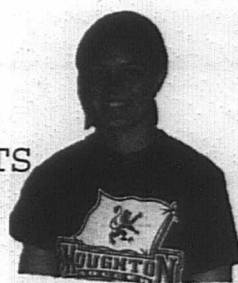




When asked whether or not the Iraq War has increased the threat of terrorism around the world. Students responded with Yes: 27%; No: 35%; I don't know: 34%; we're only more aware of it due to the news media coverage: 6%.

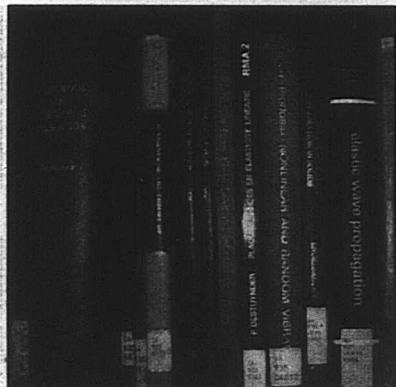


October 18, 2006

Volume 102 Issue 3

THE HOUGHTON STAR

Petition in the works to open the library on Sundays



The library may not be harboring a dark secret that Jimmy Dutton so light-heartedly likened to the Black Plague in his recent column, but the building certainly is bustling with activity and controversy. With the new floor up and the bridge nearly completed, the library is the center of much attention on campus for the first time in decades. The newest story, however, has not quite been set in motion. Steve J. Woolsey recently stated his intention to start a petition for the library to be open on Sundays. He feels strongly about the issue and is convinced that the student body shares his concern.

His first point is that students who require an isolated, quiet workspace can find none on Sundays, since "nearly every building is locked up." Why can students not complete their research before Sunday? Woolsey gives the example of an athlete who is away for the weekend and does not return until Sunday morning. He also feels that Sunday is a prime study day, since "nothing else is scheduled." It is his opinion that the students at this institution have the right to "have this resource available to us every day." The faculty and staff of the library were not insensitive to these issues. "We certainly can't argue with any of Steve's reasons," said Acting Director of Library Brad Wilber. "We're sympathetic to his reasons."

He and Library System Operator Sharleen Holmes, however, made it clear that opening the library on Sundays would not be an effective or appropriate solution to the problems Woolsey raised. Wilber explained that, in addition to the philosophical concerns regarding working on the Sabbath, the prospect of opening on Sunday presents significant staffing challenges. "Any time you have a staff member or librarian [working Sundays]," Wilber expounded, "it would take that person off circulation on a weekday. We need those people during the week. We've never been in a position to hire people just to work on the weekend. We have who we have to work with." The college budgets a certain amount of money for library employees every year, and to go beyond those is no small matter.

In response to the suggestion of student workers covering the Sunday hours, Wilber stated that they "have stayed away from that" because of "the safety issue; we want to make sure that people are never alone. Student workers appreciate having someone to turn to for backup." Wilber also acknowledged the problem of the lack of sufficient study space: "That may be something that the school can brainstorm about without approaching these big staffing obstacles. I do think that is a big issue." Holmes reminded those who find the weekend to be the only time they can do research that "We have more and more resources online," and "They can access that anytime."

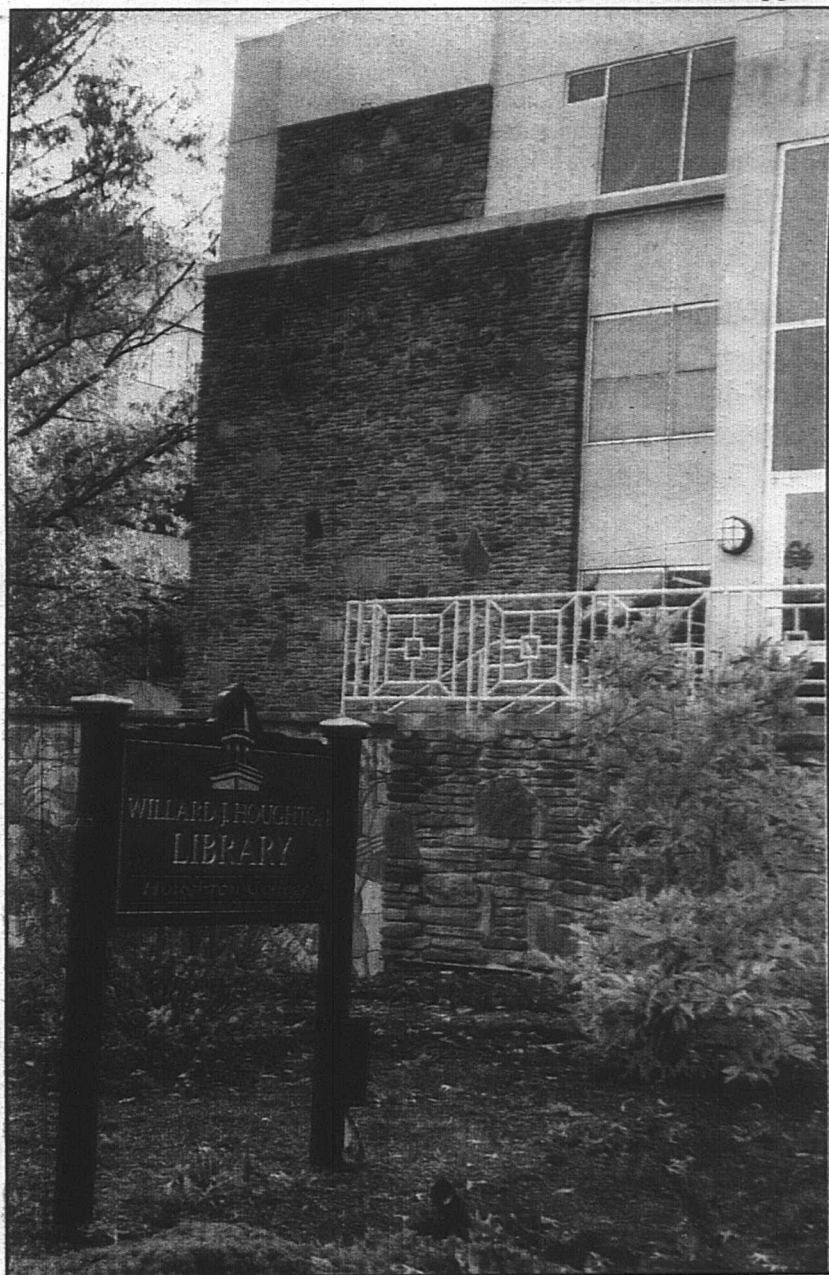
The college faculty was divided on the issue. Drs. Stegen and Case encouraged Woolsey in his views. Dr. Stegen stated that "the library should be open on a Sunday from 1:00 P.M. to

