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## Presidential Candidates Announced



Rev. Dr. William H. Brackney



Dr. David Alexander

This Wednesday afternoon, the final two candidates to fill Dr. Chamberlain's shoes were announced to an audience of faculty, staff, administrators and student leaders by Rev. Karl Eastlack, chair of the Presidential Search Committee. This announcement comes far ahead of schedule, seeing as the original goal was to announce up to three candidates by February of next year.

The first candidate is Rev. Dr. William H. Brackney, who is currently working at Baylor University as Director of the Program in Baptist Studies. He is also a current member of the Wesleyan Church and earned his PhD in Philosophy. Dr. Brackney taught history at

Houghton College from 1976 – 79 and will be visiting campus from November 12th to 15th.

The second candidate is Dr. David Alexander, who is currently on the administration at Southern Nazarene University as VP for Advancement. He has a background in Music Education and is willing to become a member of the Wesleyan Church if selected as the next president. Dr. Alexander will arrive on November 16th and will stay on campus until the morning of Nov 19th.

Before their arrival, both men will receive a large packet of specified information on the college and will be meeting with members from all groups within the college community during their visits. Both Rev. Eastlack and Dr. Linda Mills Woolsey, a member of the Search Committee, have emphasized the importance of active participation and interest from members of all constituencies on campus while the candidates are visiting. After each visit, evaluation forms will be made available for all who are interested in giving feedback, which will be taken into consideration by the committee before the final decision is made. Dr. Woolsey has assured the Star that, "the committee will very seriously look at the response from the campus." In response to an inquiry regarding the significance of students' views on the subject, Woolsey declared, "My sense is that for

the members of the committee the students are very important."

In the interests of qualified applicant evaluation, the committee has used the job description and specific presidential characteristics posted on the website, which is easily accessible through the Houghton homepage, to narrow down their options before presenting Brackney and Alexander as the top two candidates for the new college president. When asked how well these applicants the description, Dr. Young, another member of the committee, said, "I am a realist enough to think that its unlikely that we will find a perfect match, and I am also hopeful that we wont in the sense that I hope we haven't thought of all the possibilities for Houghton. I hope there are more possibilities out there and a new president can bring some of those."

According to Eastlack, "Both of these candidates are very strong for our future. They are not our past, they are not maintainers, they are both quite visionary people, and are actually very student-oriented in their approach to leadership. So I think that the students can take great comfort that these are men who are aware and very willing to listen to students." ♦

-Kate Hamilton  
Staff Writer



## Hurricane Katrina: Houghton's Ongoing Aid Efforts

Even in the midst stressful midterms, the effects of Hurricane Katrina have not been forgotten. The student body and community of Houghton College are still trying to aid those in need.

Houghton's commitment to respond to the needs of people in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina have included offers of admission to students from the area, donations (through World Hope International) for relief efforts, designated prayer time, and alumni assistance in the affected area. Many students are anxious to help, and many have offered to go on site to assist in any way possible. Volunteer work crews from Houghton are likely to be sent next semester, probably during February break.

The first effort that this reporter noticed on campus was the "Shen auction," so named by members of the Shenawana men's dorm. Shen men auctioned off everything from their

furniture to their hair. They succeeded in raising over \$1,700. The Shen men aren't the only ones to step up to the challenge and help with the fund raising and relief efforts, either.

Lambein Hall is making their effort by working alongside Houghton's Entrepreneurship Class to sell bright green and purple KARE bands during meals. Every penny made from the sales is going to World Hope International, and the KARE Company is also donating.

Relief efforts for Katrina differ from other fundraising relief projects that the college has undergone in that there is no one collective college-wide effort. According to Christopher Fiorello, "The SGA committee decided, instead of organizing some giant, blowout fundraiser, to let the individuals and organizations that have their own vision and drive for raising relief to self-start and do their own fundraising."

An all-campus e-mail advertised

opportunities to donate something other than money. The Houghton College Post Office and the Information desk in the Campus Center are accepting clothing, including mittens, scarves, coats, socks, etc.

