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THE world OUT there

BY BEN HUGHES
STAR STAFF WRITER

Bombings Stun Spain

On March 11th, a series of highly coordinated bombs destroyed four passenger trains in Madrid. At least 200 rush-hour commuters were killed, and over 1,450 wounded. Although the Spanish government was quick to blame the Basque militant group ETA, the responsible party remains unclear as Muslim militants are also suspected. With general elections just days away, political considerations have added to the nation's tumult in the attacks' aftermath.

The following day, millions of Spaniards united to march in the streets of the capital and across the nation to mourn the victims, protest the attacks, and demand justice for the perpetrators. The global community expressed sympathy for Spain, and several European leaders participated in marches with Spain's Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar.

Aznar and government officials have charged ETA with the deadly bombings, prompting an unusual denial from the group. Typically, ETA has freely claimed responsibility for its attacks that have killed over 800 people since 1968. In response to the Madrid attacks, ETA has apparently issued the first statement of denial in the group's violent history.

Since its inception in 1959, ETA has utilized violent means in its campaign to obtain an independent Basque state in northern Spain. ETA stands for "Euskadi ta Askatasuna," translated from the Basque language as "Basque Fatherland and Liberty." The Spanish government has long opposed a separate Basque homeland and battled ETA. The militant group is considered a terrorist organization by the U.S. and European Union.

While ETA remains its chief suspect for the Madrid bombings, the Spanish government is also investigating possible links to Islamic

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Chamberlain Series: Christian Missions and Apologetics for the Postmodern World

BY LIZ SANDS
STAR STAFF WRITER

Last week, Dr. Jonathan Case from Kingsley College in Melbourne, VIC, Australia, presented a postmodern perspective on "Christian Mission and Apologetics" or "Adventures in Postmodern Missions" during the annual Chamberlain Lecture Series. Dr. Case delivered two lectures during chapels and one on Wednesday evening to a large crowd in Schaller Hall. Case, who doesn't consider himself a "missiologist" but rather a systematic theologian who "plays" in apologetics, attempted to develop answers to contemporary questions and critiques of Christianity. These questions, Case claimed, have not been the "conventional concerns" of apologetics, or, as Case preferred to call it, "unapologetics," but, he insisted, such questions are important to the postmodern mind.

During Wednesday's chapel, Dr. Case addressed the issue of valid spiritual experi-

ences found in nontraditional settings and attempted to provide answers for those faced with questions such as "I had this transcendental experience

idea of the act of "creating" causing humans to have a recognition of previous "nonbeing." When something is brought into existence, one

perceives a sudden awareness of that something's former nonexistence. This, according to Case, reflects the "primordial act of creation" when God said, "Let there be," when nothing had existed before. Art is itself an "enactment of freedom, the freedom not to be," and art "puts us in touch with the 'logos' at the heart of our very being." Transcendental experiences rooted in nontraditional instances of listening to music or watching a movie are valid, Case concluded, for through understanding the divine act of creation, one may be

able to "glimpse one of these traces of grace."

Case's Wednesday evening

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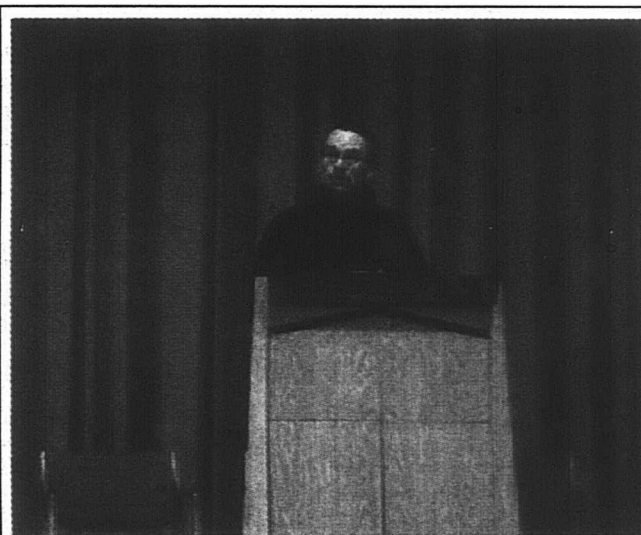


PHOTO BY AARON BOYNTON

Dr. Jonathan Crane speaks in Friday Chapel about the way that the modern digital society is changing how religion is viewed and practiced.

outside of the church—what does that mean?" Admitting that our modern world makes it as difficult for religious believers to "hear" God as it can be for nonbelievers, Dr. Case introduced the

Verdict: The People versus Maxine Lowe a Success

BY CHRISTINA TURNER
STAR STAFF WRITER

"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury..." The audiences of Houghton's spring drama, *The People versus Maxine Lowe*, became very familiar with this phrase over the course of the play. From the start, it was evident that this play had a different format than typical productions. In this play, held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, at the Houghton Academy auditorium, audience members weren't passive spectators but were directly addressed as members of the jury—and were expected to determine the verdict in their own minds.

