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by D. ELLIOTT TAIT
Editor-in-Chief

Korn guitarist quits band and rock-n-roll life for Christ

Brian "Head" Welch, the former Korn guitarist, made a public confession of his new-found faith last Saturday, as he and other members of a CA church were baptized in the Jordan River. Just two weeks ago the famous rocker quit his band and rock-n-roll lifestyle for a commitment to Jesus Christ. Welch found that the baptism washed away the anger in his life. "You know when you get angry and it builds up? I felt like hurting someone before; now I feel like hugging people," he said. (From Source: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20050306/D88LGL900.html>).

Martha Stewart released from WV prison

At 12:30am last Friday Martha Stewart was released from the Alderson Federal Reformatory for Women after a 5 month sentence. In a statement on her website, Stewart said, "The experience of the last five months ... has been life-altering and life-affirming." Although she is out of prison and permitted to collect \$900,000 of her salary, Stewart still must wear a tracking device so that authorities know where she is at all times. The 63 year old CEO of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. was incarcerated for obstructing justice and lying to the government regarding her ImClone stock. (From Source: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20050304/D88K6EN80.html>).

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Houghton's New Leader: What do students want in the next President?

by LINDSAY YANDON
Star Staff Writer

During chapel service on Monday, February 21st, President Chamberlain formally affirmed the rumors circulating around campus regarding his intended retirement to the student body. Now the Houghton College community must eagerly await the new face that will take over the College President Position before May of 2005.

Aside from the committees and the formalities of selecting a person for such a prominent position, an essential issue is what the public would like to see in both the areas of continued success and desired alterations. Since a new President of Houghton College is only a couple of months away, the student body should be thinking about what they would like to see in the next leader of their school.

Many students may be hoping for

someone that will extract mandatory chapel attendance as well as cut tuition in half. Yet, what do Houghton College students realistically want in their new president?

Obviously, the campus as a whole would like to see a successor who is capable of fulfilling their duties effectively and appropriately. Yet many students are interested in learning what the new president of this institution will actually be undertaking. When asked what they look for in the next president, an overwhelming amount replied with the fact that aside from being the highest authority they are not sure what specific responsibilities the President's position entails.

As a parallel, students are eager to see a president who informs them of their activities, both on campus and off campus. "I want to see the President on campus, interacting with the students, eating in the cafeteria," said freshman class Vice-President, Kerri Paul.

The whole campus is expectant of a future president who will be approachable

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IMAGE BY RACHEL BRASK
With the Dr. Chamberlain's retirement comes the need to find a new president. What do students want to see in the new leader?

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US-Italy relations tense after friendly-fire incident

Last Friday evening a speeding car refused to stop as it approached a US security checkpoint near the Baghdad airport. US troops attempted to wave the car down and warning shots were fired, but the vehicle continued its rapid approach to the checkpoint. Soldiers finally fired at the car, instantly killing the driver and wounding the passenger. When the car came to a stop troops discovered the driver to be an Italian secret agent who had just negotiated the controversial ransom for Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena – the wounded passenger. President Bush quickly issued a statement of apology to the Italian people, stating a full investigation of the incident will be conducted. Sgrena, however, was not appeased by the statement, and argued that because Italy had gone against the wishes of the US and paid the ransom in full for their fellow Italian, the troops were ordered to fire at the vehicle. (From Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=7818207&src=rss/topNews>).

OPEC: Oil prices may reach \$80 in two years

The current secretary general of OPEC announced last week that prices for crude oil may reach \$80 a barrel over the next two years, although it is unlikely. The more likely case of an increase in \$50 a barrel, he said, will inevitably, over the course of two years, boost investments to increase supplies and lead to a drop in demand, eventually reducing prices. (From Source: http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/afp/20050303/bs_afp/opecoilprice_050303134221).

PRESIDENT, from page 1

as part of the college community. "Students coming in should know who their President is," stated a mid-year transfer student, explaining how important it is for the student body to have a relationship with their President.