6:00 P.M." since "this time frame will not interfere with people going to church and [will] give students a quiet place to study." Dr. Walters, however, while conceding that "it would be somewhat hypocritical for me to criticize the library being open when I find myself patronizing [many] businesses on Sunday," objects to the possibility of encouraging the "culture of busyness" fostered in Houghton, a culture "that is counter-productive, even

destructive to the kind of spiritual and psychological health that ought to characterize a place like this."

Dr. Young observed that "the library is not closed on Sundays out of respect for the Sabbath, but out of respect for people--both the library faculty who are already the only faculty who have to work on Saturday, and would now have to work on Sunday, and to the students, who have the right to a day

-LIBRARY continued on pg 8



A closer look at student life

When the phrase, "student life" is uttered on the Houghton College campus, the response from many members of the student body is that of hostility and bitterness. Unfortunately, Student Life is becoming alike to the Principal's office in middle school; a place of discipline. To clarify, in reality Student Life has not actually assumed the form of disciplinary dictator but campus opinion has shaped it as so.

It is regrettable that a body with so many other features aside from discipline has to fall under such a stigma. Both faculty members working in the Student Life Office and others affiliated with it are pivotal resources to students but are inhibited from their full potential by the fact that students do not feel welcomed to an organization that is most often described as a, "disciplinary body." Students do not consider the Student Life office as a place to ask questions, a place to seek answers, and a place to feel welcomed, when that's exactly what it is and how it should be perceived.

The bad reputation that students have wrongly associated with Student Life has prevented it from fulfilling its potential. This is the potential to be a service to students, the potential to welcome student comments and questions, and the potential to have a positive

relationship with the student body.

Now comes the most difficult part.

What has created the bad relationship between students and Student Life on this campus and what has caused the student body to ignore its advantageous efforts to focus on the fraction of their responsibility that includes discipline?

I think the answer to this question is two fold and therefore does not lend itself to a simple solution.

First, the fact that disciplinary action is lumped into the same realm of responsibility as residence life, organizing chapels, and managing other activities is problematic. What we as students don't always realize is that Student Life does so much more than enforce rules. We fail to see this due to the fact that disciplinary action overshadows other efforts. Breaking down the wall of association and putting some division between actual "student life" and discipline would be a step in the right direction. The student body could then experience and better appreciate the potential that Student Life has to positively affect their college experience and act as a source of encouragement and comfort rather than intimidation.

Second, we approach another question. To understand where

the shaky relationship between Student Life and students stems from, we must explore why students find so much fault in how they handle disciplinary action.

Most importantly, discrepancies arise when the word of one person is placed against the word of another. The, popular "getting caught" attitude stems from undue credit being placed on the testimonies of bystanders. That's not the real world.

It seems only realistic that the sole infraction that should result in extraction from Houghton College is the breaching of a serious rule in the presence of an authority figure such as a RA, faculty/staff member, or member of administration. Such a serious penalty deserves no room for error and requires exact awareness of offenses. Hearsay only complicates such situations.

An important struggle that arises is how, we as Christians should approach those that break rules clearly established by not only Houghton College but our faith as a whole.

Further, I think that we as Christians not excluding myself are often too quick to judge. It is important to not forget our calling to support our brothers and sisters in Christ in their walks of faith. What message are we sending when we reject those that stumble when we profess acceptance, forgiveness,

and love? In short, a poor one.

No excuse is acceptable for those that break clearly defined rules. But the harder part of discipline is delivering it with love. Accomplishing this very thing is what makes Christianity attractive and inviting.

The reputation of Student Life has been slightly tainted but I do not think that it is unredeemable. Something must be done to bring its role as a resource and support system to the forefront and move discipline behind the curtain. The only way to do this is to change student opinion. It is not fair to Student Life or the students to have one of the most important offices on our campus marred with petty misconception.

-Lindsay Yandon,
Editor-in-Chief

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

Opinion also opens itself up for challenge, so write responses! But make sure they question the writer's stance, not our reason for publishing.

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS!

Guidelines for letters to the Editor:

Letters to the Editor must be signed, denote which articles they are in response to, and Should not exceed 500 words. Send all letters to the Editor-In-Chief, Lindsay Yandon via STAR@houghton.edu. All letters are subject to editing at the discretion of both the Copy Editors and the Editor-In-Chief. Letters are due on Monday at 5pm, one week before the next issue. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Letters that exceed 500 words can be sent in the form of a response column and will be printed as an article but should not exceed 750 words.

In response to Redefining Pro-Life

Not a Step In The Right Direction

Response from M. Chase Whittemore

To lump political views together, so that to be "pro-ecological" is to be "pro-life," is not to help but to hurt the views Airhart so wishes to see in the lime light. To redefine the term "pro-life," as done in the October 3rd issue of The Star, is to add ambiguity to a well-defined term. "Pro-life," as it stands before Airhart's redefinition, is a stance against abortion; it is not a stance against helping those who live in poverty.

There is a need for all of the Biblical values to be on par in politics. "Pro-life" gets the spotlight, this is true. And when the elections

come in November, "pro-life" will be a platform, while keeping the environment clean or working to heal the AIDS epidemic in Africa will most likely not be. But this is not a reason to redefine a term of such power, of such clarity, of such momentum as "pro-life."