The Houghton student body has shown continuing concern for the affected areas in the south, and is making an effort to help those devastated by the Katrina disaster. Students and community members can donate to relief efforts through World Hope International. World Hope is working with another organization, Samaritan's Purse, to supply basic needs for refugees of Katrina. Donations can be made on the Houghton College website. ♦

-Emily Furman  
Staff Writer



## The Netherlands Chamber Choir



The famous Netherlands Chamber Choir, which has gained world renown in the past ten years, will be coming to Houghton on their 2005 tour. The Netherlands Chamber Choir is an a cappella group that performs a wide variety of pieces but mainly focuses on classical works.

The Netherlands Chamber Choir was founded in 1937 by Felix de Nobel and today, is supported by the Dutch government as one of Europe's few autonomous, full-time chamber choirs. The majority of the singer's time is devoted to the performance of a cappella pieces. This unique choir consists of 24 singers who are accomplished soloists but who focus their energies on ensemble singing.

A cappella pieces are the Netherlands Choir's main performance pieces. The Netherlands Choir usually performs along the artistic line of works of Mozart, Bach, Schubert, and Stravinsky, but this year they are offering a diversity of repertoire established by former conductors Paul Van Nevel, Stephen Layton, Pieter Dijkstra, and Marcus Creed. The Netherlands Chamber Choir has even had pieces composed specifically for their performances by accomplished composers such as John Tavener, James MacMillan, and Jan Vriend.

The Netherlands Chamber Choir has also joined with other major instrumental ensembles, such as the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Orchestra of the 18th century, the Schönberg Ensemble, the Amsterdam Sinfonietta and the Combattimento Consort.

The conductor of the Netherlands 2005 tour, Ed Spanjaard,

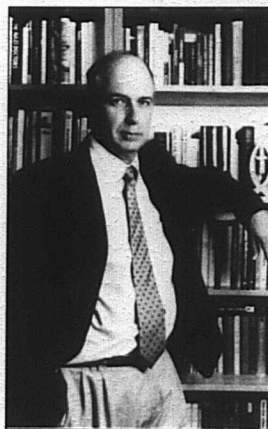
has conducted the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Limburg Symphony Orchestra, and many other major orchestras of Holland. He has also conducted many operas with several opera companies such as De Nederlandse Opera, De Nationale Reisopera and Opera Zuid.

Over the past ten years, the choir has built for itself quite a reputation in Europe, as well as globally. They have performed at Carnegie Hall, and have traveled to many different places around the world. This year alone, they have performed in Israel, Singapore, Canada, Europe, Japan, and Palestine. Now, they are touring in the United States and stopping at our small college to perform for us.

So, if you enjoy classical music, like to sing, or like to hear accomplished singers, then I encourage you to attend the Choir's performance. Houghton College has a great opportunity to be hosting such a world-renowned musical group, and we, as students, should recognize this opportunity and take advantage of it.

The Netherlands Chamber Choir will be performing on November 11th at 8 pm in the Wesley Chapel. Tickets are available now in the music office in the Center for the Arts and will be available at lunch time in the Campus Center for the week of the concert. The program will include works by Bach, Schubert, Schumann, Strauss, and many others. ♦

Jillian Senna Getman  
Staff Writer



## Gilbert Meilaender Comes To Houghton College

On November 21st 2005 at 7:00 p.m. Gilbert Meilaender will be presenting "The Moral Problem of Embryonic Stem Cell Research" in the Houghton Wesley Chapel.

Gilbert Meilaender is "one of 17 experts appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on The President's Council on Bioethics in 2002" (News Release). Meilaender is an expert in theological ethics and has a special interest in bioethics. He was invited to appear before the United Nations and before the National Bioethics Advisory Commission. Meilaender is a professor of Christian ethics at Valparaiso University, and is associate editor of the *Journal of Religious Ethics*. Among the numerous books he has published are *Body, Soul and Bioethics*, and *Bioethics: A primer for Christians*.