A pivotal question on many minds around campus is that of how students want their next president to deal with changes and advancements. Along with a new face will undoubtedly come new ideas. One Houghton College student raised the issue, "I would like to see a new President who is not afraid of making some changes. I hope that they don't simply come in and accept some of the rules as permanent." Various students are on this same page and would like to see some changes made for the better around campus.

The next President of Houghton College inherits not just a school but a community and the students in that community are above all eager to be presented with a new administrator in hopes that they will continue the theme of excellence that Houghton of years past has achieved.

Is Techno the New Worship?

BY MIKE MORDENGA
Staff Writer

Maybe you haven't heard the new fad, but today's worship seems to be filled with many top worship artists who are coming out with techno remix albums. Even before the techno remix fad hit full swing, there were artists making techno renditions of classic worship songs (think Rebecca St. James' *Be Thou My Vision*).

Today, we have top worship artists like Newsboys, Rebecca St. James, David Crowder and Ultrabeat using electronica in their albums.

Is this just a fad and a novelty or is this a new face of worship emerging into the Post Modern era? Christianity has been scratching its head over how to reach the youth with spirituality- could techno worship be the new technique?

David Crowder has recently released his remix album *Sunsets and Sushi*. This project, along with such offerings such as that of Ultrabeat showed that techno is becoming a serious art form in worship. The unique thing about techno in worship is that it deviates from the popular acoustic, as demonstrated in the stillness of Matt Redman or Hillsongs.

Instead, techno invites you into a unique setting where the electronic sounds are more than just a novelty but a refreshing of the mind. The modern worship scene for today's youth groups are characterized by inviting worshippers into a new environment where their mind and hearts are enthralled by the uniqueness of music. Right now, techno is a novelty for many to try, but it's becoming more popular in the worship circles. I truly believe that it has been a very faithful outlet for artists to express their mood in electronic devices.

The biggest setback to more artists using techno for their songs is that it takes experience and money to generate the music. If techno did become the new vehicle for worship, then I would hope it would draw in the people who think guitar worship is too chintzy and would thus otherwise not step foot in the church. I would like to see more youth groups take it seriously, but on the other hand I would hate to see it become a distraction from God.

I encourage everyone interested to check out David Crowder, E-Praise and Ultrabeat and Cathedral of Sound. Most of these albums are in the music store. My prediction is that techno will be another experience for worshippers, but it won't take over the old experiences.

Where do the Ten Commandments fit?

Editorial, Part I – The springboard

BY D. ELLIOTT TAIT
Editor in Chief

To begin, I must apologize to the reader that this piece will lack an opinion regarding the case involving the Ten Commandments that was heard by the Supreme Court on March 2. My opinion will be the premise of the second half of this editorial, to be published next issue. Instead, this piece will set the stage for my opinion and, more importantly, encourage you, the reader, to formulate your own opinion on the matter.

In effect, with only one semester of a law course to my name, I am attempting to succinctly present the facts of the case, paraphrase the constitutional questions raised, and explain the precedent set by the Court in previous rulings. It takes lawyers 50+ pages to do that – I only have 750 words. Super.

Background – The single case heard by the Court is actually a conglomeration of two similar cases from two different states.

In the first case – *McCreary County v. ACLU of Kentucky* – private individuals donated a collage of documents instrumental in forming “the foundation of American law and government” to the McCreary County courthouse. The “Foundations Display” as it was called, consisted of 11 documents, including excerpts of the Declaration of Independence, an abbreviated speech by Abraham Lincoln, the Mayflower Compact, and, of course, the Ten Commandments.

The display was placed in the courthouse’s lobby, away from any

chamber of business.

Arguing that the Ten Commandments violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, the ACLU brought suit against the county.

The second case, *Van Orden v. Perry*, involves a similar display of the Ten Commandments, although in this instance they were inscribed onto a marble monument and placed on the grounds of the Texas state capital building in Austin. The capital grounds contain 17 monuments and 22 historical markers, all of which commemorate the “people, events, and ideals that have contributed to the history, diversity, and culture of Texas.”

