

THE HOUGHTON STAR

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

Volume 100, Issue 08

January 27, 2005



by D. ELLIOTT TAIT
Editor-in-Chief

Demonstrations Mark Roe v. Wade Ruling's 32nd Birthday

Pro-Lifers and Pro-Choicers gathered in Denver, Austin, San Francisco and Washington, DC last Saturday to demonstrate their opinions of the infamous U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Roe v. Wade that justified the medical practice of abortion. January 22 marked the 32nd anniversary of the Court's ruling. Pro-Life advocates held up crosses and pictures of Jesus and shouted, "Women deserve better." Some even threw condoms at abortion advocates marching by. Female Pro-Choice advocates rallied behind the cry "It's my body," and held signs praising the Court's ruling. With the possibility that President Bush, a strong advocate against abortion, could replace 3 Supreme Court Justices in his new term in office, questions have risen regarding the future upholding of the Roe v. Wade decision.

(From Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=434861&CMP=OTC-RSSFeeds0312>).

Bush Inaugurated for Second Term

President George W. Bush, accompanied by First Lady Laura and daughters, was sworn in last Thursday, January 20. In his acceptance speech, Bush spoke of the U.S.'s role in the world, vowing to fight tyranny and expand freedom and democracy.

see NEWS, page 2

ARD Position Removed from Residential Life Staff: East ARD Is To Be Sole Survivor

by HEIDI SPRUNGER
Star Staff Writer

Starting in the fall semester of 2005, Shenawana Hall, South Hall, and Lambein Hall will remove the position of Assistant Resident Director from their residences and the Resident Directors will take over former ARD responsibilities. The position of ARD for East Hall will remain due to its large size.

This change was recently made based on the convergence of different circumstances. Denise Bakerink, Director of Residence Life, points out several of these reasons. First of all, the structure of Resident Directors has changed. For the past 25 years, Houghton had hired graduate students

to work part-time as RD's. Their graduate studies required them to leave for a portion of the day. Barkerink explains that the ARD position was originally set up to supplement the RD. However, when four years ago, Houghton changed its graduate school affiliation, the RDs no longer require need to have long absences. "The model didn't quite fit anymore" says Barkerink.

Furthermore, with two of the current RDs leaving and several of the ARDs graduating at the end of this semester, Bakerink sees it as the right time to implement the change:

"The timing and the circumstances made the decision seem right."

see ARD, page 2

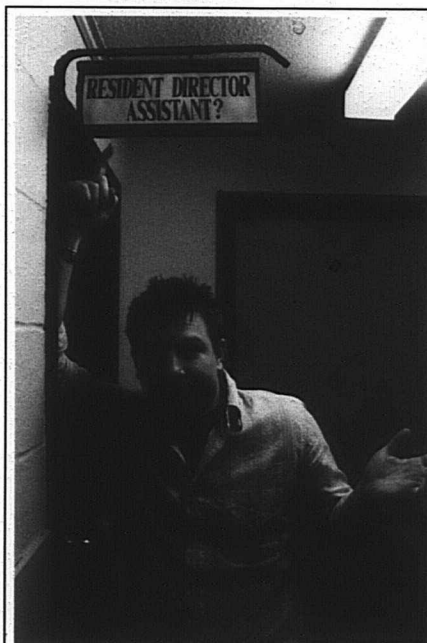


Photo by Rachel Brask. Digitally edited for illustration.

Where will all the ARDs go?

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from NEWS, page 1

"The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands," Bush said. It was estimated that 500,000 people braved the cold to attend the festivities. Protestors, who threw snow and debris at city police, were tempered with fire hoses and pepper spray.

(From Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4193051.stm>).

After Rough Road Yushchenko Sworn in as Ukraine Prime Minister

"This is a victory of freedom over tyranny. The victory of law over lawlessness," Victor Yushchenko stated at his inauguration ceremony last weekend. The road to his election was not any easy one, however. On November 21, Yushchenko was declared to have been defeated by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich in a run-off election. Protestors of the election then took to the streets, claiming that the election was fraudulent. International observers confirmed that there was evidence of foul play by the Prime Minister, and the Ukrainian Supreme Court ordered another vote. On December 26 Yushchenko won by 8% of the vote. Many legal attempts to invalidate the court-ordered election were made by Prime Minister Yanukovich, however the Supreme Court refused to hear any of his cases, and he finally conceded.

(From Source: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20050123/D87PSNMO0.html>).

Chairman of FCC, Michael Powell, Plans his Resignation

The Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission and son of former Secretary of State, Michael Powell, has unofficially stated that he is planning on stepping down from his position soon. Powell was known for his advocacy of deregulation in the communication industry, as well as for collecting some of the FCC's largest fines. Last year Powell oversaw the crackdown on broadcast indecency, whose pinnacle was the "wardrobe malfunction" of Janet Jackson on CBS' live broadcast of the Super Bowl. The \$550,000 fine tacked on by the FCC is currently being contested by CBS.

(From Source: http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=494&u=/ap/20050121/ap_en_tv/fcc_powell_10&printer=1).

The Star needs PHOTOGRAPHERS and JOURNALISTS! Get involved with the Star!

Do you have any ideas for the Star? If you're interested in writing articles for the Star, email David.Tait@houghton.edu or Sarah.Allen@houghton.edu. Interested in Photography? Email Rachel.Brask@houghton.edu

from ARD, page 1

The main concern over this new decision is if the RDs alone will be able to sufficiently fulfill both their responsibilities and the new responsibilities formerly held by Assistant Resident Directors. These include guiding the dorm council, running the front desks in the dorms, and being a connection to the students.

Parker Ormerod, ARD of South Hall, believes that the responsibilities of both the RD and ARD will be too much for one person, especially considering that new RDs will be unfamiliar with Houghton and how things are run. "I can see a new RD getting really burnt out," he predicts. Ormerod is especially concerned with the health of the dorm council, formerly a responsibility of the ARD, stating that the new RD will not know which people will be best for serving on dorm council or running the front desk. He also worries that the dorm council will suffer because there will be no one to guide them.