Instead, if we make points of the "pro-life" movement we will create fractions in a once-unified cause. Some will disagree on the point of abortion, but find most if not all of the other points to be virtues. And if they are uncompromising in their values, they will not

-WHITTEMORE, continued on pg 8

Response from Justin Zaner

I am writing in response to the article titled, "Redefining Pro-Life" in the most recent issue of the Star. Admittedly, the title was enough to arouse my suspicion and not without due cause. Too often I've found similarly-titled articles in which progressives argue that hypocritical right-wing fanatics are ruining Christianity by prohibiting abortion while not supporting other causes of life; but the progressives then go on to prove that they, too, are hypocrites.

What Christians should be supporting, these quintessential Christian leftists chide, is an

inversion of these contradictory views. But let's look at the logic of what these well-meaning Christian progressives are proposing. They point out that $2+3$ is not giving us 4. Okay, good point, and I agree with them on this. The trouble then comes when they present to us their wonderful new equation: $3+2=4$. Feeling smugly satisfied, they then sit back and enjoy the next episode of The Daily Show. But I, being at least mildly adept with 1st grade math, cannot accept this. If William Airhart wants to use "pro-lifers" own views to spur them to his

-ZANER, continued on pg 8

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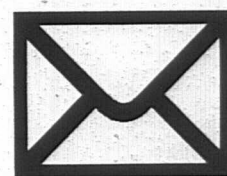
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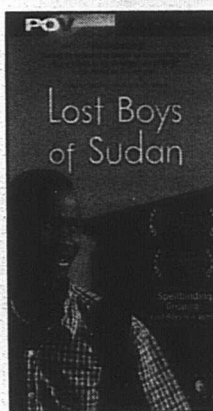
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LOST BOYS OF SUDAN

October 24, 8:30 in the Recital Hall

*2 Sudanese boy refugees in
journey from Africa to America.*

Discussion will follow featuring Dr. Arensen
and a sponsored letter writing campaign to
Congress for awareness.

Costume Party



Sponsored by CAB

Saturday October 28
8:00 PM
Dining Hall

Dress up and win!
Enjoy food, games and tons of prizes!



Writers Wanted

*Interested in being a staff writer for The
Star? Want your voice to be heard on
campus? Contact the editor via*

star@houghton.edu

Townhouses & Flats Laser Tag Excursion

Sunday November 5, 2006

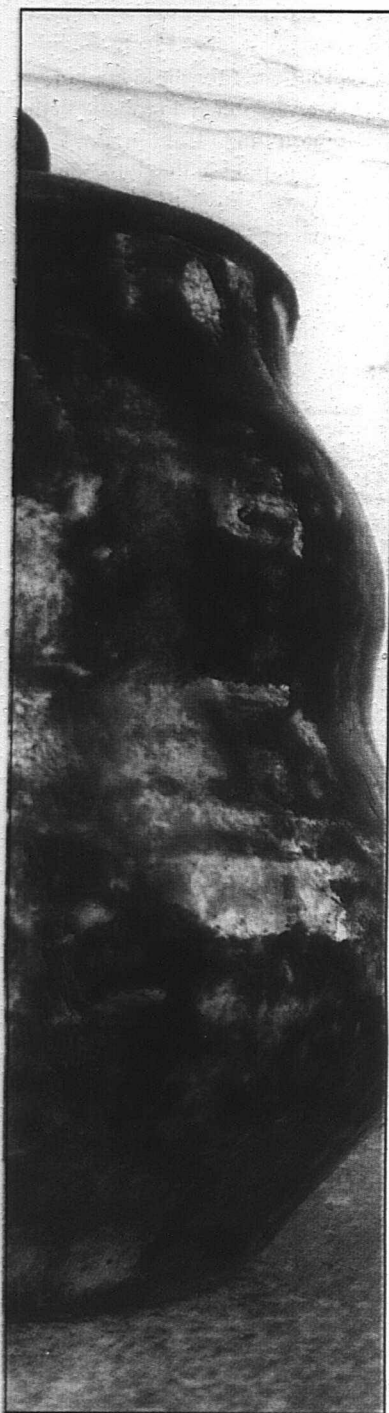


1/2 off the price for first 20 people
who sign up after the e-mail is sent!

Sign up times: 1:00pm-3:00pm or 3:00pm -5:00pm
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Watch for e-mails and flyers for more details

FEATURED ARTIST: MAGGIE BELL



A History and Art major, Maggie Bell finds great satisfaction in her work in ceramics. The times when she walks out of the art building feeling most rewarded by her experience are those when she has made objects which are both beautiful and useful. The richness of this creative act comes not only from making functional pieces, but by admiring and using them as well. When she looks at her work, she sees both the product and the process; her own strength and physical gesture echoed in the shape of the piece.

Beauty and functionality go hand in hand, and the things that function best are often the most visually pleasing. Maggie told the story of her professor, Gary Baxter, remarking to her class that their teapots had "the spouts upside-down." What he meant was that since the teapots had spouts that only turned up instead of turning up and forward, it would be more difficult to pour the tea nicely into a cup. They had all thought their spouts looked a little wrong, but had not understood the functional problems with their pieces. By turning the spouts out and then down, the teapot would both pour better and sit more gracefully.

Maggie has learned a lot from the work of Alice Barry, a former Houghton art professor. In her work, Ms. Barry does not smooth out every joint or hide every imperfection because she enjoys showing the process of the craft involved. Maggie commented that Ms. Barry's attitude of valuing the imperfections has impacted her attitude toward her own pieces. She