In 1961 the Texas Chapter of the Fraternal Order of Eagles donated the monument “to the Youth and People of Texas,” and after approval by the state legislature, it was displayed at the state capital. The Eagles claimed the text of the Ten Commandments on their monument to be “nonsectarian,” as it was claimed by religious leaders of the Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant faiths.

Thomas Van Orden, a homeless man and an atheist, then sued Governor Rick Perry, arguing that the phrase “I AM the Lord your God” inscribed on the monument is an explicit establishment of religion by the state.

In the Kentucky case, the Ten Commandments were held as unconstitutional in the lower courts; in the Texas case, the lower courts held the monument to be constitutional.

Constitutional Questions – First and foremost, is the display of the Ten Commandments on the grounds of state or local governments a violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment? The Establishment Clause states that “Congress (and, through the Fourteenth Amendment, state and local governments) shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion...”

Stemming from this question is the second; do previous rulings of the Court which hold the existence of the Ten Commandments on government-owned or

sponsored grounds to be unconstitutional, have any bearing on the two cases in question, where the Ten Commandments are one of many “secular” historical works, and are thus secular themselves?

Finally, should the Lemon test (described below) be replaced with another standard from which to decide cases involving the Establishment Clause?

Court Precedent on the Issue – In dealing with the Establishment Clause, the Court has relied upon the three-part test given by Justice Berger in the *Lemon v. Kurtzman* case of 1971.

The “Lemon test,” as it has come to be called, is as follows: 1. whether the program or legislation at issue has a secular purpose, 2. whether the primary effect is neither to advance nor to inhibit religion and 3. whether the program or legislation fosters “an excessive government entanglement with religion.” If any program or legislation in question is inconsistent with the first two points, or is consistent with point #3, it is to be held in violation of the Establishment Clause.

Using the Lemon test, the Supreme Court has ruled unconstitutional the establishment or existence of a lone nativity scene on the grounds of a Town Hall, a compulsory moment of silence before class or sporting events, and various forms of monetary support and reimbursements to non-public schools.

Regarding the Ten Commandments specifically is the 1980 case of *Stone v. Graham*. There, the Court ruled unconstitutional a Kentucky state statute compelling all public school classrooms to contain a copy of the Ten Commandments.

I hope that now, with an overview of the facts of the case and principles in question, you as the reader may begin to form your own opinions on the matter of the Ten Commandments in the public forum, and converse with those who hold conflicting opinions. Part II of this editorial containing my thoughts and beliefs will be printed next issue.

Sources:

<http://www.lc.org/ten/briefs.htm>;

Ducat, Craig R. *Constitutional Interpretation* (8th ed.).

Belmont: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning Inc., 2004.



Dear Dr. Brittain....

Have a problem or a question that you want answered with the wisdom, humor, and unique flavor of Dr. Brittain? Write to The Star at star@houghton.edu or CPO #370. Letters should be no longer than 250 words.

WORLDVIEW: THAILAND

THE FACTS:

Country: Thailand

Capitol: Bangkok

Language: Thai

Population: 62 million

People: 73% Thai, 11%

Chinese, 3% Malay, also

Mon, Khmer, Phuan and

Karen minorities

Main religions: 95%

Budhist 4% Muslim

Government System:

constitutional monarch

Head of State: Prime

Minister Thaksin Shinawatra

Major industries:

Computers, garments,

integrated circuits, gems,

jewellery

(Source: lonelyplanet.com)



INTERVIEW WITH ANNE MERRY, M.K. FROM THAILAND

by MAILE KAWAKAMI
Staff Writer

Where in Thailand are you from? I grew up in Bangkok. But I also lived in Chiangmai for a number of years. Bangkok is in central Thailand, not too far from the border. It's a pretty big city. Chiangmai is surrounded by the country side in Northern Thailand. In Chiangmai, there are a lot of commerce and industrial endeavors.

How is that you grew up in Thailand? My parents have been missionaries for twenty years, so they had a church-planting mission and they worked in Bangkok until I was fourteen. When there was a need for more missionaries to work up North, they transferred my parents to Chiangmai.