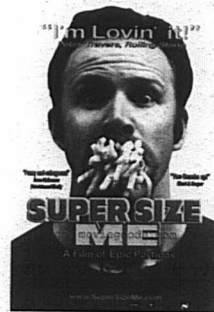
All students are strongly encouraged to come and hear this expert on bioethics share his view on an issue that is being debated heavily in today's courtrooms, classrooms, and churches. Please join us. ♦

Tiffany Shuman  
Staff Writer



## Super Size Me

CFA Recital Hall  
Thursday November 10th 7:00 PM  
**Free Admission,**  
Door Prizes and Refreshments



In a fast food nation, what are the hazards? Where is the line between personal duty and corporate responsibility? These are the questions filmmaker Morgan Spurlock raises as he examines America's eating habits and the goals of food manufacturers and corporate America in this culturally relevant and highly personal documentary.



# Restorative Community

## Chiding, Confiding, Connecting

"It's horrible – students are encouraged to turn others in, trust and confidentiality hardly exist, and the closest friends you have are those who will lie for you."

Sound like the Red Scare of the McCarthy era? Maybe the universities of Nazi Germany? No, this was said of the student life policy at Bob Jones University by a former student. In an effort to hold students accountable, many Christian colleges and universities have given students, primarily through their residence life staffs, the responsibility of reporting misbehavior.

While Bob Jones is certainly an extreme example (There, students are required to report any misconduct, or they receive the same disciplinary action as the perpetrators.), it is worth considering the effects of this policy, dubbed by some as 'tattling' and others as 'accountability.'

At Houghton, the residence life staff (your RAs and HRs) are encouraged to report misbehavior to RDs, who in turn report to the Office of Student Life. Some of these RAs fear that this responsibility may discourage their residents from actually confiding in them. For the staff, confidentiality is not an official option. Some choose to keep confidentiality anyway, while others preface their conversations by saying, in the words of one RA, "I want you to be open with me but I can't promise you that I can keep your secrets."

In the case of some RAs, this directly affects their personal lives, as they are responsible to report even their close friends who might engage in misconduct. One RA thinks "it's a good policy . . . I'm encouraged to tell others so that hurting people can get help – they don't come to me expecting that I'll keep their brokenness secret but that I'll help them work through it." However, one resident of Rothenbuhler, a sophomore, expressed concern that if he were to go to his RA, he might be turned in and punished – even if he were sorry for what he had done. "I can't talk to my RA about what my roommate does on the weekends," says one girl, a junior, "because she would have to turn her in for punishment – how would that help [my roommate]? I'd rather just try and talk to her, like I've been, on my own."

So what is accountability, and where do the ideas of confession, forgiveness, and community fit into all of this? It's important to recognize first that RAs are not expected to be the detective force of the Student Life Office – the investigative team of Law & Order: HCU (Houghton College Unit), complete with a cheesy early 90s musical theme. But they're also not supposed to be ostriches with their heads stuck in the ground, wiggling their butts enough to create fun floor activities. Those in authority (namely the Office of Student Life and the residence life staff) need to

know what's going on in order to actually be able to help those who are broken.

"It's about restoration," says Denise Bakerink, Dean of Students. In an interview with the *STAR*, Bakerink discussed the importance of community in the healing process. "We have a distorted perception of what it is to heal people," she said, referring to the idea that keeping sin secret is somehow helpful. Student Life, together with the residence life staff, wants to be a source for students who need help. Bakerink emphasizes that, though confession of both sin and forgiveness is a necessary first step, RAs alone don't have the right to "pronounce absolution on sin." It's at the point after confession where Bakerink feels support can be provided for those who want to "go and sin no more." The "disciplinary action" in these cases is found not in chastisement or dismissal, but rather in accountability relationships. For example, students who struggle with smoking should know that if they spoke to their RA and were reported to Student Life, they would not find immediate condemnation but rather would be asked to join a smoking cessation program, a program which allows time to work through the process of quitting.

Students who feel no remorse or have instead been "caught in the act" will meet a different reaction. While Bakerink admits "it takes a lot to be asked to leave this community," she also recognizes that this is a particular community that's not necessarily for everyone. There is room for those who struggle and fall but want to be moving in the direction of the community, but for those who repeatedly and decidedly push the limits, they may be asked to leave for a time. No one is ever asked to leave forever, she says.

