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THE World OUT there

BY ROSA GERBER
STAR STAFF WRITER

Iraq delivers declaration on weapons

One day ahead of the United Nations' deadline, Iraq delivered its declaration on weapons of mass destruction on Saturday to U.N. inspectors. The documents left Baghdad Sunday for Vienna and New York to be reviewed by inspection teams. U.N. inspectors continued to search for illegal weapons at a geological analysis facility in Baghdad and a northwestern pesticide factory on Sunday.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein apologized to Kuwait for invading the country in 1990, as the declaration was handed over. He also urged Kuwaitis not to support the United States in any attempt to wage a military strike against Iraq. In a statement read by Information Minister Mohammad Said al-Sahhaf, Hussein said, "Their motive is to steal your wealth and turn you into slaves working for them...and turn your leaders into agents working for American oil companies in Washington." Kuwait's Information Minister, Sheikh Ahmed al-Fehed al-Sabah announced Kuwait rejected Iraq's apology and said the apology just repeated Iraq's previous excuse. "We believe the apology should be addressed first to the Iraqi people, who are being repressed," he said.

Claiming to have "clear evidence" of an extensive Iraqi weapons program, U.S. intelligence agents said they were skeptical about the declaration. U.S. officials doubt Iraq described their program honestly and completely in the almost 12,000-page document and 12 CD-ROMs. Materials included 1,334 pages "on the area of Iraq's biological activities, 1,823 on chemical activity and 6,887 on missiles," as well as information on Iraq's nuclear activity. The CD-ROMs were expected to contain information that Iraq

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College initiates "Dean of Chapel" position

BY JULIE PALMER
STAR STAFF WRITER

The Vice President of Christian Ministry position currently held by Dr. David Lewis is about to undertake a radical transfer. Dean David Tilley and Dr. Ronald Oakerson have recently finished the process to create a new position in the college administration. This position will be called Dean of the Chapel and will take effect in fall of 2003.

The current position is a conglomeration of jobs. It is one third church relations, one third chapel coordination and, in the case of Lewis, one third soccer coach. In addition to trying to perform three tasks at once, Lewis has also had to deal with reporting to three different people. Tilley said, "the new position will be significantly different" than the current position.

The new dean will be dedicated to the spiritual development of the college. The position will be full time, and that person will be in charge not only of chapel but also in charge of discipleship, student ministry, worship experiences, and nonacademic missions trips. Tilley said that the dean will have the job of looking at the way chapel is currently run and rethinking how it should look from the bigger picture. However, Tilley also emphasized that this position is not strictly about chapel, it is about having a "stronger focus on spiritual life" at Houghton.

The Dean of the Chapel will report only to Tilley, but will also hold a teaching position in the department of religion. The applicant must be willing to teach one class a semester. This is so that he or she can stay

in touch with the student population. Currently both Tilley and Oakerson are teaching classes.

An applicant from a national search will fill the position; however, this does not mean that someone from Houghton, even Dr. Lewis, could not fill the

ciency and organizational ability. They are also looking for someone with a terminal degree who is ordained within the "broad Wesleyan tradition."

Tilley emphasizes that this position is about the college making a stronger commitment to spiritual



Dr. Chamberlain lit the traditional Christmas tree in Monday's chapel service. Soon chapel services will be planned by the "Dean of the Chapel," who will hopefully be in place by next fall. PHOTO BY BETHANY SCHWARTZ

position. The search committee includes Dr. Michael Lastoria, Dr. John Tyson, Denise Bakerink, Matt Webb, Dr. Michael Walters, and Dr. Kristina Lacelle-Peterson. Scott Wilkins is the student representative. Dr. Tilley and Dr. Oakerson will also be interviewing applicants. The search committee is looking for a person with high energy, creativity, passion for spiritual development, preaching skills, teaching profi-

life, not about changing chapel or replacing Dr. Lewis. The administration feels that spiritual life at Houghton is important enough that there should be a dean over this area. They also feel that this position should be created to streamline the current structure so that spiritual development at Houghton gets one person with that as his or her sole focus.

Dangerous corner makes winter accidents likely

BY MELANIE MARCIANO
STAR STAFF WRITER

Every day students, faculty, and community members are driving and walking around the Houghton campus. The entrance to the college and steep hill that leads to the main campus is particularly frequented, being the primary access road to the college. Since the construction of the road (County Route 35), it has been a dangerous place to drive and walk. There are many signs that warn pedestrians not to walk down the hill due to the many blind spots and lack of shoulders, but sometimes people have ignored the signs.

Fifty years ago a student was killed walking down that hill, and accidents still occur frequently. On November 19 there was a two-car head-on collision on the perilous incline that could have been

avoided if the drivers could have seen around the bend of the narrow hill or been able to swerve off the road. In the beginning of last year, there was a different accident in the same spot involving a bicyclist riding down the hill.

For the past twenty years inches of the road have been falling away. Unless the road is rebuilt, the road will keep falling away and become more of a risk factor.

The administration of Houghton College is concerned about the safety of the hill and has been speaking with a site-engineering firm to draw up plans to construct a new entry way to the campus. Since it is a county road, the college has to get everything approved by the county superintendent of highways. Houghton College Vice President for

Finance Jeff Spear contacted the Superintendent after the November 19 accident and strongly suggested a new entrance be put in.