Do you speak Thai? Yeah, I grew up speaking Thai because I was born there. It was the first language that I learned. So at three, I was learning to speak Thai. I was conversing with Thai neighbors and kids. I then attended Thai pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. I knew how to write the language, and how to read Thai. It was pretty much a native language for me.

How would you describe Bangkok and Chiangmai? Bangkok is an extremely congested, polluted city. It is cramped. It's overpopulated. Chiangmai is a beautiful town, though. It's surrounded by hills and greenery with a lot of flowers. It's gorgeous, and the weather is really accommodating.

Was Chiangmai and Bangkok affected by the recent tsunami? No, they weren't affected. Although I think the southern border, which is connected to Malaysia, was affected. I think that some relief projects are being organized there.

What did you miss most about Thailand? I think I miss the authentic Thai food. You could buy really cheap food from street vendors. I also miss the easy-going atmosphere and the slow-paced life. The people there—especially in parts where I lived—were extremely friendly. They would smile at you on the

street. I also miss the missionary-community families and interacting with a different culture.

What are some significant differences between the Thai and US culture? The Thai people are less openly affectionate. Even though they are in some ways friendlier, they don't demonstrate it as obviously as Americans do in public. And they are very status-oriented. So it makes a big difference how you jester for a taxi. You have to motion with your hand down-

ward instead of up-ward because it means they are coming down to your level. Debts aren't expected to be paid. People can just borrow freely and you are expected to loan them. It's very family-oriented in that way.

So the families live together in big-groups? Not really, but neighbors interact as if they were family. So they are very dependent on each other. They're very people oriented.

What are some significant customs in Thailand? Every year they have a festival called Loik Rathong. During that time, everybody makes a float out of banana leaves and flowers. In the evening, they release them into a canal or a stream. And that represents ridding yourself of sin—it's a very Buddhist tradition. They also have lanterns that they use during that time and they release them at night. So it's a very beautiful tradition, but it's rooted in very falsified beliefs.

If an American were to go to Thailand, what are some things we should do avoid doing so as not to offend? They don't point their feet at anybody. If you point in someone's direction, it's very offensive. It means that you're degrading them. So they just don't sit cross-legged. And walking with shoes in the house is offensive because it's just considered disrespectful to take off your shoes and go bare-foot in the house. You need to bow when you're walking in front of somebody. Just out of respect. Especially when two people are having a conversation, it would just be rude to walk in front of them without bowing.

Lastly, what are some of your main concerns or prayer requests for Thailand? The child prostitution—child trafficking is extremely rampant and is growing worse in Thailand. There is little government regulation in child trafficking, so kids are being sold from families that are in extreme poverty and need any form of income. I think that it's probably been heightened because of the tsunami tragedy. I think that's one of the main issues that need to be prayed about.



PHOTO BY ROBYN BAKER

Anne Merry is an MK from Thailand.

Faculty Profile: Dr. Matthew Pelletier, Assistant Prof. of Biology

by RACHEL MORAN
Staff Writer

Please tell us a little bit about yourself.

Quick life sketch: I did my undergraduate degree in biology education at Liberty University in VA, met my wife Pam at Liberty, and got married while I still had two years of undergraduate left. We have four children, three boys and a girl. One thing that's kind of interesting is that I was originally a psychology major and I was going to teach high school biology. I actually got into biology for very pragmatic reasons; I was going to teach high school, and basically I began to realize that if I was going to teach high school, a BS in psychology probably wasn't the best fit. I asked around, and people told me that math and science were the hot areas to be able to actually get a job. I ended up in biology and really liked it. I ended up going straight from undergraduate to graduate studies - I graduated on May 15th, started my PhD studies on June 1st at Virginia Tech, and finished my PhD in four years.

How did you end up at Houghton?