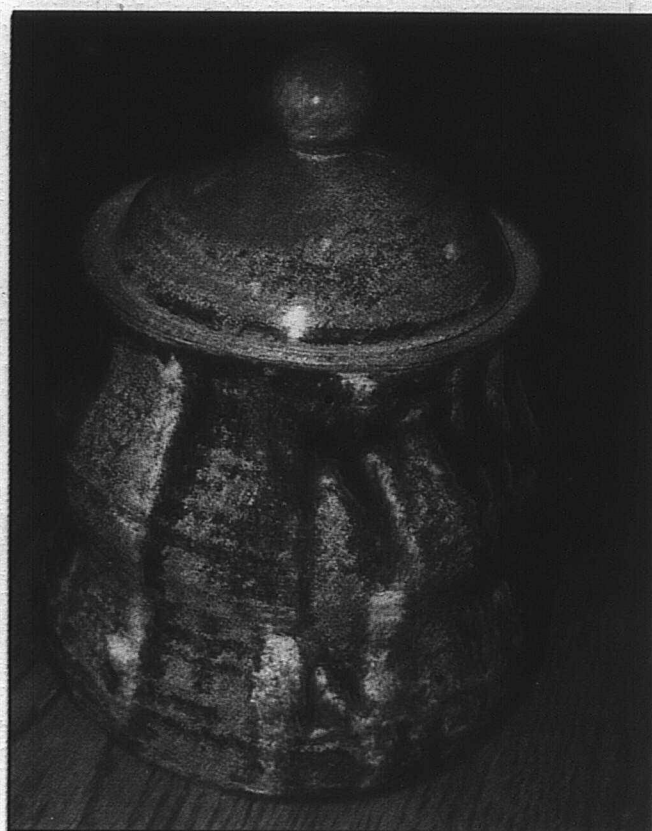
has now grown to see unevenness in the glaze or the texture – imperfections which would previously have made the perfectionist in her squirm – as expressions of an artist's humanity.

Over the past few semesters, Maggie has been experimenting with decorative textures in her pieces. One technique she uses involves dripping and painting with "slip," which is clay mixed with water to the consistency of a thick liquid. Though she found the form of her first project involving slip to be unattractive, the technique itself excited her with its flexibility and versatility. Using that project as a

starting point, she now uses slip to embellish the bare lids of casserole dishes.

Maggie does not know if she will pursue ceramics on a professional level. Working with clay is not something she ever wants to lose, but she does not know if she could maintain the joy in it if she were making 100 mugs a day. Regardless of the capacity in which she continues, ceramics will be a part of her life which, like any of the arts, echoes God's original creative act – making and treasuring those things one makes.

-Clara Giebel, staff writer



A Blast from the Past

Our world ten years ago

Around the world

France agrees to end nuclear testing
Britain alarmed by an outbreak of "mad cow" disease
South Africa gets new constitution
Dr. Ian Wilmut and his team clone the world's first sheep from adult cells named Dolly.
Global warming climbs to record

Home front

Population: 265,189,794
Bob Dole sweeps primaries
F.B.I. arrests suspected Unabomber
President blocks ban on late-term abortions
Republican convention nominates Bob Dole and Jack Kemp
Democratic convention nominates incumbents Clinton and Gore, who win the national election
Clinton appoints Madeleine Albright as first female US secretary of state

Let's talk money

US GDP: \$7,661.60 billion
Federal spending: \$1572.41 billion
Federal debt: \$5207.3 billion
Median Household Income: \$35,492

Unemployment: 5.4%

Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.32

Sports

Super Bowl: Dallas v. Pittsburgh (27-17)
World Series: New York Yankees v. Atlanta Braves (4-2)
NBA Championship: Chicago v. Seattle (4-2)
Stanley Cup: Colorado v. Florida (4-0)

Entertainment

Academy Award, Best Picture: Braveheart
Janet Jackson becomes the highest paid musician in history when she signs an \$80-million deal with Virgin Records.
Jazz great Ella Fitzgerald dies
Gangsta rapper Tupac Shakur is shot four times in a drive-by shooting. He dies six days later at age 25.

Movies

The English Patient
Jerry Maguire

Books

Frank McCourt, Angela's Ashes
Steven Millhauser, Martin Dressler: The Tale of an American Dreamer
Graham Swift, Last Orders

Life is a skyway, I want to drive it all night long

Ever since humans realized they could suspend themselves in the air if they bent their knees and pushed off of the ground ("jumping," in layman's terms), we as a race have always wanted to see if we could go higher. This is what brought on the vision of Houghton's new skyway. In case you don't know what this is and just thought those huge pillars outside the Chamberlain Center are new types of trees that Houghton was trying to plant, first of all, rethink whether or not you can actually make it through college. Second of all, the skyway is the long rectangular thing protruding from the third floor of the Chamberlain Center to the third floor of the Library.

Now, I'm all for things like this. Skyways are cool, and it makes me think that we are just one step closer to having moving sidewalks around campus, like in *The Jetsons*. However, I had certain expectations for this new technological improvement, none of which have been met. For instance, I thought for sure that this

skyway would be almost entirely glass. What I mean is that the walls would be glass and a traveler through it would be able to see Houghton's campus all around them. Now, it would have been awesome if the floor was also glass, but I wasn't going to cry if it turned out that it was just a stupid plain floor, which it is. But instead of having walls and ceilings of glass, the skyway is pretty much entirely enclosed. There are windows on both sides, but they're not that big, so basically it's just like you're in another hallway within a building. What's exciting about that? I'll answer for you - nothing.

Another beef I have with this new skyway is its lack of any great height. Now just because Houghton already has the tallest building in Allegany County (Lambein), they figured that they didn't need to achieve anything else in terms of building height. But how enthusiastic are you about walking through a skyway that is only a measly three stories off of the ground? Would the Hough-

ton community not have been more excited to travel, say forty or perhaps fifty stories over the campus? Now, in order to do this, either the Chamberlain Center or the Library would have to have had a great number of floors added to it. They wouldn't have to be equal in height; that way, instead of a skyway, they could have built a sweet slide that went from the top floor of the now massively taller building to the lower one. See? This just adds even more possibilities for Houghton's growth. More classrooms could be added in the other floors, perhaps a multiplex movie theater, a zoo, and other such great ways to entertain the bored Houghton students who can't come up with entertaining activities themselves. Also, one of the new Phys. Ed. classes could be "Basejumping 102" from the tall building that now adorns Houghton's campus. I'll stop this argument if someone comes up to me and looks me right in the eye and tells me that these ideas are not the greatest things since canned pineapple.