Rachel Moran, ARD of East Hall, is also concerned about all the responsibilities not being fulfilled. Moran says she works 15 to 20 hours per week as ARD, and she thinks it will take more than one person to take on those hours. She is afraid that "some things will get lost in the shuffle or get discarded."

Even beyond all the administrative responsibilities of the ARDs is the relational component of their job. Ormerod believes that some students may feel more comfortable talking to a fellow student instead of an older, married man. "Sometimes students feel more open to talking to the ARD rather than the RD because they simply feel like they can relate better—no matter how open and wonderful the RD may be," Ormerod.

Despite the concerns of the ARDs, Resident Life had to weigh the value of the ARD position against the limited amount of resources that they were working with. With the funds used to hire ARD's open, the college will be able to offer more incentives to new RD's and better compete with other colleges which are looking for RD's. Bakerink just hopes that the present ARDs will not feel devalued through this change in structure, but know that Resident Life wanted to make the best decision while the timing was right.

What It Takes: Testimonies from the SGA

Compiled by ELAINE TOOLEY, SGA Commissioner of Communications

Below are descriptions for three positions available within the SGA. In the words of the people who currently serve in their respective positions, you will hear what it is like, what it means, and what you will need to

do in the SGA. Consider whether or not you "Wanna-Be" a student leader.

SGA President...in her own words!

The President of the Student Government Association—sounds a bit formidable, I admit. And on top of that, oh boy, there's a list of fourteen major responsibilities to go along with it. I promise that it is not as bad

as it looks... honest. Take point-number one, for example, "Act as Chief Executive of the SGA." That just means that if you are the President, you get the chance to perfect the art of delegation. Ask anyone on this year's cabinet and they can vouch for it. So, point

continued on next page

Refinancing Brings Houghton Extra \$2.9 Million

by JOSHUA MILLER
Star Staff Writer

In a recent financial move, Houghton College was able to free up around 2.9 million dollars for a future capital building project.

The college acquired the money by refinancing its loans from construction costs for the Hazlett and Perkins Townhouses and the Flats—loans that totaled approximately seven million dollars—and are required to use the extra finances on a “capital project.” This will involve constructing a new building or an addition to an existing building that will be in full use by December 1, 2007, and will have at least a 40-year life.

According to Vice President of Finance Jeff Spear, the college has “somewhere around a zillion ideas” of what to do with the extra capital. The administration has, however, established three primary criteria for evaluating potential projects: “First would be our fundamental space needs for serving the anticipated student body that we may have in the next five years,” Spear says, referring to the college’s current plan to increase its enrollment. The

second concern focuses on creating something that “will be appealing to current and prospective students,” while the third centers on “improving the aesthetic appeal of the campus.” Ideally, Spear hopes that the project will be able to meet the conditions of all three goals.

Spear declined to name any of the proposed ideas, saying that at this point none of the potential projects is currently a frontrunner. “We’re seeking God’s direction on this,” Spear says. “We really want to make sure that we’re doing what will reflect God’s vision for us here.”

In the decision-making process, Spear and the rest of the administration have sought some student feedback through the Senate and SGA Cabinet. In these meetings, Speaker of the Senate Ben Hughes says that an addition to the Campus Center seems to be the most

favorable idea to the administration. “Basically it would entail building out towards the Quad...close to the sidewalk. They would build about three floors of offices and have an atrium separating the new edition from the Campus Center as we know it today.” This addition would allow the majority of Houghton’s student

services and admissions offices to be moved from Luckey and Fancher to the Campus Center, which would create a central location for prospective students and keep them from wandering



PHOTO BY RACHEL BRASK

An addition to the Campus Center is one of many possibilities for a capital building project.

around campus. Many of the senators opposed this idea, including Matt Halulko, who found this prospective one-stop logic to be an example of a “Wal-Mart” centralizing mentality at Houghton. Hughes, on the other hand, saw the addition to the Campus Center as an efficient way to create more office space while freeing up classroom space in other buildings. Hughes also favored adding another floor to the library, an idea that was also discussed at their meetings.

Due to the December 2007 deadline, the college will have to reach its decision in the near future in order to guarantee that the project will be usable by that time, and may need to start construction as early as this summer. The administration will continue to discuss options with the SGA and will make its decision in collaboration with Houghton’s trustees before the semester’s end.

SGA Testimonies Continued

one seems all right. Read number two and that more or less sums up the whole deal. The SGA President ultimately serves the purpose of giving the highly sought after student perspective on pretty much anything important that students ought to have a say in. Although we work most closely with facets of Student Life, we have interaction with aspects of all five Vice Presidential realms. And then there is the Board of Trustees. Sounds like a rough experience, I know, but mingling with the Trustees is an honor bestowed only upon a select few. So if

you are looking to schmooze, you either have to be the President, or Jason Smith impersonating a Tanzanian animal for the pre-dinner entertainment. Take your pick. Other than that, it is a little bit of a time commitment, so you probably do not want to be taking that 18 credit semester you have been saving up. And just to set the record straight, you do not have to be a political guru just because the word “government” is in the title. I am a Biology major with Chemistry and Math

see **TESTIMONIES**, page 4

TESTIMONIES OF SGA CABINET MEMBERS (cont'd from page 4)

minors and no visions of political grandeur whatsoever. Only the perks of the job are left to be divulged. While they are numerous, I will whet your appetite and name just a few: 1) A nice office 2) A big desk in the nice office 3) A nice chair at the big desk in the nice office, and 4) A nice little remuneration. Contact me at marisa.roach@houghton.edu if you're interested in hearing more.

SGA Commissioner of Communications

The Commissioner of Communications is more than the SGA secretary. The name is spruced up for several reasons. In this position, you not only take the minutes of the meetings, type the agendas, and fix the copier multiple times each week, you have the opportunity to enhance your advertising, public relations, and writing skills all at the same time. Like any position in the cabinet, you can choose how active you want to be. You can view yourself as "just the secretary," or you can be a vocal member of the group, making sure all views of a situation are

heard, and the best decision is made. While it is not directly in the job description, I would recommend serving on committees on this campus as well. It allows for the opportunity to get to know faculty and staff outside their offices. The most important characteristic you must have is the ability to work with people as a team. Do not be afraid to take a stand or make others think. If you are interested in this position, I would love to talk to you. Stop by the office, or email me, elaine.tooley@houghton.edu. Good luck as you make your decision to serve!