After I left Virginia Tech I was a post-doctorate research fellow at Cornell, and though a series of circumstances my career goals began to change heavily (I had originally wanted to do research at a big university). When I saw the job ad for Houghton, it looked like it had my name on it: "this is your job Matt Pelletier, please apply." The bonus was that my wife grew up an hour from here, so she saw that and was super excited. When I interviewed here, there were multiple candidates interviewing for the job. I called on a Friday afternoon to see if I got the job, and I spoke to someone who shall remain nameless, who said "oh, I'm sorry, they've offered the job to someone else." The person who told me wasn't supposed to tell me, and the other candidate they offered the

job to (who had more experience) turned it down. On Monday I got a call from the Dean apologizing that I had been told, and asking if I would like the job....It was an agonizing weekend. It's one of those things where I can look back on it now and see that it all worked out, and getting worked up didn't help me at all. I thought, "When will I just learn to trust God and see that it will all be okay?" I can say that about a lot of things...

What is your favorite class to teach? Genetics.

Help us catch a little vision for this plant research. We're working with a mutant plant called *tt9*. It has a mutation in a gene that causes

this plant to have seeds that don't germinate properly, and the seeds are the wrong color, they're not a normal wild type seed, and the seeds are smaller than normal. We want to find out what gene has been mutated to cause those problems, because once you've done that you know what gene was important. We're trying to figure out which of the 30,000 genes in *Arabidopsis* was the one that caused the *tt9* mutation. We've got it narrowed to something like 47 genes right now, and it's been about a two-year process to get to that point. Trying to go from 47 down to one is the difficult part.

If you had to teach in a non-science department for a year, which would you choose (we'll assume that you're qualified to teach in that department already)? Religion. Probably because I went through a pretty significant crisis of faith as an undergraduate, and there were people in the religion department who really

mentored me. They probably didn't even realize it, but the influence they had on me and the classes they taught were huge. It helped me a lot. In particular I had a professor named J.P. Moreland who taught an apologetics course

called Christian Evidences.

What do you see as the Christian scientist's foremost challenge in today's society? Professionally, I think most people that I've come into contact with in biology are very, very materialistic in their worldview. For them, they could never believe in God because you can't see or touch Him, you

can't necessarily detect Him by physical means (although I would argue we still have evidence that He is there). I think the prevailing attitude among professional biologists is that if you are a biologist you can't be religious. Trying to be good at what you do and letting them see your faith is a challenge.

Strangest interruption of a lecture: I was lecturing one day in Genetics, and right when I said something I noticed a student got a smirk on his face, as if I said something that he found funny. I asked him to tell us what he found so funny. The kid stands up and tells a long joke about an Eskimo and a sled dog (I don't remember the specifics at all), but it had absolutely nothing to do with class. It was the last time I asked anyone in class to share whatever they were thinking about.

What do you wish that students knew about you? Probably that I really have their best interests at heart, and I want to challenge them. I think some people perceive me as too hard or too rigid or whatever you might want to say. I think that they need to know that that's because I have really high expectations. I want them to grow intellectually and I want them to be prepared when they leave here. And the other thing they probably know because I tell them...my personality is such that I can be kind of abrupt with people. Sometimes I have a tendency to come across as, "I think you're stupid," and I don't.

You're known as a force on the basketball court. Since Houghton didn't quite make it, who's your pick for this year's NCAA tournament? Illinois baby, all the way.

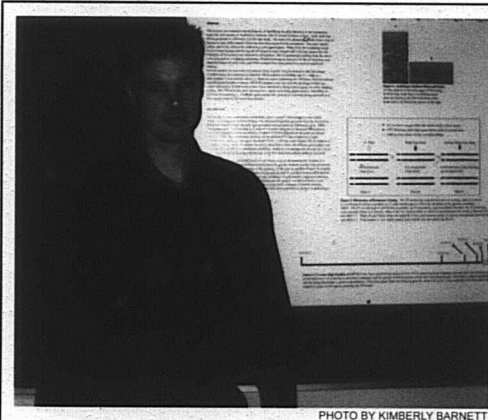


PHOTO BY KIMBERLY BARNETT

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MOVIES with Adam Kline

Grade: C -

I think Vin Diesel is a great movie star; given the right role, he can really make a movie work. His best role to date was in a small movie called *Boiler Room*, a must-see, but ever since *XXX*, Diesel has not excelled at choosing good scripts. He seems to desire to do a film from every genre, which is fine, but the problem lies in the fact that his last three movies have stunk. This includes his latest venture, a family film called *The Pacifier*.

