRITER

As some of you may know, last week was Sanctity of Human Life Week. Thirty one years ago last week, the US Supreme Court handed down its fateful *Roe v. Wade* decision, legalizing abortion in the United States. The 7-2 decision was in part a reaction to the supposed unconstitutionality of a Texas law outlawing abortion except for instances in which the mother's life was endangered. The Court decided the U.S. Constitution protected a woman's right to kill her unborn baby for any reason. At least, that is how it has been interpreted. Their decision also legalized the gruesome procedure of aborting half-born babies. President Bush signed a law outlawing this procedure last fall, but it was immediately challenged in the courts.

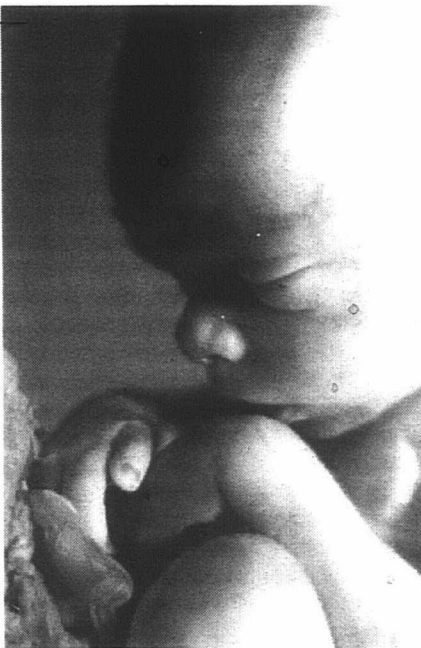
The moral issue of this controversial decision should be obvious. As Christians, we believe all life is sacred because people are made in the image of God. But there is another issue here. In handing down this ruling, the Supreme Court violated the principles of the Constitution. By constitutional law, courts were only intended to interpret laws; the legislatures (whether Congress or individual state legislatures) were supposed to actually

make them. Yet in this ruling, Justice Harry Blackmun took it upon himself to instruct state legislatures on what laws they were to make in regards to abortion. But the Constitution gives justices no such authority. The people of America are supposed to be allowed, through their elected representatives, to make their own laws. But the Supreme Court in 1973 denied them this right and, in essence, made their laws for them.

This decision established a disturbing trend that's persisted for the last 31 years. Contrary to what the media may say, the American people have never voted to make abortion legal, nor indeed did Congress until forced to by the U.S. Supreme Court. You will never see a better example of one branch of our government lording itself over the others.

Many today worry about the supposed powers the President has been granted to combat terrorism. This could well be a problem down the road. But the problem of judges overstepping the bounds of their lawful authority is present here and now. It has been happening for 31 years and even again, only recently, the Massachusetts Supreme Court ordered the state

legislature to rewrite its Constitution, allowing for gay marriages in the state. Again, the State Supreme Court has no such power to demand that. But the state legislature does have the



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power to cut the justices' salaries and, in fact, to impeach them. It wouldn't hurt for judges to remember this fact.

Despite what we've been told, court rulings, even Supreme Court rulings, are not sacrosanct. In 1853,

the Supreme Court decided the Constitution protected slavery and no northern state governments were to be allowed to interfere with the rights of the southern states to own slaves. I will leave you to ponder what this country might be if Abraham Lincoln and others like him believed the argument stopped with the Supreme Court.

President Bush and other prominent law-makers have suggested they may be open to the possibility of overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Like slavery, abortion is a black stain on our society and it deserves all our efforts to defeat it, just as slavery did. Even though Sanctity of Life Week has passed, I would still urge you to write your representatives, your senators, and your President and ask them to fight back against this attempt by the U.S. Supreme Court to dictate what laws our country will make. Proponents of abortion-on-demand will try to tell you that when the gavel falls, the argument is over. This is simply untrue. The argument is far from over and Christians should be in the forefront in this battle. Through political activities such as voting and protests they should press the courts to retract their pronouncement against the innocent unborn. Rather than lie down and play dead, the church must rise up and fight!

## EDITORIAL

Addressing the Lows of the Highlanders  
by Aaron Boynton

As a huge fan of sports and also sports writing, I felt the need to write a sports-related editorial. No, not one of those score-reporting pieces, but a piece where I had something important to say related to sports, particularly Houghton College sports. This may not sit well with people, but my goal is to be respectful in everything I say here. That being said, let's move on.

Usually when you are at a college, or any academic institution with athletics, you want to root for your school's team and wish for them to do well. Here at Houghton, I feel that way, but only during the fall season. Soccer, as is evident here, is the primary focus of the athletic program here at Houghton. I, along with many people, enjoy attending the soccer games and rooting for the teams. Perhaps that is because the soccer team is consistently successful and they make it fun to watch. However, it pains me to attend the

winter sports, primarily basketball, because of the lack of enjoyment and the mediocrity I feel is being presented on the court. Sure, if you're a fan of a team you should support them through the ups and downs. I do that a lot, especially being a Boston Red Sox fan. I cannot bear to sit and watch loss after loss and be satisfied with the production.