Until the road is rebuilt, students must do what they can to avoid accidents by driving slowly, obeying the speed limit, never walking or riding bikes down the hill, and trying to look around the bend of the hill. In the winter, with icy conditions and a decrease in visibility, drivers need to be extra cautious, make sure to brush off car windows, and drive even slower. If anyone is involved in any accident on the Houghton campus, be sure to contact Jeff Spear so that he can better gauge the severity of the problem.

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had already given to the U.N. The document also addressed dual-use programs, in which Iraq claims to serve civilian objectives, the U.N. suspects they might be used for developing and stocking weapons.

The U.N. Security Council had decided Friday to not allow anyone to review the document until U.N. inspectors examined them. They have the power until Resolution 1441, approved in November, to analyze and even edit the document before sharing it with the U.N. Security Council. Iraq claims the document "should prevent any threat against Iraq."

Eighteen killed in Bangladesh blast

Bangladesh's government had ruled out a connection with al-Qaeda in a series of bombs exploding in four crowded movie theaters over a 30-minute period on Saturday. More than 200 people were injured and 18 killed in Mymensingh, a small town about 70 miles north of capital city Dhaka. Bombs exploded from the projection rooms of the theaters, packed with mostly Muslim customers celebrating the Eid-ul-Fitr festival, marking the end of the Ramadan month-long fast. Officials estimate that approximately 3,000 people were in or near the theaters at the time of the bombings.

No organizations or people had claimed responsibility for the blasts, and officials had identified no suspects. Police detained 21 employees for questioning.

Fifteen people were killed immediately and three others died in hospitals on Sunday. Doctors feared the number of deaths would rise because many of the wounded were in critical condition. Hospitals were poorly equipped for such a large-scale disaster and requested additional medicine and people to donate blood.

Two Van Gogh paintings stolen

Overnight Friday, thieves broke into Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum and stole two paintings by the famous 19th century Dutch artist Vincent Van Gogh. The paintings were taken from the main exhibition hall where many works by Van Gogh were displayed. The paintings were the 1882 "View of the Sea at Scheveningen," a small boat risking a stormy sea near The Hague, and the 1885 picture of the church of Neunen, where Van Gogh's father had been the pastor.

Campus groups offer students opportunities to serve community

Houghton Helping Seniors by Melanie Marciano

Ever since the beginning of last semester H2S (Houghton Helping Senior Citizens) has been reaching out to seniors in the Houghton community; lending a helping hand to do chores, rake leaves and fellowship. H2S was formed to bridge the gap between college students and area seniors when six members of Dr. Shea's Growth, Relief and Development Class were instructed to create a community service project. About once a week or so during the spring and fall Dave Hough, Jill Carey, Danielle Luckey, Dan Reiley, Katriana Keely and Belinda Hamilton round up Houghton students to go out and minister. They also set up one-on-one long-term commitments between students and seniors where one student can get together on their own time with one senior to build a relationship with them while helping them around the house.

Most of the people H2S gets involved with are members of the Houghton Wesleyan Church, and many of them are retired Houghton professors. It is a great experience to get a first-hand account of Houghton history. Students can learn from more-experienced Christian role models while repaying them for some of what they've given to the Houghton community.

Raking leaves has been the biggest thing H2S has been doing this fall, but as the snow falls there will be many driveways to shovel. Last year they

tried to get some shovelers together without success, this winter H2S continues to hope that people will volunteer.

If you're interested in becoming an important part of the Houghton community and building relationships with seniors, contact Jill Carey for the next H2S outreach.

The Waters Nursing Home ministry by Emily Schwartz

When I tell people about the nursing home ministry, most people say, "Oh I didn't even know that there was a nursing home in Houghton." Well, there is a nursing home in Houghton. It's called The Waters of Houghton and houses approximately 100 residents.

Alison Harle was the founder of the nursing home visitation ministry. Since she was my RA in East Hall my freshman year, she dragged me up the hill with her. At first, the thought of visiting old sick people scared me half to death. The first woman I talked to couldn't hear a word I said, wet her bed, and then tried to get me to sit next to her on the bed. I was convinced that I'd never go back.

It's been four years since I first started visiting the residents of The Waters, but it seems like four weeks. I can't believe I've been a part of some of these people's lives for four years. I hate to graduate and leave them all behind. I have developed relation-

ships with the sweetest people. I have seen people come to a greater understanding of Christ.

So what exactly do we do? Once a week, a group of us get together in the Campus Center, take a Houghton Wesleyan Church bus up to The Waters, and spend an hour visiting with various residents. We go to their rooms or stop and talk to people in the lounges. We read to them. We laugh with them. We wheel them to the cafeteria. We have activities, such as bingo and bowling (they love that!). Once a month, we have a communion service for them.

Last week, one of my resident friends described our visits as "sunshine visits." I absolutely love that analogy. Our purpose is to bring them sunshine—to brighten their lives a little. We are also bringing SONshine—letting them see the love of Christ. And as we bless them, we are blessed. I can't even describe the feeling I get after I've been up there visiting. Even when I don't really feel like going, or when I don't feel like I have anything left to give, I've come to realize that when we pour ourselves out for one another, God fills us up in a way that no man could ever do.

We'll be going Christmas caroling next Saturday at 2 p.m. For our weekly expedition, meet us on Tuesdays at 4:15 in the Campus Center to visit The Waters. If you are interested but want more information, contact Emily Schwartz or Tim Stanley.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

a weekly profile by Brian Quinones

Full Name: Rudolph D. Reindeer

Age: Only your venison dealer knows for sure

Alma Mater: North Pole University Honors Program in Houghton

Graduating year: Back before the great union split with the Keebler elves.