Vin Diesel stars as Shane Wolfe, a top ranked Navy SEAL who has been assigned to protect the five Plummer children whose father, the inventor of a top-secret government experiment, has recently died. Mrs. Plummer must go to Switzerland, where even the bankers eat chocolate twenty-four hours a day, to find the key to the experiment that Shane Wolfe access while

This Week's Review: *The Pacifier*

protecting the children. In the midst of searching for this experiment, fighting off terrorist ninjas, and getting the kids through their weekly schedules, Wolfe encounters plenty of problems involving diapers, ducks, bed-time stories, bullies, and drivers' ed.

Vin Diesel clearly can be funny, but unfortunately, most of this movie is a series of gags within the context of a premise that, for the most part, does not work. I do not believe any of the problems with this film are the fault of the actors; what this



film seriously lacks is a finished script and a good editor. Many

scenes just seem to be fade-ins on gag ideas where Vin Diesel must venture into motherhood. Some of them are funny, but most of them are isolated jokes that do not seem to fit very well in the overall context of the film.

This movie also suffers from poor editing; in one scene involving a telephone conversation, we actually cut from a night to day in a matter of seconds. Clearly not enough footage was shot, or someone

was simply not paying attention to the scene's setting.

Although *The Pacifier* seems like a series of gags and family movie moments all clumped together, some of the jokes are very funny, and a decent amount of the movie is mildly entertaining. Credit must be given to director Adam Shankman for creating one very cool and inventive fight scene where Vin Diesel must fight off two ninjas who have broken into the house. He ends up defeating them by using various children's toys as weapons.

All in all, *The Pacifier* is a mildly entertaining family film that most people will enjoy because of the few gags and entertaining moments. But due to some of the major flaws in this film, I think you might enjoy this movie even more if you wait until it comes out on DVD.

Grade: B -

Be Cool is the sequel to the highly entertaining 1995 movie *Get Shorty* in which John Travolta played Chili Palmer, a Miami mobster who was sent to Hollywood to collect a gambling debt from movie producer Harry Zimm, played by Gene Hackman. Due to Chili's love for movies, Chili and Zimm end up collaborating to make a movie based on a premise Chili has thought up. Little does everyone else know that the story idea Chili has is actually the story that is evolving before our eyes, and so Chili does not know how his movie will end until we finish

Bonus Review: *Be Cool*

watching *Get Shorty*. This is a highly entertaining and unique premise and there are a lot of jokes along the way.

Be Cool picks up ten years later when Chili Palmer is

beginning to grow tired of the cinema and is thinking about venturing into the music business. When close friend and music executive

Tommy Athens is killed by the Russian mafia, Chili partners with Tommy's widow Edie, played by Uma Thurman, to keep her music label in business and launch the career of hot new singer, Linda Moon. Enter the rival music executives played by Harvey Keitel, Vince Vaughn, and Cedric the Entertainer. When contracts are stolen and money

is owed, hit men are hired to remove the competition. These hit men, however, eventually end up double-crossing or even being killed by the very people who hired them in the first place.



Obviously, the plot is very involved, but surprisingly not confusing and the minor twists that are involved take place at appropriate times. *Be Cool* is not nearly as entertaining as *Get Shorty*, because unlike

the prequel which was really about the movie business, *Be Cool* is not necessarily about the music business per say. It is more of an extensive set-up with minor plot twists tied together with "cool" scenes. In fact, this movie is so obsessed with "being cool"

that it sometimes goes a little too far and begins to ignore the somewhat inventive set-up. What is disappointing is that *Get Shorty* jabs at the movie business and includes the complex "movie-within-a-movie." *Be Cool*, on the other hand, still has the funny jabs at the movie business, now expanding to the music business, but the captivating plot is gone. There are minor plot twists here but nothing nearly as entertaining as in *Get Shorty*.