My primary focus of these frustrations is the men's basketball program here. (Before I proceed, I just want to clarify that my frustration is with the team in general, not individual players.) Looking at the history of the program here, I was shocked at what I laid before me on the webpage. Since 1967 (that's thirty-six seasons) Houghton has only had three winning seasons. That's right, just three. I personally do not know how the recruiting process works or what Houghton is looking for in basketball players and coaches, but one thing I do know is that there should be some consistent progress over a thirty-six year period.

Now back to this season. I do remember reading Coach Zarges saying something about being sick and tired of moral victories, i.e. coming close to winning while achieving some sort of goal that was set. Personally, I would be more concerned with blowout losses than close "moral victories." However, I'm a sportswriter, not a basketball coach. Yet I will not sit still when I see our college being constantly embarrassed on the court. The expectations were high, having nine seniors back to lead this team. I can understand the struggles the women's basketball team is going through, with this being a major rebuilding year after losing their core players. However, with many experienced players on the men's team, it was expected that this team would win ten to fifteen games and possibly end up out of the red for the season. That definitely will not be the case this year.

I could try to compare coaching pro sports to small college sports, but that's like comparing apples and oranges (or any other non-apple fruit for that matter). From what I've observed, coaches at NAIA colleges, like Houghton, are teachers first and foremost, with coaching as their secondary "profession." I'm not asking them to change that part of the program. What I hope for is a higher bar set for achievement in athletics, just like the academic bar here is set fairly high. We should strive for excellence in everything we do, whether it's in the classroom, on the chapel stage, or on the court.

Again, this isn't a personal attack, and I don't know what goes on in the minds of our basketball players. This is just from the heart of a passionate sports fan who wants to see people do their best while having fun.



## Art Faculty Rhett and Bennett Open Exhibit in Ortlip Gallery

BY RACHEL BRASK  
STAR STAFF WRITER

The Ortlip Gallery's most recent show exhibits the work of two of Houghton College's art faculty, John Rhett and Scot Bennett. The exhibit opened on Friday, January 12 with a viewing accompanied by both artists lecturing on their respective bodies of work. The combined exhibit features Bennett's liturgical drawings and Rhett's painted landscapes of the local area.

John Rhett began with speaking on how, in his paintings, he aims to share an "Isn't this fantastic?" moment with the viewer by looking upon the poignancy of God's creation. Rhett presented the idea of "God as shopkeeper," whose shop is full of "rewards for the idly curious." His paintings demonstrate this through his use of color and contrast, brushstrokes and choice of detail. His inclusion of objects such as telephone poles and highway rails in the composition of his landscapes conveys the relationship between nature and man most notably in "Oracle" and "Redbud and Rain." Framed poems are hung alongside his paintings along with

sketches of objects found in nature. Rhett explains that the poems share a sensibility with the artist; both the poems and the art seem to say, "Isn't this fantastic?"

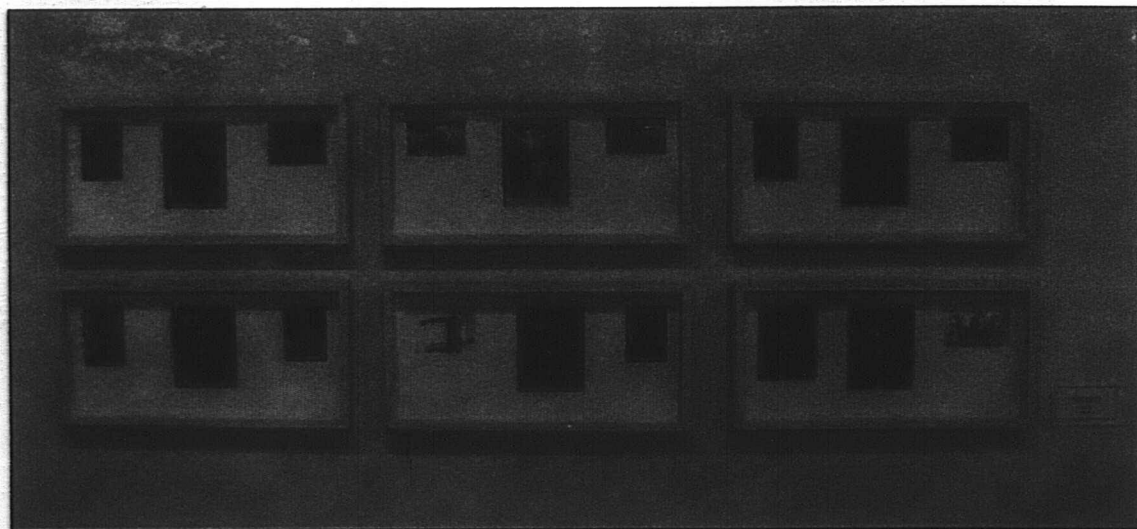
Scot Bennett's exhibit consists of abstract multimedia pieces reflected in three series of "Sacrifice," "Meditations on Death" and "Intimations." In his gallery talk, Bennett openly stated, "I do not wish to make my work easy," and gave "no apology" for the inaccessibility of his work, as some viewers may question the meaning and intent behind the abstraction. He insists the meaning must be rooted in audience participation. Bennett stressed intensity and intentionality in the process of his work, waiting "until the work tells me I'm finished." Bennett spoke of some obstacles that has influenced his recent work, saying, "Obstacles are given as gifts. Process is the reward, not the goal." In looking into the abstract works more closely, and thinking upon them, "the viewer is invited into the process of the journey."