Hometown: In the North Pole

Previous Position: Laughing stock of the 2000 Reindeer Games

Marital Status: Currently engaged to Prancer.

Current town: North Pole, in the north part

Current Position: Sled Guider Number 1, especially on foggy Christmas Eves

How did you hear about Houghton College for the very first time? Well, Big Red and I were traveling through New York and we flew into this one area that had more snow and reindeer than the North Pole. When I asked Santa where we were, he said, "Why, Houghton, of course."

Favorite Building on campus: That roof of the Academic Building.

Favorite Sport: Sled Racing

Favorite pro team: The Buccaneers!

Involved in any Houghton activities/clubs/organizations? I like to help give Security a ride around campus on particularly snowy or cloudy nights.

Favorite movies: *Santa Clause 1 and 2*, *Perfect Storm*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Scrooged*, *A Very Brady Christmas*, *Bambi*

Favorite TV Show: The Simpsons (especially the one with Santa's Little Helper)

Grandma got runned over by a reindeer; was it you? I have the right to remain silent.

Who do you think deserves a lump of coal this year? Now, I am really not supposed to tell you this, it's against company policy. BUT, if I were a betting reindeer, my money would be on Greg On.



"Are you ready?" an Advent essay by Rosa Gerber

"Oh, crud."

That was my initial reaction to the realization that it was Advent Sunday. Dangerously close to being late for church, I had just run across the icy street from my house. My previous night had been crammed with frantically catching up on some of the work I had neglected during the five-day Thanksgiving break, and my morning had consisted of rushing around to gather and pack my clothes and books to go back to school. I hadn't had time to dress nicely, and my mind was preoccupied with the quickly falling snowflakes covering the road.

A feeling of dread washed over me as I entered the sanctuary. Last Sunday, the congregation had decorated with wreaths, red ribbons, a nativity scene arranged on the altar, and two glowing Christmas trees on either side of the pulpit. An advent wreath stood slightly to the left of the pulpit.

Decorated church. Advent wreath. The surrounding scene suddenly came into focus. I slipped into the front pew; my brother slid in beside me. This display could only mean that it was the First Sunday of Advent. I anxiously leafed through the bulletin. This is not good, I thought. No names were listed beside the "Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle" line. Oh, no.

My family has a standing tradition of lighting the first Advent candle for the church. When my brother and I were younger, it was fun: tinkering with the tall microphone until we could reach to read scripture, arguing over which one of us would light the candle, and grinning at the congregation as our parents read that Sunday's Advent devotional. The tradition continued after my parents graduated from seminary and started pastoring at two separate churches, but only the family members present participated in the event. Yet my brother and I didn't light the advent candle last year since we both were at school. The tradition had completely slipped my mind until I walked into the green and red decked sanctuary. Since my mother usually lists the family lighting the candles, the nameless bulletin entry could only mean that the tradition was back.

I looked at Jay and glanced toward the Advent wreath. "Oh, crud."

He shrugged, uncon-

cerned. Of course, he looked decent. He had gotten more sleep than I had. I looked like I was ready to go to an outdoor recreation class. I was tired, disheveled, and worried about driving back to college.

From out of nowhere, my mother materialized. Robe flapping, she rushed over to us, leaned over the front pew, and asked, "Which one of you is going to read?"

"I'm not reading." I looked at Jay. He shrugged. I stutter when I read aloud. I would light the first purple candle.

"That's fine." Jay's composure couldn't be rattled.

"A little warning would have been appreciated," I told my mother.

"I'm sorry. I forgot about it until just now."

And, thus, the advent season began.

The word Advent stems from the Latin root meaning "coming" or "arrival." According to the *Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship* and the *Dictionary of Holy Festivals*, this holy season, developed in the Western Church, serves as a preparation for the festival of the Nativity, or the birth of Jesus Christ. Tradition suggests the observance of Advent dates back as far as St. Peter, but historical evidence points back to the fifth century when Maximis Tourmensis referred to Advent in a discourse. In 524 A.D., the Synod of Lerida declared Advent a Church festival, forbidding marriage from Advent Sunday, the closest Sunday to St. Andrew's Day on November 30, until Christmas Day. The Nestorians, the only part of the Eastern Church to observe Advent, celebrate by fasting for 25 days. History credits Gregory the Great with introducing Advent into the Roman Catholic and English Churches, which observed Advent through fasting and refraining from participating in public amusements and festivities. Modeled after Lent, Advent began as a six-Sunday observance in the Roman Catholic Church. The structure later was cut down to five and finally four Sundays before Christmas. Protestant Episcopal and English Churches celebrate Advent through special services and as the beginning of the Church year. Particularly in the Lutheran, English, Protestant Episcopal, Greek and Roman Catholic Churches, Advent has become

an accepted practice, as well as a time of repentance in preparation for the coming of Christ.

Churches have considered four different meanings to the coming of Christ. The first refers to Christ's birth in the Bethlehem stable. The second suggests Christ's coming to Christians at the time of their death. Mentioned in Matthew 24:30, the third proposes Jesus coming at Jerusalem's destruction. The fourth signifies Christ's coming on the Day of Judgment. Yet, the focus for

mas Eve in the contemplation of the incidents of which the approaching festival is commemorative, and in devout and self-questioning anticipation of the Day of Judgment."