Senator – Michelle Gaffrey (2006)

Being a senator is much more than attending a meeting once a week. This position has bridged the gap between little me and the "powers that be." I no longer feel like a helpless, voiceless student because now, I have an understanding of the various processes that run this college and know that I can make a difference.

Wanna-Be???

(A student leader in Student Government or student publication?)

The SGA is looking for people interesting in filling the student government and other elected positions for next year. This is the opportunity for you to serve the students, and get to know administration, faculty, staff and other decision makers at Houghton. Below are the requirements for each elected position. If you have any more questions, contact sga@houghton.edu, and we will arrange for a meeting over coffee. **That's FREE COFFEE AT THE DAILY GRIND WITH AN SGA CABINET MEMBER to discuss the position you are interested in.** Keep watching the Star for more details.

The SGA Cabinet

The positions are: President, Vice President, Commissioner of Communications, Commissioner of Finance and Chaplain.

Requirements for all SGA Cabinet Positions

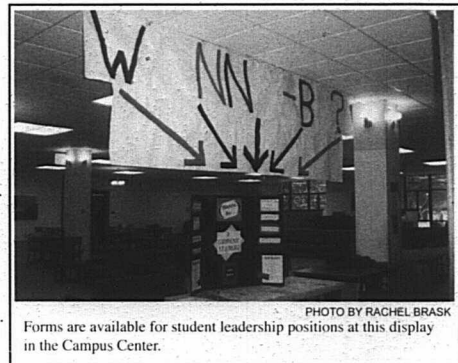
- You must be a member of the sophomore, junior or senior class during the 2005-2006 school year
- Your GPA must be at least 3.0 for President and Vice President and 2.75 for Commissioner of Communications, Commissioner of Finance and Chaplain.
- You must have 75 students (from any class) sign a petition
- You must attend four Senate meetings (Tuesday, 8:15 in Little Schaller Hall, Paine) and two SGA Cabinet meetings (Thursdays at 5:30pm in the SGA office). These requirements can only be bypassed with the permission of our Elections Commissioner, Krista Zimmerman.
- **Important Dates**
Petitions are due Monday, **February 21st**. Please drop them off at the SGA Office or send them via intracampus mail to CPO # 389.
- You must e-mail a 350-word platform to sga@houghton.edu for publication by Monday, **February 21st**.
- You must prepare a 3-5 minutes speech to be delivered on Wednesday, **March 2nd** at 6:00pm in the Campus Center.
- Elections will be held on Thursday, **March 3rd**.

SGA President, Responsibilities:

- 1) Act as Chief Executive of the SGA
- 2) Act as the official representative of the student body to the HC faculty, administration, and Board of Trustees
- 3) Enforce legislation passed by the Senate
- 4) Be responsible for maintaining communication between the branches of the SGA, the student body, and the school administration
- 5) Be responsible for the spending of SGA-controlled financial accounts, including signing contracts binding on the SGA
- 6) Oversee the organization of the freshman class
- 7) Call meetings of the Student Project Fund Committee
- 8) Serve on the Student Life Council
- 9) Chair the SGA Constitution Council
- 10) Chair weekly Cabinet meetings
- 11) Meet regularly with the individual members of the Cabinet and the Speaker
- 12) Meet with the Class Presidents on a monthly basis
- 13) Attend Senate meetings
- 14) Have five posted office hours per week

SGA Vice-President, Responsibilities:

- 1) Act in place of the President in his or her absence
- 2) Represent the student body to the Alumni board
- 3) Call the meetings of Senate to order
- 4) Work with the Speaker of the Senate



to set the Senate Agenda and maintain communication between the two branches of the SGA

- 5) Notify, in conjunction with the Speaker of the Senate, all relevant parties of decisions made by the Senate
- 6) Chair the Student Activities Advisory Council (SAAC) and oversee the activities and spending of CAB, Homecoming, and Winter Weekend
- 7) Chair the Committee on Student Associations (COSA); overseeing new club formation and determining eligibility to receive SGA funds
- 8) Coordinate regular Blood Drives in conjunction with the American Red Cross
- 9) Meet regularly with the President and the Speaker
- 10) Attend weekly Cabinet meetings
- 11) Have five posted office hours per week

SGA Commissioner of Communications, Responsibilities:

- 1) Record minutes of Senate meetings, distribute agendas in a timely manner, and ensure that an accurate record of Senate activity is maintained for future reference
- 2) Perform any other clerical duties needed by the SGA

continued on following page

Dear Dr. Britain, (sic)

I was wondering what your thoughts are on 1 Samuel 28. In this passage King Saul meets with a spiritist for guidance. These days, people rely on tarot cards or Ouija boards for direction in life. Do you believe such encounters with the spiritual realm are possible or merely a figment of one's imagination? - Curious

First, Curious, let me express my profound gratitude for a question not having to do with male-female relationships. Not that I can't handle those, but this isn't supposed to be a column only for the love-sick. Let me also go clearly on the record that I do not "rely on tarot cards or Ouija boards for direction in life." I don't even play cards. But I understand your question.

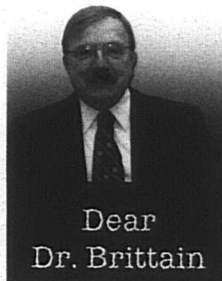
Based on Scripture, one has to believe that such encounters with the spiritual realm are possible and negative; although there are no doubt many times that they are a figment of

one's imagination or, perhaps, one's worst fears. Because Jesus Christ has already conquered the powers of sin and death when we are in him, we do not have to fear the very real "powers and principalities" of the universe.