The exhibit will remain open in the Ortlip Gallery through February 19, 2004.



Above: *Oracle*, John Rhett.

Below: *Meditations on Death*, Scot Bennett.



## Kathie's Kitchen



With Valentine's Day on the horizon, this recipe is a winner. This wonderful, melt-in-your-mouth chocolate cake is by far the very best chocolate cake I have ever eaten. I am not much of a dessert person, but this is simply a dream of a cake. If it were served at a restaurant, I would imagine it would be called "Death By Chocolate." If you wish to do something to impress that special someone, this cake is it. Even if you read this recipe and think, "Too much trouble," cut it out and save it for later in life.

You have to make this in a spring form pan.

You will need the following: (this is NOT low fat, but worth it,)

16 oz. semi-sweet chocolate  
2 cups butter  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup Half-n-Half  
1 tablespoon vanilla  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
8 large eggs

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. Grease 10" x 3" spring form pan, using foil to cover the bottom of the pan. Lock sides in place with foil covering, then grease the foil
3. In a heavy 3-quart saucepan over low heat, melt butter, chocolate, sugar, cream, vanilla and salt, stirring constantly. (Don't rush this step!)
4. In a large bowl with a wire whisk beat eggs until well beaten.
5. S-L-O-W-L-Y pour the chocolate mixture into the egg mixture. You don't want to cook the eggs with too much chocolate to begin with. Continue to stir the chocolate into the eggs and beat until smooth and well blended.
6. Pour batter into the pan and spread evenly.
7. Bake 45 minutes or until toothpick inserted 2" from edge comes out clean. Cool cake completely on wire rack.
8. Loosen the sides of the pan carefully when the cake is totally cooled and remove the sides and bottom of the cake. Then peel the foil off the bottom of the cake and place on plate.
9. Cover the cake with plastic wrap and refrigerate 2 hours or more.
10. Make chocolate glaze:  
1 cup chocolate chips  
2 Tablespoons butter  
Melt the above together and then remove from heat and add 3 tablespoons milk and 2 tablespoons light Karo. Mix until smooth. Unwrap cake and spread glaze on cake.
11. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Serve with a dollop of whipped cream and/or a garnish of red raspberries if wanted.

This cake will melt anyone's heart. Enjoy.

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Dr. Ury left the Houghton campus and community with a lot to digest about concerning each individual's relationship to God and how that can affect relationships within the Houghton community. Ury found Houghton to be warm and accepting, where God is moving in a profound way. He encouraged us to serve God and others before ourselves and to allow the Trinity to be fully revealed in our lives as part of who we are: those who have adopted the mind of Christ.



## REVOLT Competition Hits the Houghton Slopes

BY KYLE NAGY  
STAR STAFF WRITER

This past Saturday, REVOLT, held its second skiing/snowboarding competition on the Houghton ski hill. This is REVOLT's twelfth major event, which is why this year's event was named "REVOLT 12."

The purpose of the event is to reach unchurched youth without forcing them into a church environment. Instead, youth are put in an environment they are comfortable with, and then the love of Christ can be shown to them. "Our goal is to point kids towards Christ," said junior John Wurzbacher, an event coordinator and member of REVOLT's ministry. In an effort to do this, there is a speaker at every REVOLT event. This year, Aaron Williams, RD of South Hall, shared how Christ has made an impact on his life by giving his personal testimony.

For REVOLT's competition this year, there were two divisions: snowboarding and skiing/skyboarding. The cold weather did not discourage many of the event's participants. In the snowboarding division, Kyle Crocker and Jeremy Gerhardt tied for first while Glen Lustik took

second and Steve Rudd placed third. In the skiing/skyboarding division, Sean Mead took first place, Tyler Cline second, and Evan Cline rounded out the top three.