I never realized how little I knew about Advent. I never really thought about the term before. To me, Advent was the time of the Christian Church year when we, as the body of Christ, reflected on the events leading up to Christ's birth in a manger two thousand years ago. People always talked about preparing



Christ's coming in Advent is commonly on His birth and His coming on the Day of Judgment. Thus, Christians consider the Advent season to be an appropriate time for repentance in preparation for this event.

The *Dictionary of Holy Festivals* expresses modern Christians' attitudes toward Advent well. It states:

"Originally, and with stricter verbal propriety than now, the word Advent was taken to mean the time of the birth of Christ—His arrival, or having come, rather than His coming. But the Church has always loved dutifully to cultivate the idea of preparation for seasons of uncommon sanctity; and one effect of this disposition has been to throw back Advent over a season of three or four weeks, intended to be spent as a long-Christ-

for Christ's coming. This didn't make sense to me. Christ had come. Were we just pretending all these years haven't passed and literally preparing for Christ's coming, pretending the baby would be born again in a matter of weeks? The realization came to me, though: Christ wasn't coming to earth again as a baby. The next time Christ comes, Christ will be here in whatever form He chooses to bring judgment and collect His people.

In *The Genesee Diary*, Henri Nouwen describes the beauty and faithfulness of the Advent season he sees in this commemoration and writes: "This feast day gives Advent its true character. It is indeed primarily a season of joy. It is not, like Lent, primarily a time of penance. No, there is too much anticipation for that.

All-overriding is the experience of joy." For Nouwen, Advent is not about dwelling on imperfections and sins, but it is a time of great excitement as he prepares to celebrate Christ's coming.

As Christians, we believe Christ was humbly born in a dingy manger in the little town of Bethlehem some two thousand years ago. Christ came to the earth to die. In His death comes celebration; in His death comes life. He died so that we may live, live eternally. In His scriptures, God promises to come again to earth, this time to judge the righteous and the wicked, at the end of the world. We don't know when Christ is coming again, so we must always be prepared and "never acquiesce in the belief that it is far away." Advent draws our attention back to this command. We observe Advent to remember and to thank God for what He has done for us. Lighting the candles of our faiths, Christ encourages us to remember Him and His sacrifice year-round and to never stop celebrating.

It wasn't until that night that I realized just how blurred my faith focus had become. As I crawled into bed at school, I picked up *The Lord is Near: Advent Meditations from the Works of Henri J.M. Nouwen*. Meditating on Mark 13:35-37, warning us to keep awake for we "do not know when the master of the house will come," Nouwen writes:

"Be alert, be alert, so that you will be able to recognize your Lord in your husband, your wife, your parents, your children, your friends, your teachers.... When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord..."

A light suddenly came on. Nouwen hit directly on one of my life goals: to see Jesus working in every person I encounter. His prayer described my feelings exactly:

Good and gracious God, you know how much clutter fills my mind and heart these days. Help me to pay attention to your presence in my life. Help me to look for and find opportunities this Advent to become more aware of how you touch my life each day. May I become evermore a sign of your love in the world. Amen.

Happy Holidays

from your Houghton STAR

Merry Christmas to Ryan Alo from Cuzco the Goat.

Roommate (JA) - thanks for being a great friend and a lot of fun. Merry Christmas! -Roommate (JS)

Happy Holidays to all the great people I have gotten to know and to my team, The Underdogs! Ruth Ireland

I love you, Erin! Have a great Christmas in the best state in the USA! Love, Anna

Cat, I wouldn't be at HC if it wasn't for you! Cztwins4ever! Dora hamster! A+L Siamese twins 4 ever! Beth

Danny, You are such a wonderful blessing to me! This semester with you has been incredible! With Love, Jamie-angel

To the Ragamuffin family: You guys are awesome friends and great family! Merry Christmas and God bless you all! -Kristin

Jeremy Gorham, IYQ sooo much! Love, Erin

They will call him immanuel, God with us! This child, Jesus, will save the people from their sins!

You guys are the best. Giant Corndoggy, Boy Toy, and Whompus

Merry Christmas to all my friends. I hope you enjoy a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. -R. Ferguson

To the girls on 1st Old - Jenn my pre-calc buddy, Stalker, my roomie (mom) I love you all! Merry Christmas.

Merry Christmas, Squirrels!

Prancer - This is your time to shine! Merry Christmas! -Twister

Have a wonderful time in Japan with family and friends, Andrea

I love you. I'll remember you this holiday; will you remember Me? -Jesus

Merry Christmas, WNPB Ladies! Much love to you all!!

To my pre-calc sisters :) Have a Merry Christmas and don't have too many Ramen noodles without me over break! :)

Eckley, I'm calling you out!

"Boy," don't worry bout it!

Merry Christmas to the CWAHH House, the bestest house of them all! Have a very "special" holiday!

Merry Christmas to all the hard workers up at the horse barn from "Cindy's mom"

Andrea, Kyla, Rea, Dora, Nadine, Jen, Charla, Amber, Julie, Becky, Monica, Stephanie, Kristin, Rachel, Chris, Christine, and Leah - Have a merry Christmas and a happy new year. Thanks for your hard work. Evelyn

Melissar, my dear eater of beef, Mariar's dead from listening to Inkwell! Let's do a skit... ~Your bratty backseat bud

Dorothy, you are the hottest girl on campus!