So does this solve the question of confidentiality? Not entirely. As one student says "there probably is no perfect system." For students who don't want help, the seeming intrusiveness of the Office

of Student Life may seem more like nagging legalism than actual help, but should that cause Student Life to close its doors and not attempt to help those who are open to it? According to Bakerink, "we hear all of the many loud, negative, one-sided stories," but the redemptive ones are quietly told by those who have confessed and actually begun to receive healing. ♦

-Brent Chamberlain  
Managing Editor

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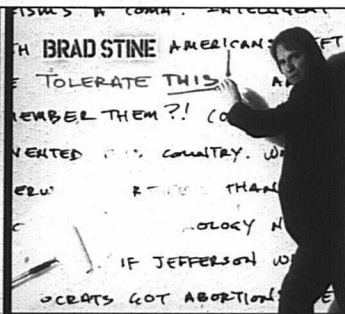
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**Brad Stine**  
Wesley Chapel  
Thur. Nov. 10  
at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets  
\$12 advance  
\$15 Day of Show

Campus Store

Brad Stine is coming to Houghton – you may have seen him on MTV's "Half Hour Comedy Hour," Showtime's "Comedy Club Network," and A&E's "Caroline's Comedy Hour," "Evening at the Improv," and "Comedy on the Road."



# Arts

## Featured Artist: *Katie Scrafford*



Figure study, by junior Katie Scrafford, pastel on paper. Scrafford's loosely rendered work is filled with vibrant lines and colors that are particularly well suited to pastels as a medium. The sticks of pigment are laid on in layers of strokes which are messy to apply and difficult to control. "One of my favorite dangers of pastels is that it's not easy to cover up the marks," Scrafford says. "The marks of the process are a crucial part of the piece. Since you see the marks they each have to be in the right direction and in the right thickness."

This piece is an assignment for Ted Murphy's figure drawing class, in which students begin their study of the body by drawing bones and muscles and gradually work up to life models selected from among fellow classmates. The relationships between artists and models are interesting and complex, especially in a closely connected place like Houghton, where, unlike most studios, artists and models are often acquainted in more than one setting.

"You try to respond to the model," Scrafford explains. "You try to create a beauty that is connected with their personality—seeing beyond what is seen to what

is actually there. I want them to feel beautiful, not necessarily because I removed blemishes, but because when you begin to draw you notice the beauty the line of a shoulder or the curve of an arm."

Scrafford's recent work is more about expressing what she calls the "essence" of a subject rather than an exact rendering of colors and contours. It corresponds with the twentieth century trend in art which focuses on the significant communicative power of colors. In this type of piece, what is left out is often as important as what is put in. "I was thinking about this in the context of Modern American Poetry," says Scrafford. "Robert Frost, William Carlos Williams, looking at things, going back to the object. We are looking at the object to try to express an essence of emotion in a blunt, frank way."

"Sometimes, I'm really scared to be an artist because artists deal with the most inner parts of people. When you're looking for the spirit of a subject, it can be ugly at times. It's a constant struggle to reconcile God's love and hope with some of the more disturbing things that go alongside." ♦

-Kelsey Harro  
Arts Editor



## A Film From The Library

### *The African Queen*

There is no subject that deserves more tender treatment than true love. It has become a cliché to say that Hollywood "never gets it right." In an industry that manufactures fantasy, honesty is a rare find. There also is a fine line between being sincere and just being tacky, a line that ultimately falls into the hands of the director. Few hands are more adept to the task of crafting a great story from basic elements than those of John Huston, whose genius conceived *The Maltese Falcon* and *Wise Blood*. In *The African Queen*, Huston casts one of his favorite actors, Humphrey Bogart, to play Charlie Allnut. Bogie plays his part impeccably, transforming from a scruffy, alcoholic riverboat captain into a brave, quirky patriot through falling in love with the straight-laced missionary maiden Rose Sayer, who is portrayed beautifully by the ever-classy Katherine Hepburn. "Rosie", as Bogie calls Hepburn, is one of the great roles in film history. Much of the greatness of this undisputed classic rides on the great acting; most of the film is just Bogie and Hepburn, floating down the river in their boat, *The African Queen*, heading for their impossible goal-- sinking the German battleship,

the *Lusitania*.