REVOLT is an extreme sports ministry that runs various events in this area of New York. In the future, those behind REVOLT would like to travel to perform demos for kids in various parts of the U.S., especially those that don't have many places to skate, ski, etc., which could expand the reach of their program. REVOLT also has its own non-profit clothing line in order to promote its ministry.

For more information on the ministry of REVOLT, visit their website: [www.revoltculture.com](http://www.revoltculture.com).



[HTTP://WWW.ENG.QMUL.AC.UK/IMAGES/MAINIMAGES/SNOWBOARD.JPG](http://www.eng.qmul.ac.uk/images/mainimages/snowboard.jpg)

## -- TECH CORNER --

by DAN PERRINE

### Get Your GAIM On

Hello fellow Houghtonites! Welcome back to the happy, cheery, ice-bound freeze-your-pinky-off hamlet of Houghton! I trust all your breaks went well? On the off-chance anyone out there is concerned about me personally, you can rest assured that I did not sleep through Christmas as I did Thanksgiving. I did however manage to play video games straight through New Year's. I came out at 2 a.m. and turned on the TV hoping to watch the big sparkly ball drop, only to catch the end of Dick Clark's commentary. Let me tell you, missing four hours of Dick Clark talking about whatever Dick Clark talks about was very traumatizing for me, but I'm happy to say that I've recovered by now.

Assuming at least a couple of you are still reading this, it's time to talk technology! As you're probably well-aware, Instant Messenger programs are as much a fixture of Houghton life as letters of reprimand for not attending chapel and annoying bells chiming off-key hymns at random times of the day. Most everyone uses AIM, but there are a fair number of people who use MSN and/or Yahoo! Clients. I'm here to tell you that you should uninstall these programs, because they are in every imaginable way inferior to GAIM. GAIM (<http://gaim.sourceforge.net>) is an open-source instant messenger client that is compatible with all the major messenger programs out there, meaning that, instead of running two or three programs at once, you can have all your buddy lists in one. And that's just the beginning of GAIM's cool features. Ever look at your buddy list and wonder "Who the heck are all these people?" GAIM solves this perennial IM crisis with the alias ability. You can change the displayed screenname of your friends from whatever bizarre combination of letters and numbers they chose to their real names. Ever lose an important date or phone number because you closed a chat window before copying it down? GAIM automatically logs all your conversations for you. And, of course, the program is completely bereft of spyware and advertisements. These are just a few of GAIM's many cool features.

GAIM can occasionally be tricky to install. Make sure you install it and get it working before uninstalling any other messenger clients. If you have any problems, email me and, assuming I'm not out on a hot date, I'll help you figure it out.

Questions? Email me at [daniel.perrine@houghton.edu](mailto:daniel.perrine@houghton.edu).

Be a Man.  
Be a Big Brother.  
ALLEGANY COUNTY OUTREACH  
NEEDS MEN TO BE BIG BROTHERS  
TO LOCAL KIDS. GIVE IT SOME  
THOUGHT. GET INVOLVED.

Interested? Contact Danee Knell at [aco@houghton.edu](mailto:aco@houghton.edu)

## Top Ten New Year's Resolutions

BY SARAH KUZIAMKO  
STAR STAFF WRITER

10. "I will shower once a month, even if I don't need it."
9. "I will not let my fellow Shen Men get me down for knitting."
8. "I will no longer send my roommate threatening death notes."
7. "I will say 'what's up' to that girl."
6. "I will trim my back hair."
5. "I will admit to my housemates that the smell—is just my dead raccoon."
4. "By golly, I will wear that duck outfit to class."
3. "I will stop dating my girlfriend's best friend."
2. "I will no longer plug up the toilets in South—for fun."
1. "I will wear my Speedo to intramural water polo."

## Houghton Begins Preparing Spring Drama *The People Versus Maxine Lowe*

BY JOSH MILLER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Why does Maxine Lowe refuse to disclose her past when disclosure might clear her of the charge of murder? Why does the young prosecutor change her tactics? Maxine Lowe is on trial for her life for the murder of her husband. She is defended by an untried attorney and has against her the great talents of the prosecuting attorney, assisted by a young woman fresh out of law school. Maxine seems ready to admit guilt rather than reveal her past. Then, as the young attorney for the defense continues his probing, there's a sudden and dramatic shift of roles, and Maxine's mysterious past is slowly revealed.

Production dates are March 11, 12 and 13. There will be three evening performances at 8:00 and a Saturday matinee at 2:00. Tickets will go on sale Monday, March 8; admission price is \$4.00 per person. All perfor-

mances will be given in the Rosemary Tysinger Auditorium at Houghton Academy.