There are two popular ways of dealing with the story of Saul and the medium of Endor which I find unsatisfying and then the traditional (at least back to the early Fathers) interpretation that suits me just fine. The first two focus too much on the medium, or so it seems to me. The first takes her at face value and just says, "Well she talked with the dead, just like those guys on TV, and I guess we can too," and then draws some conclusion. The other assumes that she is a fraud and goes like this: "She was a fake, pretending to summon the dead and playing on Saul's deranged state, just like those

guys on TV," etc. etc.

When one re-reads the story one sees that the medium is not the focus, but the extraordinary power of God is. Indeed, the story says that when the medium saw Samuel, she cried out horrifically. She was as aware as anyone that her run-of-the mill spirits fit into one of the above categories: satanic or fakes. She cried out because she was dealing with something she had not seen before. God reinforcing a message to Saul he had been given earlier and ignored. So if there is a generalization, it does not have to do with Ouija boards, tarot cards or mediums. It has to do with the extremes to which God sometimes goes to get the divine message through to people like Saul - and you and me - who refuse to hear.



Dear Dr. Brittain

- 3) Be responsible for maintaining communication between the SGA, the student body, the school administration, and the surrounding community
- 4) Publish an informational bulletin at least monthly and as necessary
- 5) Report SGA activities to the STAR
- 6) Conduct a survey at least once a semester of the student body on behalf of the SGA
- 7) Advertise SGA-sponsored events
- 8) Attend weekly Cabinet meetings
- 9) Meet regularly with the President
- 10) To file official opinions along with corresponding minutes in the official record
- 11) Have four posted office hours per week

SGA Commissioner of Finance, Responsibilities:

- 1) Be responsible for all SGA funds and oversee spending from the Student Project Fund (SPF)
- 2) Keep the Senate and Cabinet informed of the status of SGA Funds, the Student Project Fund (SPF), and the Club/Event Fund (CEF) via a biweekly Senate report
- 3) Submit the SGA Budget each semester and the Campus Services Budget in the Spring to the Senate for consideration
- 4) Solicit and present to the Senate applications for CEF in cooperation with the Committee on Student Associations (COSA)
- 5) Serve as a member of SAAC and on the Financial Affairs Council
- 6) Serve as a resource person to organizational treasurers, COSA, and the SPF Committee
- 7) Ensure that supplies are ordered for the SGA copier
- 8) Attend weekly Cabinet and Senate meetings
- 9) Meet regularly with the President
- 10) Have five posted office hours per week

SGA Chaplain

- 1) Prepare devotionals for Cabinet and Senate meetings
- 2) Oversee the planning of one SGA Chapel per semester, as well as the SGA Excellence Award Chapel
- 3) Create and chair Excellence Award Committee
- 4) Coordinate two SGA service projects per semester, one of which must incorporate the participation of the entire SGA
- 5) Meet monthly with the class Chaplains
- 6) Serve on the Spiritual Life Committee
- 7) Work closely with the Dean of the Chapel to promote spiritual life and growth on campus
- 8) Attend weekly Cabinet meetings
- 9) Meet regularly with the President
- 10) Have four posted office hours per week

Star Editor

Purpose of publication: The purpose of this publication shall be to help maintain the ideals of Houghton College by serving as a medium for the expression for student thought and as a quality publication of significant campus news, and Houghton area news and events. It is intended to afford students an opportunity to gain valuable journalistic experience.

Requirements:

- A cumulative GPA of at least 2.5.
- It is recommended that the Editor-in-Chief and the Managing Editor carry no more than 16 credit hours in each of the semesters in which they edit that publication. However, a 17-credit-hour academic load is permissible if it includes an independent study in graphic design (for 1-2 credit hours.) (Such an independent student would recognize the work on the publication as part of the Editor's academic load and would secure academic guidance in the production of the publication.)
- The Editor-in-Chief must have worked for the publication for at least two semesters prior to taking office; or have worked for the publication for one semester plus taken at least one of the following courses: Journalism (WRIT 214), Editing the Small Periodical (WRIT 236). In certain instances, an Editor-in-Chief will be considered who has had significant high school newspaper experience.

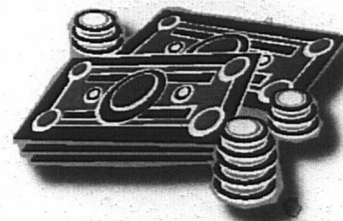
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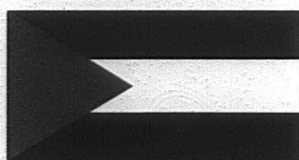
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A LOOK OUTSIDE: SUDAN

Interview with David Ford, MK from Sudan



THE FACTS:

LOCATION: Northern Africa, bordering the Red Sea, between Egypt and Eritrea. Largest country in Africa.

POPULATION: 39,148,000

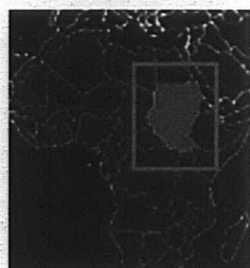
RELIGIONS: Sunni Muslim 70% (in north), indigenous beliefs 25%, Christian 5% (mostly in south and Khartoum)

LITERACY: 61.1%

LANGUAGES: Arabic (official), Nubian, Ta Bedawie, diverse dialects of Nilotic, Nilo-Hamitic, Sudanic languages, English

HISTORY: "Military regimes favoring Islamic-oriented governments have dominated national politics since independence from the UK in 1956. Sudan has been embroiled in a civil war for all but 10 years of this period (1972-82). Since 1983, the war and war- and famine-related effects have led to more than 2 million deaths and over 4 million people displaced. The ruling regime is a mixture of military elite and an Islamist party that came to power in a 1989 coup. Peace talks gained momentum in 2002-03 with the signing of several accords, including a cease-fire agreement." A peace accord between the two sides was signed on January 9, and 10,000 UN peacekeepers are expected to be deployed in Sudan in the coming months.

Sources: CIA World Factbook, alertnet.org (Reuters)



Map of Sudan. CNN.com

by BENJAMIN WALKER
Star Staff Writer

How long have you lived in Sudan?

For ten years. My family and I first went from 1989-1991. We had to leave in '91 with the outbreak of the Gulf War. Our home church was worried that Sudan was potentially dangerous, as it was the only country that had decided to side with Iraq during the war. Also, during my senior year of high school, we lived in Ethiopia and that is where my parents are now.