Nonetheless, *Be Cool* still has enough to offer that it is worth seeing. There are many hilarious performances including Vince Vaughn who plays a white music producer who thinks he's black, The Rock as Vaughn's gay bodyguard who wants to make it big in the movie business, Cedric the Entertainer as an intelligent but eccentric music mogul, and Andre Benjamin (Andre 3000) as Cedric's gun-swinging idiot of a cousin. And so, despite the draw backs in *Be Cool*, it is still a pretty entertaining and hilarious movie.

The Grading System

- A+ = Perfect, no complaints
- A/A- = Great movie, worth owning
- B +/- = Good movie, worth seeing
- C +/- = Disappointing, maybe on video
- D +/- = Bad movie, not worth the money
- F = One of the worst movies of all time

Coming Soon...

- In Theatres Friday, March 11th
- *Hostage*, starring Bruce Willis
- *Robots*, a new computers animation
- *The Passion*: Recut, a less bloody version
- On DVD Tuesday, March 15th
- *Alfie*, starring Jude Law
- *The Incredibles*, Oscar winning best animated film

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Readers are encouraged to write responses to any portion of The Star in the form of a letter to the Editor. Letters should be no more than 500 words in length and should be sent to david.tair@houghton.edu. All letters are subject to editing or dismissal at the Editor-in-Chief's discretion depending on their content and relevance. Letters should be sent to the Editor by noon on the Sunday before the next issue. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

THE TOP TEN... Things you shouldn't do with your Prospective

(by Mike Mordenga)

10. Tell them that no one in Houghton uses stairs
9. Tell them that a "4 year no marriage ban" is expected of students
8. Leave them in a corner with nothing but bread and water
7. Encourage them to sell their meal tickets for candy bars
6. Tell them if their folder is blue then it's a code that Houghton doesn't want them
5. Tell them that John Wesley haunts South... I mean Rothenbulla
4. Tell them that all good restaurants are a short walk away
3. Find a random person and introduce them as Big Al
2. Tell them that the Daily Grind is open once a week
1. Act like you've never seen snow in your life

Letter To the Editor

I write this as a response to the letter to the editor in the February 24 edition of the STAR. To begin with, I did not, nor would I ever say that chapel attendance is requisite for salvation, or even for a close personal walk with Christ. I would never presume to measure a person's Christianity or spiritual maturity based on chapel attendance. I never used the term "perpetrators," although Elaine did use it in the article in which I'm quoted. Even so, the term is appropriate in as much as it accurately describes people who are in violation of a code of ordinances which they have agreed by signature to uphold.

It saddens my heart to have to explain why "scanning and scrambling" is an issue of integrity. When a person comes to Houghton College, there are a number of college policies that said person agrees to abide by. The Chapel Attendance Policy is among these. Whether or not you agree with required attendance is not the issue. We cannot force you to come to chapel. We try to make chapels a time of communal worship and celebration, when we can come together and learn from the Word of God, and hope that people come because they want to.

If you do not want to attend the required amount of chapels that is fine, as long as you realize that you are breaking policy, and are willing to face the stated consequences. Civil disobedience, when practiced with integrity and respect can be very effective. However, if you do not wish to come to chapel, and seek to avoid consequences by lying about your chapel attendance (or "scanning and scrambling") then the issue becomes one of personal integrity. It is wrong to lie. I think Scriptures are pretty clear on that issue. "Scanning and scrambling" is a form of deceit. When you scan in, you tell the institution that you are attending chapel, and if you then leave, you are not doing what you said you would—you are deceiving the Student Life Office, and that is wrong. A person who applies integrity to all parts of their life does not practice deception, even on small issues, like chapel attendance.