### Cast of characters:

Edna Brushett	Sarah Nesbitt
Frank Marston	Justin Ford
Will Bond	Kevin Tom
Judge John Weston	Ken Leaver
Jessalyn Meredith	Kelly Hanks
Warren Cass	Ethan Stowell
James Hathaway	Jesse Orton
Maxine Lowe	Alicia
Berbenick	
Freda Milgrim	Laura Hanks
Thomas Quinn	Andrew Gaerte
Vivian Barclay	Jennifer Neroni
Minnie Strauss	Meghan Clark
Eve Vijnone	Diane
Benedict	
Irene Holt	Rachel Moran
Rose Malone	Joanne Grimm
Sarah Lorrison	Jessica Leete

Director - Bruce Brenneman  
Student Director - Rosaline Kelada-Sedra

## THE BEST, THE WORST, AND THE BLAH OF HOLIDAY SEASON CINEMA

### Woe to Those Who Have Not Seen *The Return of the King*

BY DAN PERRINE  
STAR STAFF WRITER

Assuming you haven't been living in a hole in the ground behind your uncle's shed for the past eight months, you're most certainly aware of the buzz surrounding Peter Jackson's masterful cinemagraphic adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*. If you haven't seen the first two, I suggest you repeatedly hit yourself on the kneecap with a ball peen hammer as punishment for being weird, then go see them because they're amazing films and there's no way you'd understand *Return of the King* without having seen the first two movies.



*Return of the King* pulls out all the stops for stunning special effects, sweeping vistas, and epic battles. The film is also fairly faithful to the original text of the books. Given the movie's three-and-a-half hour runtime, the few omissions it makes are understandable. Besides, there's always the extended-version, which will be released later on DVD.

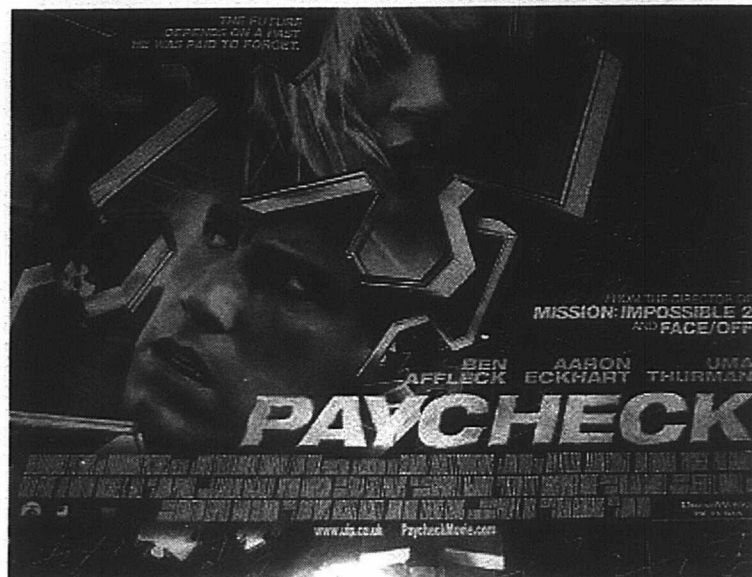
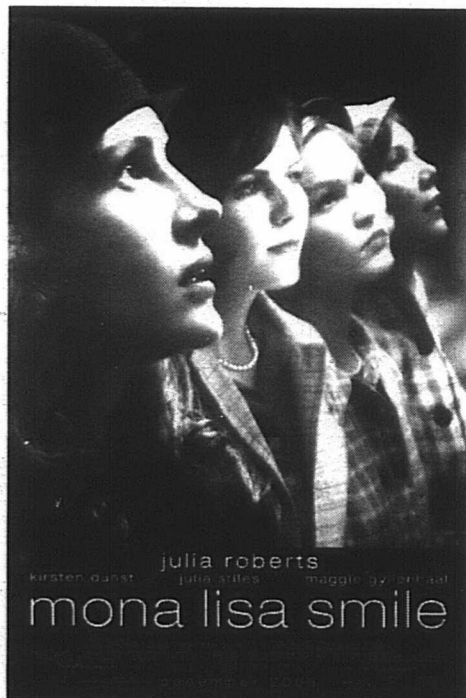
On a final note, many people have commented on Christological ideas and images in *The Lord of the Rings*, although Tolkien vehemently denied any such intentions. Maybe when the shock of the Houghton Globetrotters having actually won a game wears off, this could make good dinner table conversation...