Why was your family living in Sudan?

My parents both taught at the Nile Theological Seminary. My mother taught courses on Christian Formation and Christian Education. My father taught general theology courses. His specialty is Christian-Muslim relations, but it turned out to be a troublesome subject for him. Sudanese will generally accept the views of a western teacher almost without question, but on this he would always receive objections from his students. They challenged the idea of learning about Islam, which was of course the religion of their enemy in the civil war.

It wouldn't seem that in a Muslim country where many Christians are being killed, the government would allow

a Christian theological seminary in the capital city.

We were actually surprised at how little trouble the government gave the school. Our visas were always renewed. We decided it was probably more of a gesture that the government was making to show that it was religiously tolerant, because of the bad press about persecuting and killing Christians in the south.

What part of Sudan did you live in?

We lived in the capital, Khartoum, for the whole time we were there. We didn't travel around the country much, because the government requires a travel permit to leave the city, and makes it especially difficult to obtain permission to travel to the south.

What language is spoken in your part of Sudan, and how well do you speak it?

Arabic. I learned Arabic the whole time I was in school, but I don't know how fluently I speak it, as I didn't get around the city very much.

Are you struck by any cultural differences

between Sudan and the United States?

This real sense of community and looking out for each other that differs from our independent individualistic American way of life—I really miss that.

How did you find the civil war to affect daily life?

You don't notice it all that much.... [Sudan's economy is alright, but] the government has put an average of a million dollars a day into the war. I just like to think of what the economy would be like if it was put to some other use.

What do you think of the chances for peace in Sudan?

They'd both [the Muslim north and Christian/animist south] have to give up more than they're willing to give in order to make it work. The south has almost all of the natural resources and arable land, so the north won't let them leave. The government is controlled by a select group of Muslim fundamentalists who want to forcibly convert the Christians in the south.

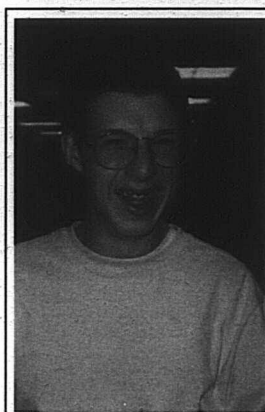


PHOTO BY RACHEL BRASK

David Ford

MOVIES

with Adam & Pete

Grade: C+

Coach Carter is an inspirational film based on a true story about a basketball team that learns that there is much more to life than what one does on the court. When Ken Carter, played by Samuel L. Jackson, was asked to take over the coaching position at a local city high school, he had bigger plans than winning the state championship. Coach Carter was more concerned with his players succeeding in life than he was with them succeeding

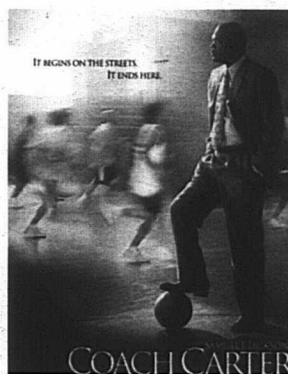
This Week's Review: *Coach Carter*

by Peter Pasioka

in basketball. Before the season began he made his players sign a contract basically stating that they would perform well in the classroom or they would not play. When the Coach discovers that his players have not been upholding the academic side of their contracts he makes the controversial decision to lock the gym, cancel practices, and even cancel games until his players

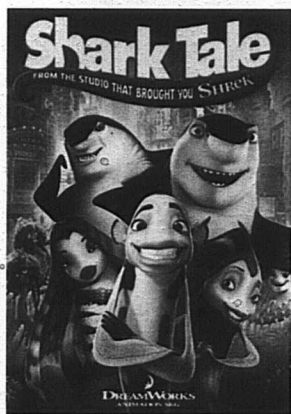
improve academically.

I thought this movie was done fairly well. One



feature of a good sports film is the proper use of characterization. If we do not care about the players then we will not care if they win or lose. Some movies try to tell us too much about too many characters, causing us to feel overloaded and end up not caring about any of them. I think *Coach Carter* does an excellent job of letting us know about the lives of some of the main characters without spreading the characterization too thin.

see **COACH**, next page



Student Programs Office Film Series: *Shark Tale*

Grade: D

by Adam Kline

The filmmakers of *Shark Tale* have accomplished what many would think to be impossible; they have made a movie that is almost unbearable to sit through even though the running time is under ninety minutes. If this film had

been any longer it would have placed second on my list of *The Worst Movies of 2004*.

Shark Tale tells the story of two main characters: Oscar, voiced by Will Smith, a hip, fast-talking fish who believes fame makes you a "somebody" and Lenny, voiced by Jack Black, who is a vegetarian shark wishing for acceptance from his family. These are not original themes for a movie, but that is not necessarily the issue. The question is whether or not the movie presented these themes well. The answer to this question: not even close. *Shark Tale* takes a generic lesson and pastes it into a colorful mindless

mess of a movie.

When one makes a children's film, the general assumption is that humor would be aimed toward that target audience. This obviously was not the intention of the creators of *Shark Tale*; instead they stuffed the movie with pop culture jokes that only adults would get, and few would laugh at. What the filmmakers do expect the kids to do is sit back and be entertained by the big magical colors.

There are a lot of big names attached to this picture, such as the aforementioned Will Smith and Jack Black, but there was also Angelina Jolie, René Zellweger, Robert

see **SHARKTALE**, next page

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, January 28th

- *Alone in the Dark* starring Christian Slater and Tara Reid
- *Hide and Seek* starring Robert DeNiro and Dakota Fanning

On DVD Tuesday, February 1st

- *Ray* starring Jamie Foxx
- *Mr. 3000* starring Bernie Mac

COACH

continued from Movies, 7

Another thing I liked about this movie was the exciting and fast paced basketball scenes. Although the action was a little exaggerated (the excessive alley-oop dunks made it look like an NBA all star game at times) it made you feel like you were right there in the middle of the game.