It is truly comical and heartwarming to watch the characters of both Charlie and Rosie change as they fall in love. The boat that they pilot down the treacherous river is a perfect symbol for the union men and women create. The scene where Charlie awakes to Rosie dumping all of his booze into the river, stoic beneath her parasol, captures the essence of their life together.

A great companion film to *The African Queen* is Clint Eastwood's *White Hunter, Black Heart* concerns the making of Huston's classic, which was basically an excuse for Huston to travel to Africa and shoot an elephant. A mix between *The Green Hills of Africa* and *The Heart of Darkness*, Eastwood's film is brilliant in its portrayal of John Huston and the difficulties surrounding the making of a Hollywood "gets it right" classic. ♦

-Stephen Sorensen  
Columnist



The Star  
is looking for essays,  
poetry, and stories  
written by students  
to feature in  
the Arts section.

Please e-mail  
your submissions to  
star@houghton.edu  
or mail them to CPO box  
608.



## Did The Killers Kill Spot?

This past week the independent student newspaper, *The Supernova*, showcased an article evaluating Homecoming SPOT. Though the columnist's identity remains unknown, we can safely assume that, based on the article, he/she would obviously put on the best SPOT ever and might possibly be the only one worthy to view a variety show of such merit.

As a performer in Homecoming Spot's house band, I take great offense (as do my five band mates) to the writer's attack on The Killers' "Mr. Brightside." The critique stated that the song had no place on a Christian campus. I'm extremely interested in knowing what does and does not belong on a Christian campus and who has the authority to say so. Nonetheless, the argument stems from the lyrics, "While he's having a smoke and she's taking a drag, now they're going to bed, and my stomach is sick, and it's all in my head but she's touching his - chest. Now, he takes off her dress. Now, let me go."

Like many critics of non-Christian art, the super-columnist takes the lyrics out of context and gets tripped up on certain words. If you were to listen to the entire song, it is about a man and woman (Married? Maybe...?) in a shaky relationship, in which the man is extremely jealous and paranoid for his partner. Anyone who has been in a relationship knows the restless games that the human mind can play on itself. This song is about such paranoia and the imaginary happenings in the man's mind. The fact that it says "takes off her dress" and "smoke" is beside the point. We've got to get over it and see the big picture.

When we take words, situations, ideas, etc. out of context, we rob them of their true value and the original intent of their source. My thoughts on this have much more to do with the big picture and putting an end to the construction of walls between "Christian/non-Christian," than they have to do with SPOT and The Killers.

I, for one, am looking forward to *The Supernova* columnist's performances in Spring SPOT. ♦

- Joshua M. Walters  
Guest Writer

## Stage Crew "moves" Houghton



It might have been frigid outside, but on the night of SPOT, Wesley chapel was boiling with excitement. Hundreds of Houghton College students filled the seats. The entire auditorium was cloaked in darkness, except for the white spotlights that illuminated the stage. At its forefront, eight suave young men stood side by side, serenading the audience with their acappella rendition of a familiar commercial jingle. The group had barely finished belting out, "Do do do dood, Always Coca-Cola!" before an enthusiastic roar peeled from the crowd.

"It was amazing!" seems to be the unanimous sentiment among the members of the vocal ensemble who stole the show, Stage Crew. "It was just a force of pure human voice," they recall. Considering their swift claim to fame after performing in Houghton's popular talent show, these guys certainly have a lot to be thankful for. "It's awesome because we're just freshmen," they muse. "People don't even know who we are."

If they don't know now, they soon will. With exposure from events such as Family Weekend, Talent Showcase, and the CMENC Recital, the smooth voices of Stage Crew are quickly becoming a campus-wide sensation.