### Mona Lisa Smile : I Liked It?

BY DAN PERRINE  
STAR STAFF WRITER

I'll give you all a moment to recover your balance and catch your breath. Yes, Dan actually saw *Mona Lisa Smile*. OK, this is the part where those of you who use pace-makers should make sure they're in good working order: I actually liked this movie. There's a fairly long and interesting story detailing how I came to see this film; if you really want to hear it you should stop by my room with a chilled bottle of sparkling grape juice some evening. *Mona Lisa Smile* is the story of a progressive art teacher from California (Julia Roberts) who comes to teach at a very conservative all-girls school on the East Coast in the 1950s. Her views on both art and life inspire some students (Julia Stiles) and repulse others (Kirsten Dunst). The movie managed to make the topic of conflicting views on gender roles at

the middle of the 20th century interesting to me, which says something about its quality. It came out in late December, but I'm sure if you look around you can still find theaters showing it. This is Allegany County, after all.



### Paycheck Gets Woo-ified!

BY MIKE MORDENGA  
STAR STAFF WRITER

I was excited when I heard *Paycheck*, another science fiction book by Philip K. Dick (who wrote *Minority Report*), was being released into theaters. After seeing Spielberg's interpretation of *Minority Report*, I thought no one could ruin Dick's dark dream of the future. Unfortunately, when I heard that John Woo was going to direct *Paycheck*, I perceived it was not going to be a movie but a "Woovie." An example of this would be Woo's transformation of *Mission Impossible* from a brainy movie to a muscle bound explosion fest in *Mission Impossible: 2*. I didn't think *Paycheck* had a chance to be smart or dramatic while in the hands of the master of explosions. And it wasn't.

The movie's plot centers on Michael Jennings (Ben Affleck), a reverse engineer who gets paid to steal company ideas and improve on them and then has his memory wiped. A man named Rethrick (Aaron Eckhart) hires him to build a machine that (unbeknownst to Jennings) looks into the world's future. Rethrick pays him \$96 million in exchange for three years of labor. Jennings wakes up from a three-year memory wipe to find his money forfeited from the bank and the FBI searching for him. His only hope is a bag of worthless trinkets he sent himself as clues and his forgotten love interest, Rachel (Uma Thurman).

The plot floats along the stream of sci-fi future concepts (much like *Minority Report*). *Paycheck* is missing the dark and moody atmosphere that Spielberg graciously pumped into *Minority Report*. There's no dark hopeless city or tall shady characters to give you nightmares. In fact, there's not much atmosphere at all. The movie is a dry piece of meat. Affleck's role in the movie can strangely be compared to his role in *Chasing Amy*, *Daredevil* and *Bounce*. Character

development is minimal. Instead, the movie's driven by extreme moments where Affleck would spout off ideas and philosophies like a report in high school.

And Woo certainly didn't skimp on the action scenes. While Jennings runs from the law and Rethrick, things explode, bad guys get gunned down, windows burst with guys falling from them, and, in typical Woo fashion, there's a long motorcycle chase scene involving large jumps and crashes. Woo was probably thinking "how many windows can I break in this movie?" The action scenes are like candy for your eyes.

Thurman's scenes in the movie were supposed to provide love and warmth (not to mention character development), but these moments are few and far between. Affleck also partners with his comical mind-wiping buddy Shorty (Paul Giamatti), which adds some humor to the movie. The audience would have more of a grip on the character's lives if there was more dialogue.

Throughout the whole movie Jennings sees his death in the future which sets up a scene that could have been very gripping and suspenseful. Instead it becomes Wooified and is the biggest letdown in the history of suspenseful movies (I won't ruin it for you, but it's really not that great).

Even though this movie is already in the dollar theater, I advise that you don't see it or purchase the DVD unless you love Woo, Philip K. Dick, or breaking glass. On the other hand, the futuristic concept is decent, the action scenes are intense and the moral message, "Knowing your future is no future at all," are each a thumbs-up in my book. The PG-13 rating is lightly garnished with intense fight scenes, minimal swearing and passionate kissing.

And in the future, I think John Woo should stop touching potentially good movies until he repents for *MI: 2*.



# AUSTIN TIME

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

BY CHRISTOPHER AUSTIN

CRUSADING STAR STAFF WRITER AGAINST ALL GREATBATCH SCHOOL OF MUSIC WANNABES

### This Week's Topic:

## ♪ WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR? ♪

Singing is a wonderful thing, when used in moderation. I must say, I enjoy singing and music as much as the next guy, because it really makes my heart leap in fondness. Church for example, is a great place for singing. I enjoy singing and music when I am working on my homework. Singing is especially enjoyable when I am slaving away at a numerical analysis problem that means nothing to me. I mean, really, what is the relative error of an approximated sine curve without the soft delicious curves of Mozart or Ready for Monday?

However, there must be certain guidelines put into place when the issue of music comes up. Song is not meant to be everywhere at all times. Word around campus has informed me of a few singing-no-nos, which I will share with you now.