The last thing I hate about the skyway is that Houghton refuses to name it after me. Now, I'm not saying that I have done anything great for the school or, you know, "donated money" to the Houghton fund. But I do think it is worth mentioning that the "Smithers Skyway" gives it an extra kick. I'm not sure who they are going to name it after, but I can say for sure that it won't sound as cool as the Smithers Skyway. It rolls off of the tongue just like other great engineering feats, like The Leaning Tower of Pisa, The Eiffel Tower, and The Mona Lisa.

Now, I didn't want to bring statistics into this, but I've been forced to in order to further prove my point that Houghton failed in their construction of the skyway. I surveyed five people who don't like the skyway, and 100% of them said that they don't like the skyway. How do you answer to those statistics, Houghton?

-Marc Smithers, columnist

A Philistine dialogue

What follows is a dialogue between two Philistine soldiers as they watch Goliath march out to fight David.

Soldier 1: Oh man, look at Goliath walk out all confident. That is classic Goliath. Look at him, he doesn't even care. He didn't even brush his teeth this morning, he cares so little.

Soldier 2: Do you know him?

Soldier 1: Know him? Of course! Before he met me he was really self-conscious about his height.

Soldier 2: Oh yeah? What'd you do to change that?

Soldier 1: Well, I played a little trick on him. I said "Hey G-giant, if you worship false idols you'll shrink to a normal height." So he started worshipping them.

Soldier 2: Oh wow...

Soldier 1: Yep.

Soldier 2: But doesn't he know that false idols are...well...false. I mean come on! Everyone knows that. We only bow before cows because it's funny. You know, you bow down and you're like "oh holy cow, you are so idol-like in your idleness," and they just sit there chewing their grass. It's hilarious!

Soldier 1: I know, I know, but let's just say that Goliath got an alpha in Olympics and an omega in Philosophy.

Soldier 2: Ohh...burn.

Soldier 1: It's true.

Soldier 2: So what'd he do when he found out you lied?

Soldier 1: Oh, nothing major. He just stole my family and killed all my livestock. Meh, easy come, easy go, I guess. [laughs]

Soldier 2: Yeah, tell me about it; the livestock market is a tricky business.

Soldier 1: It can be, but my advice is to buy low in a valley, sell high on a mountain.

Soldier 2: Good advice. So, tell me more about Goliath.

Soldier 1: Ok...hm, well, he's obsessed with "dog jokes." He's always like, "What am I? A dog that you come at me with cold stew?" or "What am I? A dog that you buy me a pet dog?"

Soldier 2: Wow, that's annoying.

Soldier 1: Tell me about it. [hears 1 Samuel 17:43]...oh see? There he goes again. I feel sorry for that boy out there. I don't know what's worse: Goliath's sense of humor or Goliath's sense of killing.

Soldier 2: You'd think a man of his size wouldn't be as desperate for attention as he seems to be.

Soldier 1: I know! I was just speaking with Jabesh, Rohamesh, Bellimesh, Thisroomsamesh, and Ricky yesterday about how crappy his childhood must have been.

Soldier 2: It's been pretty tough, eh?

Soldier 1: Yeah it has, it made him into one mean freak of a giant man.

But recently...something happened...

Soldier 2: What?

Soldier 1: Well, he was walking along, right? He wasn't bothering anybody. Suddenly, he came upon the Alive Sea, which doesn't seem so alive nowadays, they might want to rename it...but anyways, he thought he could swim across it. So he ungirded his loins...

Soldier 2: Ew...

Soldier 1: No, no, it means he took off his belt. Anyways, after taking off his belt he unbound his thongs...

Soldier 2: Ew!!

Soldier 1: The thongs of his sandals! Oh my Ba'al, you're dumb, even for a Philistine. What's your name anyways?

Soldier 2: Phil

Soldier 1: Phil the Philistine?

Soldier 2: Yep.

Soldier 1: That's unfortunate.

Whatever. Back to the story! So he was about half way across when he got a giant cramp.

Soldier 2: Wait...is that a cramp that only giants can get?

Soldier 1: What? No, it was just a really big cramp...

Soldier 2: Oh...sorry.

Soldier 1: Anyways, he starts drowning. So he's thrashing around for a little bit but he can't stay above water, so he screams, "If I get out of this I'll be a better person, I promise!" And then, as

soon as the words left his mouth...a miracle happened.

Soldier 2: Really? A miracle? What kind?

Soldier 1: Well...it wasn't actually a miracle...it was more like he realized that he could stand up in the water.

Soldier 2: Wow...

Soldier 1: Yep, so he says that after this battle he's going to turn his life around and go down the straight and narrow. He's even thinking about writing an autobiography called "My Giant and That Giant Is Me So I Guess It's More Like Me Giant."

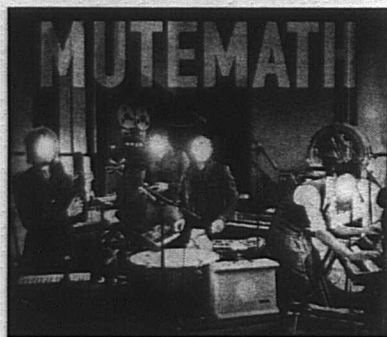
Soldier 2: That's a long title...but, good for him...I guess. Let's look at the bright side: he could really turn things around for the Philistines. As soon as he kills this Israelite we'll... [witnesses 1 Samuel 17:50-51]

Soldier 1: Holy cow!

End

-Jimmy Dutton, columnist

Review of MuteMath by MuteMath



The year 2004 brought a slew of fresh faces into the music industry, but none more distinctive than the indie/partial electronic/rock outfit, MuteMath. The brainchild of Paul Meany was born out of the rubble of the long defunct Christian act Earthsuit. MuteMath is a non-classifiable, non-comparable four-piece band. This fact has made them the poster child for the new face of the "Christians-in-a-band-but-not-a-'Christian band'" genre (it's confusing I know). Their first album, *Reset* (an EP released in 2004), began their journey as a band. Their first single, "Control" from that album, encountered great success on Christian radio and even landed MuteMath a spot on *WOW* 2004. Their growing legion of fans eagerly awaited their first full-length album, but they were forced to wait for much longer than they would have hoped. Now over 2 years since their debut, MuteMath finally releases their much anticipated full-length LP.