Beware sucking on a candy cane until it becomes a sharp point. It can be hazardous to your health. *Laura

Cross Country- For mud fights, pie parties, the "no" game, joke night, burrs, ice skating, thousands, Ultimate, rope-a-dopes... Thanks! ELM

Marge Musafa: Merry Love and Happy Joy to you and your kin. -Gnarla

Jesse - we are even now...you with your iBook and me with my G4. Can I start calling you "Mac?" -Mini

Dear Ashley, Thank you so much for making this semester special. Merry Christmas! -Christian

Rochelle and Alicia: Thanks for a great semester. I will always treasure our friendship. I love you girls! -Mindy

Feliz Navidad, Nicole, te quiero mucho!

Wheat, you are the most jivin' roomie in Houghton! I get the party started but you keep it jumpin! -Joe

My dearest Zuli, Houghton or Heaven. Your kindred spirit, Brea

Chris, Being with you is the best gift of all! I love you. ~Karen

Make your apartment or dorm room a "coffee house" for friends

Here's an eye-opening idea: invite family and friends to an easy yet elegant coffee and dessert party. You can serve buffet style. Simply set out an assortment of cakes, pies and cookies, a platter of cheese and crackers, and some beverages. You can also have games on hand to keep everyone involved and socializing.

As for the coffee, a cappuccino machine is nice, but not really necessary. Serve a variety of types and flavors including regular and decaf. For a satisfying dessert drink, jazz up your coffees by adding additional ingredients such as semi-sweet chocolate and cinnamon; you can make an array of delectable recipes that are simple and fun to serve. Also, make sure to set out both whole and skim milk, sugar and artificial sweetener for your guests. Consider serving rock candy swizzle sticks, they add a sweet playfulness that your guests will love or for a really elegant touch try chocolate-coated spoons. Here's a tip on how to make your own chocolate-coated spoons, just melt semi-sweet or white chocolate, dip your spoons into the melted chocolate, cool on waxed paper, and serve with your coffee.

To help your coffee house party further reflect your good taste, two new flavored coffees are available from Maxwell House. You can offer a rich and sophisticated coffee flavored with a nutty touch of hazelnut or a smooth, delicious cup of enticing vanilla coffee. They're each conveniently packaged in cans with easy-open tops, making it easy to enjoy flavored ground coffees at home. They can be found at grocery, convenience and mass merchandise stores.

A good recipe to try with these flavors is:

Chocolate Java Escape

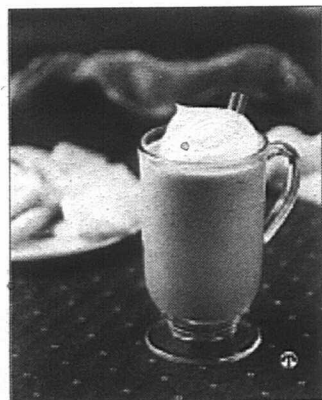
- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- 1 square semi-sweet baking chocolate, coarsely chopped
- 2 tbsp. sugar
- 1/8 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 2 cups hot freshly brewed strong vanilla- or hazelnut-flavored coffee

Place cream, chocolate, sugar and cinnamon in medium microwavable bowl. Microwave on HIGH 1 1/2 minutes, stirring after 1 minute. Stir with wire whisk until chocolate is completely melted and mixture is well blended. Stir in coffee.

Pour into large cups or mugs. Sweeten to taste. Garnish with thawed COOL WHIP Whipped Topping, if desired. Serve immediately. Makes 4 servings.

Cool Variation: Prepare as directed. Refrigerate several hours or until chilled. Serve over ice cubes.

A delicious idea for your next get-together: A coffee and dessert party featuring fine new flavors.



Review: Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" opens in Buffalo theatre

BY BETHANY SCHWARTZ
STAR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap," in its 50th year on stage, is the longest-running play in the history of theatre, and is now showing at the Studio Arena Theatre in downtown Buffalo. The play will run from Dec. 1 - Dec. 28.

"Is that real snow?" my date asked as we strolled into the theatre on Friday evening, referring to soft snowflakes falling outside of a window.

I shook my head; no, it was fake. I'd seen the play before.

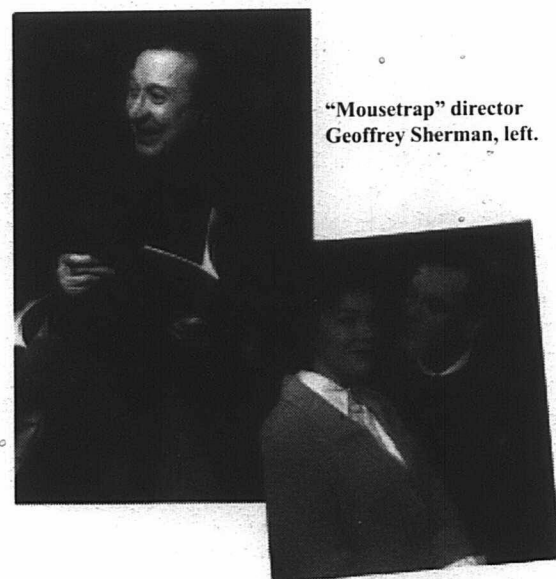
Seeing the play before was the only reason that I knew that the snow falling outside wasn't real. Walking into this theatre made me feel as if I really were walking into a rural English manor during a snowstorm in 1947. Pictures on the wall and magazines in the rack were vintage 1947, and the dark, elaborate wood of the wall and fireplace reminded me of something I would have read about in a book. The smallish theatre gives an intimate feel, allowing the audience to become part of the story.