Although this was an entertaining film, there are many reasons that this movie received a sub-par grade from me. The first is the performance given from Samuel L. Jackson. If you have seen him in any other movie you know that he puts such passion and effort into his work. This film appeared not to challenge him as an actor so he looked like he did not really care about the film. His acting in the film looked lifeless and dull. By no means am I saying that he was bad or that it wrecked the film, I just know he is capable of much better work.

The major reason that I believe you should wait until it comes out on DVD to see this film is that it was very unoriginal. How many times have we seen stories on the big screen or television about an educator, full of ambition, who feels that their students, or in this case players, are capable of a better life? I did like this film, but mainly because I have seen the story before and I liked it then, too.

Coach Carter is an entertaining film with fun sports action and interesting characters, but the fact that this film lacks anything truly original leaves it in the mix with all the other sports movies that were just "okay."

The Worst Movies of 2004

by Adam Kline

Though Peter and I are still working on our lists of the best movies of 2004 I thought I would take a moment and share with you my list of the ten worst movies of 2004. This list is a compilation of not only awful film-making but also films that I was so disappointed in I wanted to hurt myself for having any hint of desire to see them in the first place. So, without any further ado here are Adam's 10 Worst Films of 2004:

10. *The Chronicles of Riddick*- Flat out science fiction cheese; simply a series of events with no depth.
9. *Hellboy*- The first half was mildly enjoyable; the second half was far too ludicrous.
8. *Raising Helen*- It got a couple chuckles out of me, but no one here was believable.
7. *Shark Tale*- A mind numbing experience that luckily only lasted eighty-five minutes.
6. *Laws of Attraction*- Good actors caught in a screenplay that jumps continents and reason.
5. *Club Dred*- Not sure what genre this was because it was neither scary nor funny.
4. *Against the Ropes*- A good actress with a bad accent in a formulaic bore.
3. *The Whole Ten Yards*- The first one was hilarious...this extra yard was a staring contest.
2. *White Chicks*- Even someone with dementia could not relate to this poor excuse for a film.
1. *You Got Served*- This is not only the worst of the year, but the worst movie I've ever seen.

SHARKTALE

continued from Movies, 7

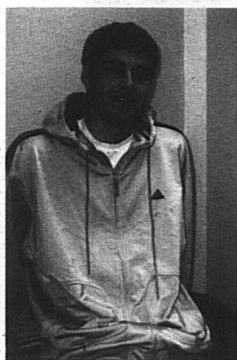
DeNiro, and Martin Scorsese. Now why in the world Scorsese would lend his voice to this disaster is beyond me, but you would think these names might give the movie some credit. In the end, they simply add to the shock of realizing half-way through the movie that you are bored out of your mind.

Even though a large percentage of the Houghton community has now seen this film, I warn the rest of you to stay away. If you would like to teach your kids the morals of this story, there are plenty of other good movies out there for rent that teach the exact same lesson with a far better presentation. It is not enough for me to say that *Shark Tale* was just a bad movie; it was not even worth the two bucks I spent to see it here on campus. I hate this movie.

The Houghton Star Staff

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Spring Cleaning at the Star: The New Semester Brings a Brand New Editorial Staff (except for Editor-in-Chief, Elliott Tait, but he gets his picture here anyway)



David Elliott Tait
Editor In Chief

Year: Junior
Major(s): Political Science and Spanish
Minor(s): None
Where you hang your hat: Fredericksburg VA, although originally Texas
Favorite Food Bar in the Cafeteria: Chili Bar, even though it's my stomach's least favorite
Best Class you've taken at Houghton: American Constitutional Law with Dr. Meilaender
Cowboy or Scuba diver?: Cowboy, because I love Texas and Westerns
Quote/Verses of Choice: For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. I Corinthians 6:20
Blurb: This semester I would like to continue to increase The Star's audience by increasing the variety of each issue's content. We are working to introduce more columns that more readers will find interesting, informing, and entertaining.



Sarah Allen
Managing Editor

Year: Sophomore
Major(s): Spanish and Adolescent Education
Minor(s): None
Where you hang your hat: Boardman, OH
Favorite Food Bar in the Cafeteria: taco bar
Best Class you've taken at Houghton: History and Philosophy of Education with Dr. Mark LaCelle-Peterson
Cowboy or Scuba diver?: Cowboy. If you're going to be cool, might as well go all the way.
Quote/Verses of Choice: But I will keep on hoping for you to help me; I will praise you more and more. I will tell everyone about your righteousness. All day long I will proclaim your saving power, for I am overwhelmed by how much you have done for me. I will praise your mighty deeds, O Sovereign Lord. I will tell everyone that you alone are just and good. Psalm 71:14-16
Blurb: Just trying to do the best I can with the little experience I have.



Rachel Brask
(a.k.a. "Raquel")
Design Editor

Year: Junior
Major(s): Art and Writing;
Minors: Spanish, Environmental Stewardship
Where you hang your hat: Seekonk, MA
Favorite Food Bar in the Cafeteria: Oriental Bar
Best Class you've taken at Houghton: Mayterm Landscape Painting
Cowboy or Scuba diver?: I'd like to be a scuba diving cowboy.
Quote/Verses of Choice: Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. --Matthew 6:34
Blurb: I hope to use my experience in graphic design and photography to improve the overall quality of the layout and visual appeal of the Star for this semester. I aim to design a fresh look for the Star, focusing on eliminating empty space, integrate more images into the text, and ensure better readability with bolder headlines and more font variations than the past semester's issues.



Kyle Crocker
Business Editor

Year: Junior
Major(s): Business Administration
Minor(s): Economics
Where you hang your hat: Akron, OH
Favorite Food Bar in the Cafeteria: Taco Bar
Best Class you've taken at Houghton: Principles of Management
Cowboy or Scuba diver?: Scuba - No one can talk and the water is very relaxing.
Quote/Verses of Choice: "Do what you like but remember - like what you do." - Winston Churchill
Blurb: I am joining the staff for the second semester as a way to serve the student body and campus community by utilizing my skills and understanding of business to enhance the operations that support the Star.

What is your position at Houghton, and how long have you been teaching here?