The album opens with an instrumental song entitled "Collapse." There are a number of instrumental songs strategically

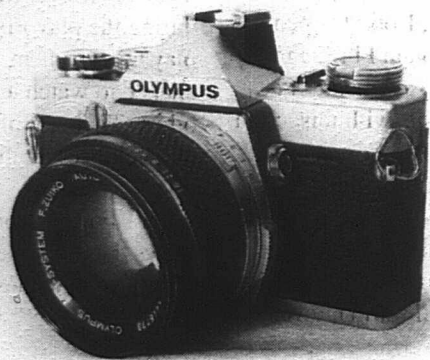
placed throughout the album; some are short and act as transitions, others are full length songs that are more reflective. The first full song we encounter is "Typical" where the 'usual' simply isn't good enough: "Cuz I know there's got to be another level/ somewhere closer to the other side/ and I'm feelin' like it's now or never/ can I break the spell of the typical?" "Chaos" could be seen as directed to God: "It's hard to trust anyone again/ after all the let downs I've been through/ ...I know you stay true when my world is false/ everything around's breaking down to chaos..." "Plan B" is one of three songs that made the cut onto the LP from *Reset*. "Stare At The Sun" is a desperate plea for people to settle their differences because they get us nowhere: "The sky is always wondering, 'what are these arguments are about?'/ you think we would notice our eyes are burning out/ we should have learned by now." Later on in the album, "Picture" is about a lost relationship: "I pictured you and me always/ and in this photograph we're safe."

The album overall is a very strong release, especially as a full-length debut. While the wait was long for this album, it was worth it. I would recommend it to anyone who is bored with their music collection and are craving something fresh and new.

Grade: A

-Justin Hackett, staff writer

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS



Are you someone who doesn't leave the house without your camera? Do you like to capture unforgettable moments on film (or memory card)?

Have your work published.

The star is looking for photographers to snap shots of campus events and other news items.

If you're interested, please contact the editor via

star@houghton.edu

PoLaRiS: American Politics

This issue's PoLaRiS topic was on American Politics. I was thrilled about knowing more of students' opinion on political issues. However, the extremely low student participation in this poll has made me consider turning PoLaRiS into a black hole. The low participation in PoLaRiS is probably rooted in some of the technical difficulties we had with SharePoint—which disenfranchised a vast number of students; at the end, only the truly persistent and faithful got to respond to this poll. Also, students might not read their Campus Wide e-mails and Daily Views, or are not interested in PoLaRiS at all. Anyway, here are the results...

All 132 respondents gave President Bush a percentage grade. George W. Bush received an average sixty-five percent in his performance as president. Moreover, exactly sixty percent of respondents "strongly approved" (17%) or "somewhat approved" (43%) of George W. Bush's overall performance as president; (Sixty-five percent of respondents thought that President Bush's image was damaged by the reputation of government officials like Donald Rumsfeld, Karl Rove, and Dick Cheney.)

Sixty percent of respondents identified themselves with the Republican Party; a meager twelve percent identified themselves with the Democratic Party, being beaten by two percentage points by those who did not identify themselves with any political party. Interestingly enough, Independents and Greens tied with a two percent, while Libertarians were marked by six percent of respondents.

Then came the policy-specific questions. In a scale of one to ten (low: 1-3; average: 4-6; high: 7-10), students evaluated the importance of fourteen different political issues or governmental policies in the American government's agenda. Eighty-six percent of respondents believed fighting the War on Terror was of average to high importance.

An overwhelming majority (84%) thought focusing on domestic economic issues (poverty, wages, inflation, taxes, etc.) was of high importance. Sixty-four percent thought reducing/eliminating tax cuts for the rich was of low to average importance, while eighty-nine percent of respondents thought it was of "average importance" or "high importance" to fight governmental corruption.

Reducing or eliminating the recently extended executive powers was of low to average importance for sixty-two percent of respondents.

The two traditional moral topics couldn't be avoided: seventy-seven percent thought the U.S. government should focus on banning abortions, while sixty-nine percent thought the US government should focus on banning same-sex marriage. Seventy percent of respondents thought eliminating the death penalty was of low to average importance.

Tied with a whopping ninety percent were increasing humanitarian aid to developing countries and increasing America's involvement in aiding in humanitarian crises (e.g., genocide, famines, epidemics, natural disasters). Handling illegal immigration by way of making the borders more secure was of "average importance" for thirty-seven percent of respondents, while almost half (48%) said it was of "high importance."

Next came two questions about the Iraq War. Six percent of respondents believed the U.S. and allies should immediately withdraw in full and let Iraqis govern themselves; one quarter believed the US and allies should withdraw completely within one year from now; twenty-seven percent thought the US and allies should withdraw completely in the next two to three years; forty-three percent of respondents identified themselves with the motto "Stay the course, Mr. President!" (referring to not withdrawing until all pre-established goals have been achieved in Iraq). Related to this same question was the question of whether or not the Iraq War has increased the threat of terrorism around the world. Yes: 27%; No: 35%; I don't know: 34%; we're only more aware of it due to the news media coverage: 6%

Lastly were the views on Iran and Venezuela. Eighty-three percent of respondents found it of average to high importance to do something about Iran's potential nuclear ambitions (Fifty-five percent of responding students believed "imposing more and different types of sanctions to Iran (US-lead or through the UN)" was the better way to handle this situation; sixteen percent believed the US should let Iran enrich uranium; no one recommended a full-force invasion, and only three respondents suggested bombing the nuclear facilities; thirty-six percent were not sure what should be done). Seventy-two percent found Hugo Chávez's desire to make Latin America less dependent on the US of low to average importance, while eleven percent were not sure what to think about this issue.