1) Do not sing late at night when people are trying to sleep. Now, those of us who live in the flats are familiar with the poor, rather, non-existent sound proofing in between each apartment. (At this time I would like to apologize to any builders, planners, and administration who could possibly feel offended by that last statement. I have no intention of attacking anyone in this matter, and again, "Ideas printed herein do not, however, necessarily reflect the views of the editorial staff or of Houghton College." That is all.) Therefore, it may be considered distasteful to sing when others sleep. This goes for townhouses and dorms as well. Song is not a substitute for sleep; a lack of sleep will only cause irritability. I know this from personal experience, even though you may believe that I am never irritable ever. The truth is, even I get to be irritable when lacking in sleep.

2) This follows the same logic as point numero uno. Do not sing early in the morning when people are trying to sleep. If this happens to you, I suggest you overcome your sleepiness and storm to their door and yell your guts out until their guts stop singing early in the morning.

3) No singing songs out of season. I know I mentioned this before, but I feel that it is a current and pressing issue that is not to be taken lightly. Seasonal songs are best sung during the season. Is that too much to ask? No, it is not too much to ask. Too much to ask would be asking all the freshmen to exchange their computers with all the seniors. If there is, however, a freshman who would like to swap computers, my extension is 9252, and I prefer no stickers on the exterior. But if there are stickers, we can probably still work something out.

4) Do not sing in the library. I have never heard of this happening to my knowledge, but if it ever happened I think that would be very, very bad.

Thus ends my tirade on singing. I know I have not addressed all possible singing-misuses; I am but one man. Anyhow, I can say this: You should do your best to follow these rules to ensure the integrity of singing everywhere, not just the snow-infested hamlet that is Houghton.

At this point I would like to take some time to address future issues of this column. As some of you may have guessed (or may not have guessed, depending on your preference), my primary objective for this column is based on entertaining the masses, or rather, the small group of people that read the *Star*, through the use of humor. Secondly, I like to provide mostly useless advice to those who ask. What you may not know is my third objective for this column is to induce change on this campus where change may be beneficial. If there is something bothering you (even if it is this dumb column), please let me know about it, since I already have gained a reputation as someone who recklessly attacks Houghton positions. I can always use a good topic, and I think the *Star* is a great outlet for differences in opinion. Today's key words are **transfer meals**, because I love them, and you should too.

## EDITORIAL

### Christian life Emphasis Week: An Oxymoron on a Christian Campus? by Josh Miller

During the course of a week, the typical Houghton student is exposed to around three to four sermons between chapels and his or her Sunday church service. The student's week also includes multiple opportunities to participate in Bible studies in the dorms, through Houghton Wesleyan or other churches, or through campus organizations, such as OneThing. And if the student's searching for more times of community worship, he or she can attend OneThing's prayer and worship meetings any weeknight and/or Koinonia Sunday evening.

At a college so saturated with spiritual activities, the idea of emphasizing the Christian life during a particular week seems a bit odd, even ridiculous.

"Now wait a minute!" you're saying. "Weren't you the same guy who wrote all those good things about CLEW in your other article?" Yes, that was me. However, I'm not addressing the merits of CLEW in this editorial; instead, I'd like to question its relevance and essentiality.

When I surveyed the student body for their thoughts on CLEW, many of them would attest to the positive impact CLEW had had on their life; but when they answered the question, "Are you more spiritually focused during CLEW?" some of them circled "no," not because they weren't thinking about their relationship with God that week, but because they typically think about their relationship with God on a regular basis. One student in particular, after reading the survey question, said something to the effect of, "As opposed to all the other weeks, when I'm not spiritually focused?"

This student's sarcastic remark strikes at the heart of the matter at hand. Why do we need Christian Life Emphasis Week at a college where every week feels like a Christian Life Emphasis Week? We're constantly exposed to Christian teaching and fellowship, and constantly encouraged to analyze our personal spirituality. In this light, CLEW seems superfluous; it appears to be only a heightened version of what Houghton College does on a regular basis.

Perhaps a change in CLEW's nature—more drastic than lightening student workloads or starting CLEW discussion groups—is in order. Otherwise, it may end up being (if it's not already) just another week in the Houghton calendar that's quickly forgotten.

## What would YOU do?

Yeah, you heard us. What do YOU want covered in future *Star* issues? Is there a story idea that you want us to investigate, or a campus issue that YOU think we should be writing about? Then let us know. No more whining and complaining about a lack of relevant articles in the *Star*. We need your ideas. So help us out here. What would you do if you were deciding on story ideas? We want to know.

See the addresses below? Send your ideas there.