I'm Professor of Composition and Conducting. This is my twelfth year.

What classes do you teach? What do most want students to learn from your classes?

My normal teaching has involved four different things: Conducting the orchestra, teaching some music theory classes (normally having to do with twentieth century music), teaching composition, and leading the graduate humanities seminar. Next year I won't be doing anything but teaching the graduate seminar as I will serving as Director of the Greatbatch School of Music [while Dr. King is in Australia].

The common element of my teaching is to encourage students and provide a forum for them to do their musical activities from a distinctly Christian worldview.

Do you have a composition of yours of which you are particularly proud?

A song cycle in Latin, *O Ignis Spiritus*, set to a text by Hildegard de Bingen.

Who is your favorite composer(s)?

John Adams, the American contemporary composer [not the president].

What instrument(s) do you play?

I play piano, sing tenor/baritone, and used to play the French Horn.

What is your favorite thing about Houghton? [Don't edit!]

To the extent that it's actually possible, Houghton functions as a true Christian academic community.

What pursuits do you enjoy outside of music?

Not very many, these days. I like to play Chess and I like computers intrinsically (not just for their computer applications), and I like science fiction.

Rumor has it that you are a Trekkie. When did this affliction overtake you?

First of all, I'm not a Trekkie, I'm a Trekker. I watched the original series right after it went off the air in the early 1970s. I've watched every single series since then, and I'm more fond of *The Next Generation* than anything else.

What's your favorite aisle at Wal-Mart?

I like the electronics and TVs.

If you could escape this Houghton cold, where would you go?

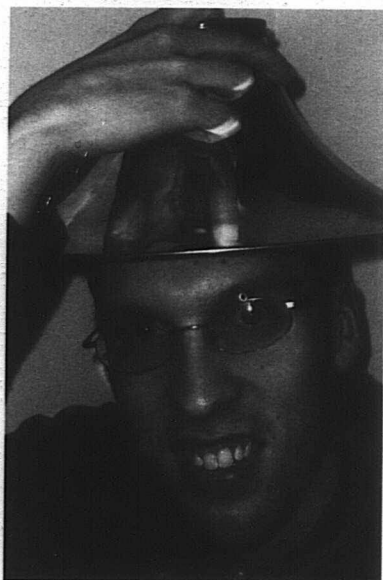
Probably Virginia. [Reporter's response: Excellent taste.]

What's your favorite passage of Scripture?

I Corinthians chapters 13-14. There's a hidden theology of music.

FACULTY PROFILE: DR. MARK HIJLEH

Interview by
VIRGINIA WHEALTON
Star Staff Writer



STUDENT PROFILE: BLAINE WHILHOLFT

Interview by
VIRGINIA WHEALTON
Star Staff Writer

Majors: French Horn Performance and Composition

Year: Senior

Hometown: Third Floor Lounge, Centre for the Arts.

What attracted you to Houghton?

Dr. Hijleh's superior wit and intelligence, of course.

If you could go anywhere to escape the Houghton cold, where would you go?

What are you talking about? It's too hot here. When I leave, I'm moving to Nova Scotia.

How and when did you become interested in composition?

I developed an interest in writing music about the age of three. I would sit down at the piano and bang on it with my fists. I've progressed—or perhaps digressed—since then.

What are your vocational goals?

It would be really cool to write for films. Realistically, though, that's really hard to get into unless you are willing to spend ten years of your life selling your soul to Hollywood. Since my soul is already is already spoken for, I've decided to go into academia instead.

How has your time at Houghton helped further you towards these goals?

The fact that Houghton is such a small place has created more opportunities for personal interaction and professional development. I've had opportunities here I wouldn't have had as musician #452,501 at a much larger program—being able to conduct the orchestra, for instance, or have my works performed on a fairly regular basis.

Who are your favorite composers?

It changes every week. Some of my more consistent favorites include John Williams and Don Davis (who wrote the scores to all three *Matrix* movies).

If you could destroy all copies of one composition (not yours, per se), what would it be?

EINE KLEINE NACHTMUSIK! Followed closely by Pachelbel's Canon (which, incidentally, is in fact written by Pachelbel, not Mozart, Bach, or Beethoven).

What are your pursuits outside of music?

I'm a closet computer geek.

What's your favorite aisle at Wal-Mart?

The employment aisle. I have a feeling I'll be visiting there in a few years.

What's your favorite passage of Scripture?

The whole thing is pretty cool.

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.tait@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.

Letters To the Editor

Dear Star Editor and Staff,

This is in response to Chelsea Kinsman's letter to the editor regarding pedestrians crossing roads at Houghton.

While her points are well-made, from the perspective of a driver in this community I would ask that students also be a little more aware when crossing the streets or walking in the streets. Many times I have been coming down Centerville Road and students are coming up the sidewalk to cross up to they gym. They proceed to walk across the street without looking at what might be coming up or down the road. While they may have the right away a little caution on their part would be helpful.

Here is a real example from last winter. I was driving down Centerville in the midst of a snow storm, riding my breaks down the hill. As I was at the top of the hill, by the Cole house, I could see a student getting ready to cross the road. She did not look at what might be coming on the street at which point I began to break even more, but was unable to stop. I began beeping my horn like crazy, but apparently she was unable to hear me, possibly due to the fact that she had headphones on! A fellow student on the opposite side of the road was yelling to her. Again, she was not aware. Thankfully, I was able to avoid her, but had she paid attention when crossing the road, this scary incident may not have happened. I know many of you would say that this is just one incident, but for me alone I have had numerous experiences with students in the roads. One rainy night I was driving and saw 4 students walking in the road in front of the campus center. They were lined up so that they covered the whole lane. I proceeded to slow down and waited for them to move out of the way, but they did not. I had to swerve around them to get past. I fail to see how I am to yield to this?

I could recount many stories like this and have co-workers that have had similar experiences. I completely support Kinsman's comment about "maintaining a 0% death rate of students crossing roads at Houghton." However, the blame cannot be solely placed on drivers. Students need to remember "to look both ways before crossing the street" and that streets are not sidewalks.