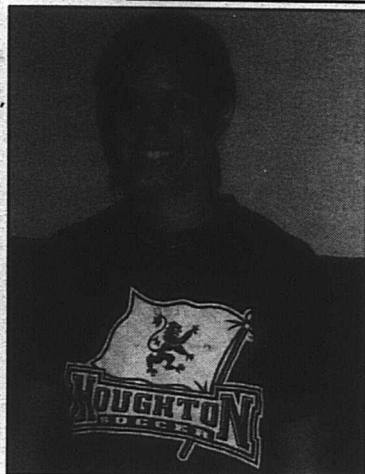
Many thanks to Chris Krowka, Ryan Musser, Will Silbert, Anna Kruse, and others, for helping this issue of PoLaRiS come about!

Note: PoLaRiS is in no way a professional opinion poll and its results should not be used as official statistics. Some percentages might not add up to exactly 100 percent due to rounding. All fill-in responses were either discarded due to irrelevance, added up to one of the main options due to their resemblance with the default options, or made a separate category.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions for future topics or specific line items, please contact Inti-Martínez. Keep playing PoLaRiS or it'll become a black hole!

Re-writing the Houghton record book:

Kowalczyk pursues scoring record



Kowalczyk

As the Houghton College women's soccer team enters the final third of its season, the school scoring record is in danger of being eclipsed. Junior striker Bethany Kowalczyk, a two-time NAIA First Team All-American, aims to shatter the Houghton women's career goal-scoring record of 88, currently held by Heidi Gugler (Class of '95) and Heather Shear (Class of '98). As her quest for a place in Houghton athletic lore reaches the spotlight, Kowalczyk humbly stresses teamwork and praises God for her athletic success.

Kowalczyk, a Waterford, Pennsylvania native, is no stranger to individual achievement. In her

freshman year alone, Bethany set the Houghton record for goals by a freshman with an AMC-leading 29, while earning national acclaim in Sports Illustrated. Building on her impressive first year, Kowalczyk's leadership and potent scoring ability pushed the Highlanders to their third consecutive NAIA National Tournament in 2005.

Although Kowalczyk's knack for timely finishing is unquestioned, Coach Lewis emphasizes her well-rounded talent. "Beth's goal-scoring ability attracts attention," Lewis states, "but she is team-oriented. She knows that her ability to find the net is a major part of her contribution to the team, but she also displays excellent off-the-ball defense."

Kowalczyk herself underscores Coach Lewis' statement that she succeeds within the framework of the team. "To be honest," the striker responds, "I try to stay away from focusing too much on statistics or awards. Yes, they are nice, but ultimately I would like to see our team as a whole reach its potential this year."

In discussing her personal feats, Kowalczyk praises God for her athletic ability and courage

to overcome obstacles. During a physical 4-1 victory over Walsh University in early September, Beth sustained two torn ligaments in her knee. Despite initial frustration and disappointment, Kowalczyk did not lose faith; her experiences on a summer mission trip reminded her to seek God for healing and peace. Two weeks later, physical therapists were baffled to find that they could no longer locate the tear; Dr. Brubaker commented, "I think the Lord touched your knee."

In light of her collegiate success, Kowalczyk credits her brothers for shaping her as a player and a person. "My brother Bryan, a former Houghton men's player, coached me for a few years in club and in high school," Kowalczyk recalls. "I owe a lot to him, along with the rest of my brothers, for pushing me to succeed in both soccer and my walk with the Lord."

Following her graduation from Houghton as an elementary education major, Kowalczyk hopes to elevate her soccer career to new heights. After spending the past two summers with the Steel City Sparks of the Women's Premier Soccer League, Kowalczyk may follow the footsteps of Houghton

great Jamie Wellington by joining the Charlotte Eagles of the W-League, the highest level of women's soccer short of the national team. Even if she chooses another professional path, Beth remains optimistic; "It's hard for me to think that these could be my last two years of soccer," she states. "I hope they aren't, but my primary goal is to make a difference in people's lives."

As the Highlanders prepare for the 2006 postseason, Kowalczyk recalls the hope that emerged from an otherwise gloomy national tournament exit last year. "After we lost to Westmont 3-2," Kowalczyk confesses, "I remember how upset we were as we returned to the vans. Nonetheless, the team turned on praise music and worshiped together. It was just a really awesome experience to be on a team where we could do that." Kowalczyk personifies that there is more to sport than personal achievement; through her willingness to represent Christ on and off the field, Bethany Kowalczyk accentuates her athletic prowess with a humble, Christian attitude.

-Ben Tsujimoto, sports writer

Houghton College vs. Roberts Wesleyan: A 'spirited' rivalry

The word 'rivalry' evokes strong emotions in the sports world; loyal fans of the Duke Blue Devils and North Carolina Tar Heels, the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox, the Buffalo Bills and Miami Dolphins easily identify with this passion. No match-up is more fiercely anticipated, no defeat feels more devastating, and no victory tastes sweeter than against the rival team. The competition between the athletic programs of Houghton College and Roberts Wesleyan College triggers similar emotion; however, the spiritual element of this forty-year rivalry sets it apart from the rest.

Since Houghton College introduced collegiate athletics in 1967, matches against American Midwest Conference North Division opponent Roberts Wesleyan College have served as an integral part of the fall sports season. What accounts for the heightened excitement surrounding these two schools? Houghton athletic director and women's basketball coach Skip Lord states, "Since we are the only two Christian liberal arts colleges in Western New York, I suppose that some comparison of the schools is only natural. It hap-

pens spiritually, academically, and socially, too, but the athletic part is probably the most visible."

Clearly, the close proximity of the two schools accentuates the rivalry; every other year, the Student Programs Office organizes a trip for the entire freshman class

"...it is an awesome opportunity to play with a Christ-like attitude and represent Jesus in front of all the fans. There is no game in the world I would rather play than a soccer game against Roberts Wesleyan."

-Ernie Walton

to experience the opening Houghton College vs. Roberts Wesleyan College men's soccer match as part of orientation. With four bus loads of Houghton students combining with swarms of home supporters, the August 28th match produced the highest attendance in Roberts Wesleyan College history.

With so much hype surrounding this event, the emotions of fans, players, and coaches reach

record heights. Houghton men's soccer captain Ernie Walton personifies this excitement: "I know there is going to be a huge crowd at the game, so it is an awesome opportunity to play with a Christ-like attitude and represent Jesus in front of all the fans. There is no game in the world I would rather play than a soccer game against Roberts Wesleyan."