Though their success is already being voiced in the praise of fellow classmates (particularly those of the female persuasion), the eight-some, who began singing together just this fall, have quite a large challenge to face. From their good-natured bantering, it would be hard to guess the truth: that not one member of the group knew each other until Men's Choir director, Dr. Johnson, placed them together. "We don't normally hang out all of the time. We've actually built our friendship through this group," they admitted.

Despite this obstacle, these guys seem to be, quite literally, in complete harmony with one another. Stage Crew, a name which originated

during the group's first gig, (They reportedly wore black t-shirts reminiscent of those worn by stage crewmen.) consists of an assemblage of four parts:

First, there are two baritones—David King, who is a self-described "local boy" from Houghton (as well as the son of Houghton College's associate dean of music) and Aaron Hopkins, who comes from Pike, NY and is fan of 60's bands such as the Temptations. The second part consists of two bases— Ben Wendell, from Fredonia, NY whose role model is his former high school choir director, and all the way from Livonia, MI, Chris Olson, whose goals include following in his father's footsteps who is a choir director as well. Third, in the position of Tenor I, are Jeremiah Tyler and James Schmieder. The former, hailing from Corning, NY enjoys a variety of music, while the latter is from East Bethany, NY and adamantly claims his favorite music style is, "R&B... I'm not going to lie." Lastly, the fourth part is made up of a pair of Tenor II's—Dan Liggett, from West Seneca, NY, whose favorite musician is Ben Folds (a piano-rock artist) and Brett Potts, who confesses his dream that, "It would be awesome to sing with the Gaithers."

As for Stage Crew's future goals, the group hopes to hold together for the next four years and according to Olson, "...possibly get off campus and go to our home churches on tour." Tyler also added, "On a general level, we want to glorify God... Everything we have is a blessing from [Him]." Stage Crew's next performance will be held at Java 101 on November 11th. Their website is at <http://campus.houghton.edu/orgs/choir/thestagecrewhomepage.htm>. ♦

-Tiara Liedy  
Staff Writer



## On Christian Politics: Grace, Mercy and Accountability

If we, in a Christian polity, are to behave in such a way as to let our lights shine before men, we must not only account for God's grace but also for His justice. While it is imperative that we do not judge, it is also imperative that we keep each other accountable. These two statements might seem contradictory, but they aren't. Judging involves pride; accountability involves humility. If we are judgmental, we are trying to achieve acceptance by pumping ourselves up over others, rather than realizing the love and acceptance we have in Christ. The key lies in understanding that "there is none righteous, no not one." (Psalm 14:1, Romans 3:11) We all exist in a fallen condition, and therefore are not in a position

to judge, but we do have a necessity for accountability.

Paul writes, "Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each others burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself." (Galatians 6:1-3, NIV) We read in James, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." (5:16a, NIV) And Paul tells Timothy, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2

Tim. 3:16-17, NJV)

What does a Christian community look like, then? Well, we should be gracious, merciful, and forgiving, so that people feel comfortable being open and honest with each other. We should be free to confess and be accepted and forgiven, rather than forced to carry around a burden, knowing that we would be shunned and rejected if anyone ever found out. We should be able to confront people in love, not judgment. We should help each other live lives of integrity. We should be to each other as Christ was to us.

So many people reject Christianity because many Christians don't follow Christ. People leave the Church, or want nothing to do with it because in it,

they see arrogance, hypocrisy, and pride. This should not be! To be a "city on a hill" does not mean that we are to live set apart and worry about appearing holy. It means that we need to be a community that exemplifies Christ in our daily dealings with each other and with outsiders. In reality, we are not holy. God is Holy and makes us righteous and perfect, but we are not there yet. We are all fallen and all in need of grace, mercy, love, and accountability, and until we start practicing these in community, people will not see Christ in us, nor will they want anything to do with Christianity. ♦