Respectfully,
Sarah Lingenfelter

Note: Ms. Lingenfelter is the Media Relations Coordinator at Houghton College.

Houghton Misses Its Soccer

by MICHAEL MORDENGA

Humor Columnist

Now that the snow has fallen and the weather is colder, we must bid farewell to Houghton's beloved outdoor sport. The women's soccer team must now retire their sports gear for the season and think about other things: like next year's season. As a fellow patriotic student of Houghton, I speak for everyone when I say: I MISS SOCCER.

The way I see it, Houghton has two great gold mines amidst the many silver mines. One of those gold mines is women's soccer and the other is music. If there ever was a way to combine the two

and form a kind of competitive Nationals Women's Soccer Jazz Ensemble then we would be unstoppable in Allegheny. But, when the snow hits, we must mourn the seasonal loss of our favorite sport.

In order to quench our need for soccer, many have turned to women's basketball. It's kind of like soccer—if you look at the ball like a bouncing soccer ball and the net like an elevated soccer goal. Whenever a Houghton lady performs a free throw it's vaguely reminiscent of a corner kick. But who are we fooling? Basketball, while great, is not the Houghton sport of glory on which we base our pride. Even the Shenbloc has toned its rally cries down in midst of the new season.

Shenbloc with women's soccer: "Win team, win. Score a goal! Win, win, win!"

Shenbloc with women's basketball: "Win if you want to, score if you have a chance. If you don't want to win it's ok. I'm tired."

You know when the thirty face-painted, oddly dressed Shenblocers have lost their spirit that Houghton's pride and dignity dies with it. But all is not lost in this wintry season. Many have taken great strides to make soccer a big part of the winter season. The women of basketball have compassionately allowed fans to call their sport "soccer" for the season.

continued on page 12

"Swish"

by KRISTEN NIEMI
Star Staff Sportswriter

The rusty orange basketball bounced between the cement and the player's hand that unconsciously pushed it down. It thumped loudly as the player moved, gliding between his opponents, the basketball an extension of his body and the team. The team itself, however, was working for a bigger cause than this game. They had come to be the hands and feet of Jesus, working through the game that they love to profess the faith that is their life.

This spring from May 26 through June 6 the men's basketball, women's basketball, and men's soccer teams will be traveling to Brno (pronounced Bur-no), Czech Republic, using this sports ministry as their guide to spreading Christianity. The actual name of the ministry that these teams work through is called Majiak which when translated means "Lighthouse." Majiak is located in the same complex as the Wesleyan church in Brno, along with the sports facilities.

Houghton has a long history of athletic missions trips, but team sports ministry started about eight years ago, as Skip Lord, head coach of the women's basketball team, brought his team to the very city that they are traveling to this spring. At that time the Wesleyan church in Brno had one believer, but as a result of annual trips, this church has grown to have about sixty believers in Christ, and the one original believer is now the pastor. Years later the women's basketball team is planning on making their eighth annual trip, the men's basketball team is making their second trip, and it will be the first trip to Brno for the men's soccer team. Coach Lord explained that this type of ministry is unique in the fact that by going back to the same city there is a greater long-term impact, not to mention that each time you make a return trip there are familiar faces which have begun to get a better understanding of the fact that you care because you keep returning.

The three teams will be traveling to Brno and will arrive a couple days early for a large basketball tournament comparable to "Gus Macker" held by the city. This is important in the fact that the whole city will learn of the ministry of Majiak, therefore increasing outreach. After this tournament, a series of games will be set up at the ministry center against various teams and skills. Coach Lord explained that in years past Houghton has played in games where they won by a large margin, while in other games they were creamed. However, the games and sports of these athletes are just the method of ministry and therefore are secondary to their goal of outreach. Using their athletic



PHOTO BY RACHEL BRASK

Houghton has a long history of athletic missions trips, represented by the various flags hanging in the Neilson Center. At left is the Czech Republic flag, representing where the mens and womens basketball teams will be traveling for a missions trip this spring.

abilities, the three teams will work to reach people with similar interests in sports, while incorporating faith on the court and field as well as in clinics and presentations, which all build up and make a large impact. Another goal of this year's trip is to prepare for 2006's "One City Sports Ministry Blitz." This "blitz" is going to bring between eight and fifteen sports teams, ranging from football to basketball, from different Wesleyan institutions, and these teams will travel as one to various cities. This year serves as a mini-version of the future "blitz."

This trip to the Czech Republic is anticipated to also have a large impact on the three teams. Among the benefits is that the international game is different, and so opponents will serve to expand and improve the skills of the players at a level they might not have achieved otherwise. However, the improvement of athletic skills is, as explained by Coach Lord, significantly less important than the spiritual impact expected. The chance to provide service to others can only broaden and deepen your Christian walk, and the whole experience changes your perspective on the world, of your faith and what ministry and service encompass.

With the flick of a wrist the ball was soaring in the air towards the hoop. Both teams prepared themselves for a rebound, but could only watch in anticipation as it revolved, taking what seemed like hours to cross the small distance, and as the basketball slid into the hoop all you could hear was the gratifying "swish," giving God the victory.

continued from Houghton Misses Its Soccer, page 11

Many biologists are in the lab, making a skin patch that will abide our soccer hunger addiction. Occasionally, soccer ladies will kick trays and large dishes of food in the cafeteria to rekindle the hope of soccer fans. Chapel authorities have tried including what they like to call soccer hymns ("Be Still my Goal"). The Houghton administration is using its funds to buy a ray gun that will vaporize clouds so that snow will never fall in Allegheny County. All these attempts are noble and we pray that they will get us through the semester.

I am currently lobbying for a special chapel service for the victims who have experienced what we like to call, "Women's Soccer Deprivation" (WSD). The counseling center has been packed with patient after patient with WSD. WSD has these common symptoms: unexplained soccer dreams, compulsive yelling of "Pull the trigger, in the net," an urge to stand up and cheer in class, and soccer ball hallucinations.

In seven months, we will be reunited with our school's favorite sport, but in the mean time we must band together and support basketball...I mean "soccer"... for the time we have it.