## Give Us a Hand Here!

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## Panthers and Patriots Set to Meet in Super Bowl XXXVIII

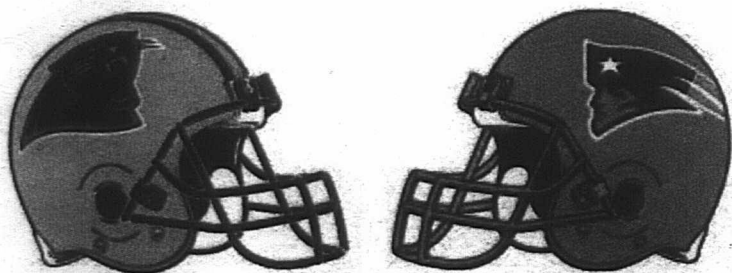
BY AARON BOYNTON  
MANAGING EDITOR

This Sunday, the Carolina Panthers and the New England Patriots will face off to determine who will be NFL Champions for the 2003-04 season. Both teams fought their way to reach the Super Bowl, with the Patriots riding a 14-game winning streak and the Panthers coming off a solid performance against the Philadelphia Eagles in the NFC Championship and a double-overtime thriller against the St. Louis Rams in the previous game.

For the Patriots, quarterback Tom Brady and defensive back Ty Law have led the team to their second appearance in the big game in the past three years. Patriots head coach Bill Belichick is a defensive mastermind and his team will be more than prepared for the Carolina Panthers, one of the biggest surprises in the NFL this season. Coach John Fox has led

his team to one of the most impressive turnarounds ever. Just two seasons ago, Carolina posted an awful record of 1-15. Now they are on the verge of winning the first league title in franchise history. New England is the favorite to win, but it is fair to expect a close defensive battle with a few flashy, highlight-reel worthy plays sprinkled throughout the game. Of course, the commercials will be the focus of many people's attention, but football fans everywhere can also unite on this day in order to celebrate the culmination of their favorite sport.

In Houghton, CAB will be sponsoring a Super Bowl party in the Campus Center lounge starting at 5:45pm. There will be a variety of food including pizza, subs, and drinks, which is free for Houghton students with ID. Non-students will be charged two dollars for the food. Come reward yourself with a break from schoolwork with friends, food, and the big game.



## Woes Continue for Lady Highlanders Basketball

BY AARON BOYNTON  
MANAGING EDITOR

Last weekend, Houghton's varsity women's basketball team chalked up another loss in what's been a very disappointing season thus far. Houghton fell to Carlow College by a score of 81-63. Freshman Meredith Grausam led the Highlanders with 21 points, while Cassandra Mills chipped

in with 17 points. The loss dropped the Highlanders to 1-9 in AMC North Division play and to an overall record of 2-15. The Highlanders played Roberts Wesleyan on Tuesday the 27th, but the scores were too late for publication.

The next home games will be during the week of February 2nd against Daemen College and St. Vincent College in the Nielsen Center.

### HIGHLANDER athlete of the week

Sarah Gardner / track and field

Gardner, a senior from Waterloo, N.Y., broke her own school record and qualified for NAIA nationals in the 55 meter high hurdles with a time of 8.59 at the Fredonia Invitational on Saturday. Gardner also broke the school record for indoor long jump (16-8.75) during her pentathlon on Friday at Cornell University.

## HIGHLANDER SCORES

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

DECEMBER			
Tues. 9	WALSH	L	29-57
Mon. 29	PALM BEACH ATLANTIC	L	51-65
Tues. 30	LINDSEY WILSON	L	45-79
JANUARY			
Sat. 3	NOTRE DAME (OH)	L	62-80
Tues. 6	SETON HILL	L	45-63
Sat. 10	SAINT VINCENT	L	33-85
Tues. 13	NOTRE DAME (OH)	L	42-67
Sat. 17	GENEVA	L	44-62
Tues. 20	DAEMEN	L	37-65
Sat. 24	CARLOW	L	64-83

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

DECEMBER			
Fri. 12	WALSH	L	90-95 (3OT)
Sat. 13	MALONE	L	62-76
Mon. 29	MASTERS	L	59-82
Tues. 30	PALM BEACH ATLANTIC	L	73-80
JANUARY			
Sat. 3	NOTRE DAME (OH)	L	66-79
Tues. 6	SETON HILL	L	53-77
Sat. 10	SAINT VINCENT	L	39-87
Tues. 13	NOTRE DAME (OH)	W	90-82
Sat. 17	GENEVA	L	59-90
Tues. 20	DAEMEN	L	63-79
Sat. 24	VALLEY FORGE	W	88-59


**SUPER BOWL PARTY**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2004**  
**CAMPUS CENTER LOUNGE**

**CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BOARD**

**FREE FOOD for Houghton students, only \$2 for non-Houghton students**

serving line opens @ 6:00 pm

kickoff @ 6:30 pm



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