-David Clem  
Guest Writer



## This Week In Politics...

On October 15th, after delaying voting four times, Iraqis approved their nation's new constitution. 78 percent of voters were in favor of the document, with a 63 percent voter turnout. The constitution lays out a basic framework for a democratic, federal republic, with a bicameral legislature, a President and Prime Minister, and a Supreme Court. Certain powers are also delegated to groups of provinces assembled into regions. The document recognizes rights that have long been standard in the West, such as freedom of speech and religion, but also grants authority to the "undisputed laws of Islam." In all likelihood, deciding what exactly these "undisputed" laws are and how to apply them to society will be a central issue in Iraq for years to come. While ratification of the constitution is certainly a victory for a fledgling government struggling with violent resistance to the continued American and British presence in Iraq, the nation is still a long ways from stability; the constitution itself is very vague in crucial areas regarding

separation of powers and checks and balances between the branches of government. Also, none of the Sunni Muslims involved in the drafting process signed the final document, failing to alleviate the religious tension that is perhaps second only to the US occupation as a source of strife in Iraq.

October 27th saw Bush Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers withdraw from the confirmation process. In her withdrawal letter, Miers wrote that she feared her nomination would be a "burden for the White House and its staff and it is not in the best interest of the country." Translation: the Senate Judiciary Committee had blasted her responses to their questions as "insufficient," "inadequate," and downright "insulting," and getting his nominee laughed out of the Senate would not help Bush's 58-percent disapproval rating. Moreover, in an effort to determine if Miers, who had never served as a judge before in her life, actually had any qualifications other than thinking Bush was "the smartest man [she'd]

ever met," the Senate had requested documents on her consultations with the administration that the White House adamantly refused to release. Bush has yet to announce a new nominee for the opening created by Sandra Day O'Connor's retirement.

In the latest development of the Plame Affair, aka "Plamegate," on October 28th Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald issued an indictment of Vice-Presidential Adviser Lewis "Scooter" Libby for his involvement in the disclosure of the undercover identity of CIA operative Valerie Plame, who's husband, former ambassador Joseph Wilson, had publicly criticized Bush's "evidence" of WMD's in Iraq (which have, of course, not been found). Libby is accused not only of leaking Plame's identity to reporters, but of lying to cover up his involvement, and the possible involvement of those higher in the administration. Charges include obstruction of justice, perjury to a grand jury, and making false statements to the FBI. Immediately following his indictment, Libby

announced his resignation. The much-anticipated indictment of administration mastermind Karl Rove failed to materialize, however he remains under investigation and leading Senate Democrat Harry Reid has called for his resignation, citing Bush's earlier vow to fire anyone involved in the leak. Senator Schumer also called for close scrutiny of Vice President Dick Cheney's involvement in the affair and, with references to the Watergate scandal that brought down President Nixon, bluntly suggested that a thorough shakeup of the Bush administration was needed in order to alleviate public perception of rampant corruption in the White House. ♦

-Dan Perrine  
Columnist



E-mail your response to this or any other article to the editor: star@houghton.edu ♦

## Letter to the Star:

Victoria Kempton's article "If I May..." correctly argues that the political brouhaha over Intelligent Design theory in public schools has missed the point. However, I fear Kempton has also missed some important points surrounding the I.D. debate.

First, I.D. is not creationism repackaged. It is not an apologetic bent on justifying a religious philosophy, as Kempton seems to imply. William Dembski has written that I.D. has no prior commitment to supernaturalism or any specific theology. An agnostic, as well as a Buddhist, could comfortably accept the science of I.D. within their worldview.

Second, the ad hominem assumption about I.D. theory, based on Dembski's own beliefs, is fallacious. Kempton displays a hint of this assumption, which pegs I.D. theory as a scientific justification for Christianity. But such thinking fails to properly confront the theory itself. Would we deny a feminist reading of history simply because it was formulated by a woman? So, why is it that a Christian scholar cannot draw conclusions about an intelligent designer from empirical evidence?