I do not desire to manipulate students into holding my views on chapel attendance. I do desire to see students, myself included, learn to apply Scripture consistently to all aspects of life. I hope that the authors of the previous letter would consider reminding people to practice integrity to be part of "spurring one another on toward love and good deeds." I do not demand that you agree with chapel attendance policies. I do request that you practice honesty and integrity in your daily decisions.

In addition, while it is right to be concerned about poverty in Allegany County, I would certainly hope that the issue of poverty is not used as a scapegoat to keep people at Houghton from focusing on matters that need to be addressed.

One of the deep desires of my heart is to see God work in increasingly incredible ways on the Houghton Campus and throughout our community. One of the things that can get in the way of God's work in our lives is sin, especially when it is not recognized for what it is. The book of James puts it this way: "But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death." (James 1:14-15, NIV) James goes on to discuss the need to be doers and not just hearers of the word, and concludes the chapter with this statement: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." (James 1:27, NIV) It seems, then, that we need to focus on becoming more like Christ both internally and externally, confronting the areas in our life that we have not yet surrendered fully to God and allowing the Holy Spirit to continue to work in us. It is good for us to be concerned with spiritual poverty as well as with physical poverty.

I leave you with this thought: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorned its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

In Christ,
David B. Clem
SGA Chaplain

NAIA Indoor Track & Field Championships

by KRISTEN NIEMI
Staff SportsWriter

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn.—Of the approximately 868 athletes attending this National competition, the Highlanders had seven representatives—Mary Gibson competing in the 1000 m, Peter Wheatley in the Pentathlon, long jump and 55 m high hurdles, Ryan Fadden in the 800 m, Kerri Koch running the mile, Jamie Mason competing in the long jump and Gibson, Koch, Katy Sykes and Audrey Seldomridge competing in the 4 x 800 meter relay.

Head Coach Bob Smalley took this team hoping for “personal bests and school records,” and got just that. The women’s 4 x 800 relay team “smashed the school record,” as Fadden put it. The school record previously held was 9:47.40 set at the 2003 NAIA Indoor Championships, and Gibson, Koch, Sykes, and Seldomridge broke through with a record of 9:40:40. Koch in her mile run also broke the former record of 5:17.52, set by herself at the 2004 NAIA Indoor Competition, with a time of 5:12.50.

The championship started off with the Men’s pentathlon where Wheatley competed in the 55 meter hurdles, long jump, shot put, high jump and 1,000 meter run—altogether acquiring a total of 3,346 points and 8th place out of 14. The Highlanders went next to the 3,200 (4 x 800) meter relay semifinals where Gibson, Koch, Sykes, and Seldomridge hammered the school record, and placed 12th out of 13. Then Wheatley again took to the track in the 55 meter hurdles preliminaries with a time of 8.31 seconds, 24th out of 26. It was then Mason’s turn in the long jump, traveling a distance of

16 feet 2.25 inches and taking 26th out of 28. Up next was Fadden in the 800 meter semifinals where he captured 14th out of 18 with a time of 1:57.09. Gibson in the 1,000 meter semifinals beat her best of the season, 3:01.19 with a time of 2:59.70 and snagged 2nd out of 6 in the second heat and 5th place out of 18— qualifying Gibson

for the finals in this event where she took 7th place out of 8 and shaved some more milliseconds off with a time of 2:59.23, establishing a new season best. Wheatley in the long jump placed 17th out of 20 overall with a distance of 21 feet and 8.25 inches. And last to compete was Koch in the women’s mile final, taking the 11th spot out of 12 and setting the new school record with a time of 5:12.50.

The Highlanders as a team overall did not get any points despite huge efforts. Fadden commented during the competition

“There are few outsiders that understand what it is that drives us to run mile after mile around the tiny three lane track upstairs in the gym for months on end. That common bond of self-inflicted pain, along with the bond which we have as brothers and sisters in Christ, is what has given us that team mentality.”

--Ryan Fadden

that “It’s hard for us to compete in the team standings because of our small size, but that doesn’t mean we don’t bring the team mentality to the meet. We’ve trained hard together all year long, and now we’ll be doing everything we can to support each other in our competitions.”

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