Agatha Christie is the master of surprise endings in her murder mysteries, and this story is no exception. A murder has been committed near the Monkswell Manor on a snowy evening in 1947 England. Unbeknownst to the hosts, Mollie (Kaitlin

O'Neal) and Giles Ralston (Coleman Zeigen), their arriving guests will soon be suspects and snowed-in together. The suspense begins as the guests begin to check in: the neurotic Christopher Wren (Michael Zlabinger), prim and proper Mrs. Boyle (Jeanne Cairns), distinguished Major Metcalf (Ian Stuart), angry Miss Casewell (Katie

to leave you shaking your head in disbelief, "The Mousetrap" is performed excellently by this professional theatre company. The set was amazing and virtually every aspect of this group's performance was superb.

TGIFriday's is directly across the street from the theatre; we stopped for a bite to eat before heading



"Mousetrap" director Geoffrey Sherman, left.

Kaitlin O'Neal as Mollie Ralston, Coleman Zeigen as Giles Ralston, right.

Giles: "We're rather mugs at this game."

Mollie: "They bring luggage. If they don't pay we hang on to their luggage."

White), and the mysterious Mr. Paravicini (Richard Wesp). The tension continues to mount when Detective Sergeant Trotter (Cameron Folmar) skis through the snow-blocked roads to arrive at the manor certain that the murderer and his/her next victim is among the group stranded at Monkswell.

A tense show that's sure

off to see the play. Ticket prices may be a bit steeper than you'd want to pay, but I strongly advise you to check out "The Mousetrap" if you need a break from (or before you start) studying for finals. It's definitely worth it.

For directions or more information on this play and others, visit www.studioarena.org.

Cooking with Kathie: Christmas Egg Bake

Christmas is a wonderful time to entertain and we often have brunch for students. One of the favorite dishes we've served is Joyce Chamberlain's egg bake. I want to share the recipe with you and hope that you will enjoy it too.

Egg Bake

9-11 slices of white bread with the crusts trimmed off
6 eggs beaten with 3 cups of milk
1/2lb sharp cheddar cheese grated
1/2 lb Swiss cheese grated
1lb bacon cooked and crumbled
mushrooms canned or if fresh, sauted
other toppings can be chopped green peppers, onions tomatoes, etc

Butter a 13"x9" casserole and fill with the bread slices. Sprinkle with cheese and pour egg and milk mixture over. Let stand over night in refrigerator. Next morning, garnish with mushrooms, bacon, etc. Bake at 350° for 45-50 minutes. Served 8 to 10.

Serve with a big bowl of fruit and you have a delicious brunch.

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

by Chris Austin

Well, Star-reading comrades, I have received one mail-in question since I last wrote to you. Some may see this as puny; I see it as momentum-building, a force that is snowballing, an untapped source of potential energy converting to kinetic energy before our very eyes. So let's get right down to business.

This is the abbreviated form of the question because it is long and I have much to say:

Dear Chris,

How do you feel about Christmas songs being sung before Christmas season?

- Kris Kringle

To be honest, Mr. Kringle, I do not enjoy Christmas songs or carols to be sung before December, with the minor exception of Jingle Bells because Jingle Bells happens to be the only song I can play on a guitar. I have many reasons for this.

To begin, it is unnecessary to rant and rave about a season when it is not yet upon us. I would be ridiculed for hanging up Easter eggs around a tree during Christmas. This is because Christmas is not the same season as Easter, and their celebratory rituals must be restricted to their respective seasons.

Furthermore, the joy of Christmas cannot be exclaimed all year round because it would lose its special meaning. It would become ordinary. Mundane. Trivial.

Lastly, there are a substantial number of songs that are not sung often. Why? Because people are all singing CHRISTMAS songs when it is not even Christmas. That's why.

Now, Mr. Kringle, that the Christmas flavor is upon us, seasonal Christmas songs are welcome in my heart. "Carol of the Bells" should be blasted from the Fancher Building as far as I am concerned. But let's not start counting down to the New Year...

That is all for the Christmas song part of this paper's column, but there is another subject that reaches into the depths of my heart. For with Christmas time comes finals time, or what is commonly referred to in my home as "Anti-Joy Week."

Here are a few tips to help Anti-Joy Week be as painless as possible for you:

1.) Find a couch to study on. When you fall asleep, it will be comfortable, and there will be no neck cramps.

2.) Buy a small water pistol, to keep near your head. When someone comes into your study area and asks "How's the studying coming?" you can easily reply with a short liquid burst to the left elbow. They will take the hint.

3.) Eat. A lot.

4.) Get a study buddy, because when you stop studying, you know you want someone else to bring down with you.

These few morsels of advice should make Anti-Joy Week a beautiful time of year, just like Christmas.

We as college students (and perhaps faculty, if any faculty actually read this column) know that December weeks are tough times. One just has to buckle down and kick some school work in the backside. And that's what it is really all about.

This issue's key words are **mundane**, **anti-joy**, and again **CPO 17** because many of you said "Oh yes Chris, I will write you a letter," but oh wait, I only got one. So here is one more chance to make up for it.