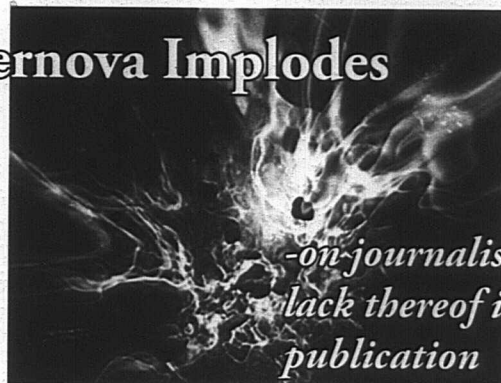
Finally, the methodological naturalism promoted by Kempton can isolate science from other academic disciplines. The strict, naturalistic demand, ignoring any hint of things beyond the empirical world, builds a wall around science. And this wall is often breached. Whenever a scientist draws conclusions about such non-empirical things as the human mind, sexual orientation, and the origins of physical matter, they have stepped outside the bounds of methodological naturalism.

I.D. theory is not a scientific system, nor is it a chimera of evolution. It should not be a Christian political platform, nor should it be shunned because it fits well into a Christian worldview. It should be criticized, tested, and falsified; only then can we know the truth of its validity.

Sincerely Yours,  
David Davis ♦

Faculty Recital  
Donna Lorenzo,  
Viola  
November 9, 8pm  
CFA Recital Hall

## Supernova Implodes



*-on-journalism or  
lack thereof in student  
publication*

The Houghton College campus has been forced to acknowledge the presence of an overabundance of yellow, stapled packets floating around the Campus Center. The independent student newspaper, *The Supernova*, was released on campus last Tuesday. The paper's audacious prose certainly drew some attention.

I would first like to commend the writers, whomever they may be, that if their intention was to make a statement, mission accomplished. In case anyone didn't catch *The Supernova*, allow me to enlighten you on the content of the particular piece in question.

The anonymous writers, anonymous not for the sake of this piece but because they declined to sign their finished product, addressed the alleged 'falling short' of this year's homecoming SPOT. The initial claim, "Was that it?" highlights their obvious disappointment with the performance. However, the author continues with the contradicting statement, "I honestly don't think there was a single act I did not enjoy."

Was it a success, or was it not? This inconsistency is the first indicator of the lacking journalism that was inflicted upon campus in *The Supernova*. Contradiction doesn't make for a powerful thesis, nor does it boost any confidence in the reliability of the opinion presented.

Secondly, the SPOT blunder most emphasized by *The Supernova* was the song selection by the house band. In particular, *Supernova* writers criticized The Killers' "Mr. Brightside." I would like to know how one can make such a judgment on the lyrics sung in SPOT, when on the following page contains a review of secular movies in which one writer states, "Will Ferrell is a genius". Ferrell's, *Bewitched* flaunted a proud three out of four

rating. How can a crude sense of humor like that of Will Ferrell be acceptable at a Christian college, when supposedly 'immoral' song lyrics are not?

These allegations and contradictions embody the true nature of a supernova, an exploding star that exploded right in the laps of its authors.

All tongue-in-cheek comments aside, however, the biggest problem with the independent student newspaper was its anonymity. I should hope we have learned to accept differing opinions a long time ago. More importantly, we should grasp our right to express our own opinions and appreciate the bravery of others in expressing theirs. *The Supernova* failed us.

The point is that the writers who contributed to the newspaper need to recognize that one can not make such lofty accusations and then not sign their names to it. Authorship shouldn't define a writer's assertions, but it should authenticate it. I'm expressing my opinion and doing so in a moderately critical manner, expecting any manner of responses, but I will respect the reader enough to sign my name to this.

Rumor has it that the names of contributors will be released this coming week. If so, they are too late. Perhaps the underlying purpose of *The Supernova* was to create hushed whisper of "who was it" all over campus. In that aim, they succeeded. In the aim of bringing another legitimate publication to Houghton College students, they failed. ♦

-Lindsay Yandon  
Staff Writer

## Quotables

Jillian Carey, admission counselor, asked during an admissions staff meeting, "So, if we're working towards an enrollment of 1400 students, what is the plan for housing them all?" Tim Fuller, vice president for enrollment management replied, "Everyone buy a futon."

send in your quotables to [star@houghton.edu](mailto:star@houghton.edu)



## The Camp Wrath Songbook



Stroke of Thursday

by Andrew Davis



Joe and Ducko

by Joseph Freeman