Likewise, Roberts' men's soccer senior captain Phil Schmitt echoes Walton's statement: "Playing under the lights with fans cramming the bleachers like a sardine can, students standing three deep behind the fence, and the comfort of a warm, fall night allowed the Houghton-Roberts rivalry to thrive this year, and will for many years to come." These comments illustrate that the anticipation and anxiety prior to the match are shared not only by throngs of fans, but by the players as well.

In contrast to the intensity that surrounds the match, the spiritual dimension of this rivalry reduces the sense of fierce opposition; the profanity-laced tirades of Duke's Cameron Crazies and the insensitive New York City media scrutiny are not apparent in this

rivalry. "Regardless of the result," Roberts Wesleyan Head Men's Soccer Coach Mark Fish claims, "we also appreciate after the game the opportunity for both teams to pray together side-by-side in the center of the field."

Also, Stefanie Swanson, captain of the Houghton Women's Volleyball team comments on her interaction with Roberts players during the playoffs, "We did not play against them, but we had the chance to watch and cheer for each other. That sort of experience really helps to put things in perspective."

Furthermore, Coach Lord views these competitions as an opportunity to witness to other colleges. "Wouldn't it be awesome to attend a contest between the two schools and see a huge crowd on both sides watching a high-caliber game, cheering loudly and positively for their team while appreciating excellence on both sides of the field? What a witness we could be to outsiders who happened to see our events!"

For one coach, the Houghton-Roberts rivalry holds sentimental value; Houghton Women's

RIVALRY continued on pg 8

News from Outside the 'Houghton Bubble'

I don't know what it was like back in the States, but even here in London, the news of the school shooting in Pennsylvania covered the front page of papers for a few days. Stories searched for reasons why Charles Roberts, a 32-year-old apparently suffering from twenty years of guilt, would kill five little girls and then kill himself. He entered the simple Amish schoolhouse Monday morning, asked the boys and women to leave, and then proceeded to tie up the girls. When the police came, he panicked and opened fire. Three of the girls were found dead immediately, two died later that night, and three remain in critical condition. This tragic event was the third school shooting within a week in the U.S., the other two taking place in Colorado and Wisconsin.

Between 600 and 700 Iraqi police officers have been poisoned and 11 have died in Numanayah, a base 80km south of Baghdad. An

investigation is underway to determine if it was intentional.

The French prime minister has announced that France is going "smoke-free" in public places next February. Recently Europe has joined the movement to decrease the amount of second-hand smoke the general public is exposed to daily. The BBC reports that "opinion polls in France—often considered a nation of smokers—suggest 70% of the people support the ban."

California's luck with vegetables this fall hasn't been the best. Less than a week after the Food and Drug Administration lifted its warning on fresh spinach grown in California's Salinas Valley, a popular brand of lettuce grown there was recalled Sunday over concerns about E. coli contamination. Better luck next year, California.

Until the next Star, this is Elyse Drum reporting from London.

WHITEMORE

-continued from pg 4
vote "pro-life" (I wonder if such a person will vote at all). In the next few years, I hope people start to focus on other humanitarian problems than just abortion. Airhart mentioned the irony of capital punishment, the problems of poverty and other humanitarian platforms that are forgotten at the voting booth each year. I hope we can change this. I want to see an end to the AIDS epidemic and an end to the apathy towards poverty, the death sentence, and the impact that driving Hummer H2s has on our ecosystem, but is redefining "pro-life" a step in the right direction? I have to say no.

ZANER

-continued from pg 4
causes of social activism, he must remember to actually include their views and come out as definitively against abortion as he has against the death penalty. Alternatively, he could make non "pro-life" arguments for abortion and such, but that's not what he's chosen to do. He chose to support peripheral pro-life causes while being very indecisive about the cornerstone of the movement.

Well, Mr. Airhart, it is wonderful that you want to convert people to social activism (I myself am anti-death penalty and ecologically minded), but no logical person will be convinced by your

call to expand their definition of pro-life while the person making that call—you—is leaving room for limits in your own definition.

LIBRARY

-continued from pg 1
off. As Jesus put it, the Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath. We should think carefully about whether the opportunity to spend more time working is really to anyone's advantage in a society that is already focused beyond reason on work."

-Hilary, Young, staff writer

RIVALRY

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Soccer Coach David Lewis vividly recalls the return of three former Houghton players as Roberts Wesleyan soccer coaches. "Their eyes watered up remembering their days making that walk as Houghton College players, and now they were back to coach a team they once played against. That was a special night and proud moment for me because they were now experiencing the game and relationships from a whole new angle as coaches."

Because of the strong bonds and powerful memories, Coach Lewis defines the competition between Houghton and Roberts as a 'relationship' instead of a rivalry. In place of the 'bad blood' that marks professional rivalries, Houghton College and Roberts Wesleyan College compete athletically to glorify Jesus Christ, who "unites all in the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

-Ben Tsujimoto, sports writer

THE HOUGHTON ENQUIRER

Greg Bish for President of the United States of America

Greg Bish, current Director of Student Programs announced this past week his future plans for running in the 2008 presidential election. Aside from acting as the backbone of Houghton College, he feels that he has some free time to give back to this country as a whole. His campaign slogan is, "Scholar-Servant in the White House" and he hopes to prove where a liberal arts education can get one in this country. Inevitably, this means that Bish will not be at Houghton College as much as is necessary for someone who runs every committee, activity, and get to know you game on campus. He is, however, currently working with the science department to create a duplication device that will allow him to be in two places at once; President of the United States while still presiding over Houghton College. We haven't seen the last of Greg Bish.

**This is satire... sarcasm... not true... it's ok to laugh!*

Find this funny? Want to write it?
If you are interested in writing these satire pieces, please contact the Editor via

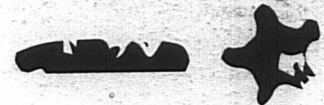
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Event Advertising



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