Merry Christmas from me to you, and enjoy the snow and songs and the birth of Jesus and whatever else you like about this season.

EDITORIAL

Spiritual Dishes

Shelley Dooley

My spiritual life is like my kitchen sink.

Each day I eat in my apartment, so I always have dishes to do. It's not like the cafeteria—I don't have someone working for me to do my dishes. Instead, I have to consciously think about doing them. Occasionally I'll get busy and my dishes will pile up. I'll toss a bowl into the sink on my way out the door or leave my mug sitting on my desk. Bits of oatmeal will stick to the side of the bowl and tea will stain the edges of the mug. Once I finally take the time to clean them up, it seems like an endless task. I end up standing in front of the sink and scrubbing forever.

It would be much easier if I simply cleaned my dishes once I dirtied them. Instead of throwing them in the dishwasher—which we rarely run—or tossing them into the sink (in hopes that they will clean themselves), I need to discipline myself to do them one at a time.

In the same way that I let the dirty dishes consume my kitchen, I often let things "pile up" in my heart. I'll miss having my devotions and rather than starting again the following day, one miss will turn into two...two into three...three into four until I feel so badly that I don't know where to begin with God.

The dishes aren't limited to not having my devotions, but are anger, bad attitudes toward my friends, etc. I hate confrontation and try to avoid it at all costs. God is continually showing me how vital it is for me to clean my spiritual dishes once they land in the sink of my heart. Often I try to move past whatever is bothering me and ignore it. By trying to push things aside that hurt, my dishes quickly turn into little spots of bitterness that eat away inside of me and harm my relationships. I need to clean out my sink and let the dirty water go down the drain. But how do I even begin to start cleaning? It's obvious that I can't clean on my own.

But if I ask, God will provide the sponge, turn on the water, and add the soap.

The other day I stumbled across 2 Peter 3:14 that states that since we are looking forward to Christ's return we should "make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him." By continually cleaning out my spiritual dishes I will be working to remove all those spots in my life and it will help me to appear blameless before Christ.

As Christmas music wafts gently into my ears, I want my sink to be empty and my dirty dishes to be clean. What better time of year to clean than now? Our peers, professors and families are for the most part in a jovial mood. As we leave for the semester I encourage all of you to give the dishes of your heart over to God. Wash away the blemishes from strained relationships. Pick up your Bible. Spend time with God. Start cleaning. There is something so special about this season that makes me want everything to be right in my life. I want God's love to radiate from every pore. How can I glow for God if I have heaps of dirty things in my heart? If I'm not at peace with Him and with others how can I share His love?

I can't.

As I look to the New Year, I ponder the changes that my life has undergone over this semester. I've had to make a choice. I could either let the changes cause bitterness to swell up in my spiritual sink or ask God to help me scrub the bitterness away. As next semester approaches I want to start fresh. I want my heart to be as clean as the snow falling outside my window. I want my spiritual sink to be filled with God's love and peace, don't you?

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Coach Lord to lead sports ministry program

Recognizing the success of Houghton College's work in overseas sports outreach, Wesleyan World Missions (WWM) has asked Houghton athletics director Skip Lord to spearhead the organization's sports ministry efforts.

While continuing his work at the college, Lord will serve in a volunteer position with WWM as director of sports ministry, coordinating overseas short-term sports missions trips. WWM is the missions arm of The Wesleyan Church, partnering local churches in North America with churches and missionaries around the world.

Lord says the essence of sports ministry is twofold: to serve the missionaries on the field by sharing the gospel and to change the lives of the people who go on the trip.

"People don't understand the concept of sports ministry," says Lord. "It's more than going over and playing a few games. We are using sports as a platform to reach others for Christ, and at the same time hoping to spark some change in the lives of our athletes and support personnel."

Lord says the opportunities for sports ministry are endless. The program will include opportunities in a variety of sports for individuals, all-star teams, or entire teams from other Wesleyan and Christian colleges. It's also a model that can be used by churches or with high school athletes. In fact, Houghton and WWM took a group of high school boys' basketball players to Russia last spring and are organizing a similar trip for a girls' team next year.

Lord has been working with the area directors of WWM to take the model the college has established in

the Czech Republic to meet needs in other places around the world. Lord, also head coach of the women's basketball team, has been taking his squad to Czech for the past five years to assist the Wesleyan missionaries there.

"We believe sports ministry has some amazing potential for evangelistic outreach," says Scott Olson, WWM director of mobilization. "What's been unique about this program is the ongoing relationships built with the Czech people. It's opened doors for us that we would never have had without the team going in there. We want to see what's happened in the Czech happen in the rest of the world."

As Lord works with WWM in their program, he continues to develop Houghton's own sports ministry focus, including a four-phase plan to implement it into the college curriculum. "We would like to work with the Off-Campus Programs Office and established academic departments to provide academic credit for students going on these trips" says Lord. "Secondly, we are looking to offer a semester-long program in Brno, Czech Republic. Next, we want to continue our relationship with WWM by offering internships in sports ministry or in other areas. And finally, we hope to create a sports ministry emphasis in one of our majors or create a standalone sports ministry major."

In addition to the Czech trips, over the last five years Houghton sports teams have traveled to Australia (women's soccer), Ethiopia (women's soccer), Honduras (volleyball), and Ireland (men's soccer).

Women's basketball team barely defeated

BY LIZ HORNOR
STAR SPORTS WRITER

In a game against Rio Grande on December 5, the Lady Highlanders were able to force overtime play but were not able to come up with the win. The Houghton women led at halftime 33-32, scoring 57% in the first half. However, with 16 seconds left in the game, Rio Grande was up 72-70. Amanda Sweeney came up with a lay-up at the buzzer sending the game to

overtime. With one minute to go in overtime Rio Grande was leading 81-76, but Casandra Mills brought the Highlanders to within two points with 20 seconds remaining. Rio Grande then got one of their free-throw points and the night ended with a barely missed half-court shot by Houghton. The final score was 82-79. Alicia Mucher had 23 points on the night, Amanda Sweeney had 15 points and a career-high 14 rebounds, and Angela Layne had 11 points and 8 rebounds.



PHOTO BY BETHANY SCHWARTZ
Despite disappointing losses in overtime, the cheerleading squad helped cheer on the men and women's basketball teams last weekend.

Houghton men defeated in overtime

BY LIZ HORNOR
STAR SPORTS WRITER

In a game against Walsh on December 4 that swung back and forth throughout the evening, the Highlanders came up short in overtime. At halftime the Houghton men were down 36-26 but came out on fire at the start of the second half, scoring 8 of their first 10 attempts and coming within 1 point of the lead (43-44). Walsh came back with a nine point lead (55-64), but the Highlanders

fought back to take a 70-68 lead with less than two minutes to go. However, Walsh scored both of their free throws to toss the game into overtime. In overtime, Walsh outscored Houghton 9-6 to come up with a 79-76 win. For Houghton, Jason Lee had a career-high 25 points, Joel Hamilton had a double-double with 13 points and 13 rebounds. In the first half of the game Walsh outscored Houghton 52% to 30%, but in the second half Houghton scored 67% compared to 38% by Walsh.

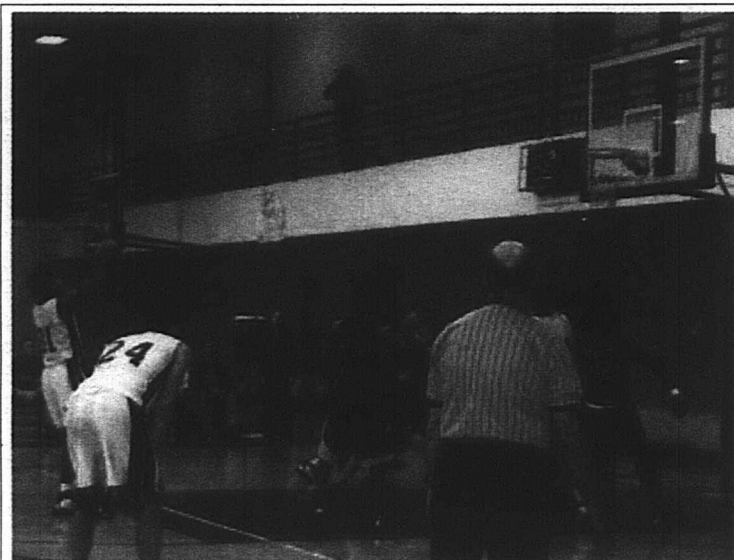
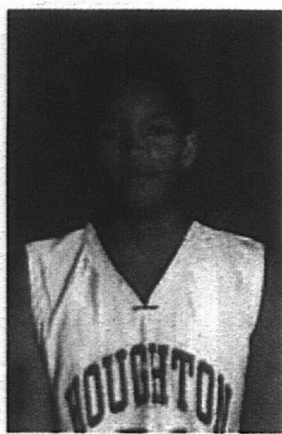
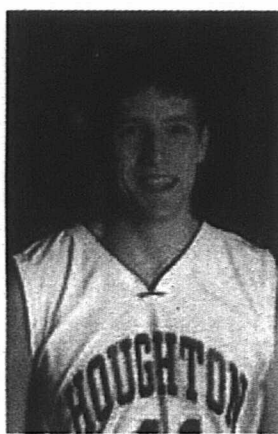


PHOTO BY BETHANY SCHWARTZ
Jason Lee takes one of several foul shots against Walsh. Lee and the Highlanders lost the game in overtime, 76-79.

HIGHLANDER athletes of the week



Jason Lee
guard, men's basketball



Joel Hamilton
center, men's basketball

Joel Hamilton, a 6-7 junior center, averaged 15.3 points, 12.6 rebounds, five blocked shots, and five assists in three games for the Highlanders. He tallied 18 points, 11 rebounds, three assists, and three blocks in a 67-74 loss to Lake Erie on Monday, 13 points, 13 rebounds, three assists, and four blocks in a 76-79 overtime loss to Walsh on Wednesday, and closed the week with 15 points, 14 rebounds, and 10 assists, in an 86-66 win over Valley Forge Christian on Saturday.

Junior guard Jason Lee averaged 20.6 points per game in last week's three contests. He scored 16 points against Lake Erie, a career-high 25 points against Walsh (including 22 in the second half), and closed the week with 21 points against Valley Forge. He shot 26-of-43 from the field (61 percent) from the field and was a perfect 6-for-6 from the foul line for the week.

HIGHLANDER SCORES

Women's basketball

12/3 Houghton 61, Mansfield 68
12/5 Houghton 79, Rio Grande 82

Men's basketball

12/2 Houghton 67, Lake Erie 74
12/4 Houghton 76, Walsh 79
12/7 Houghton 86, Valley Forge 66