As the courtroom personalities entered the stage, the audience soon became aware of the events of the play. The defendant, Maxine Lowe (played by Alicia Berbenick), had been found leaning over her husband Daniel Lowe's body while holding the murder weapon and was bound for the electric chair in an apparently open-and-shut case. Although Lowe claimed innocence, she refused to talk about her situation.

Throughout the play, the nervous, court-appointed defense attorney James Hathaway

(Jesse Orton) and the confident, accomplished prosecutor Warren Cass (Ethan Stowell) not only asked questions of the witnesses they brought forward but also presented questions to the audience. What is justice? Getting a conviction of

The open-and-shut case proved not to be as simple as it seemed. Co-prosecutor Jessalyn Meredith (Kelley Hanks) learned she was actually Lowe's daughter and switched to the defense. The airtight stories of the

witnesses proved to be full of loopholes, and flaky maid Strauss proved not to be Swedish at all but instead a victim of the deceased's blackmail. After a series of twists, the attorneys uncovered that the murderer was actually not Maxine Lowe but was instead hotel proprietor Vivian Barclay (Jennifer Neroni), whose son had been killed in a drug-related shooting after being offered drugs by Daniel Lowe.

In the end, the jury foreman (Emily Ulery) pronounced a verdict of "not guilty." The audience

left the auditorium having laughed at the hilarious antics of various characters and having been entertained by the plot twists. In the end, the "members of the jury" had also questioned their own sense of truth and justice, and realized that the easiest explanation is not always the right one.

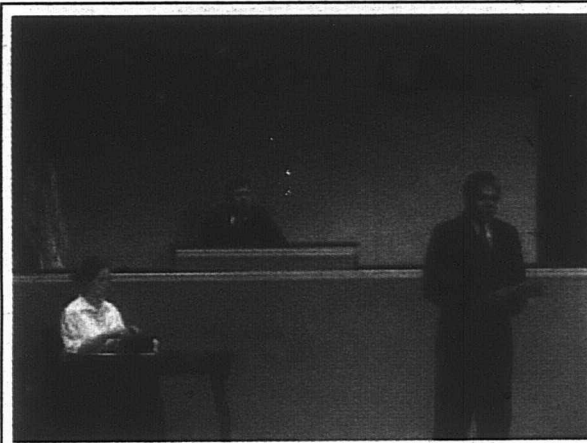


PHOTO BY AARON BOYNTON

Prosecuting Attorney Warren Cass (Ethan Stowell) makes his case against Maxine Lowe while the rest of the court looks on.

a supposedly guilty defendant or really finding the truth? However, the witnesses, from ultra-buff police matron Irene Holt (Rachel Moran) to supposedly-Swedish maid Minnie Strauss (Meghan Clark) kept the play from getting too heavy by keeping the audience laughing.

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terrorists and the al-Qaida network. A claim of responsibility allegedly from al-Qaida was sent to an Arabic newspaper based in London, but its authenticity is uncertain. The statement alluded to punishing Spain for the government's support of the U.S. war on terror, including the recent war in Iraq. The precise synchronization (10 bombs detonated in 15 min.) and timing (911 days after the 9/11 attacks) of the train bombings also suggest possible al-Qaida involvement.

The tangible evidence uncovered so far points alternately to ETA and Islamic terrorist origins. The bombs themselves have been identified by experts as Spanish-made, and were a type of explosive utilized by ETA in the past. There is no evidence that the attacks involved suicide bombers, as the bombs were reportedly hidden in backpacks planted on the four trains. Police are currently searching for three masked men with backpacks seen walking from a white van towards a station outside Madrid where three of the targeted trains originated. A stolen white van was later found in the same town, its contents including detonators and an Arabic audiotape with verses from the Koran.

The bombings preceded Spain's general elections to be held on Sunday, sparking speculation on how the attacks will affect the voters. Aznar, who is not seeking a third term, and his chosen successor Mariano Rajoy have led their governing Popular Party in taking a hard-line stance against ETA, which may aid Rajoy in the polls.

Conversely, if al-Qaida emerges as the prime suspect, this development could hurt Rajoy by focusing the public on Aznar's widely unpopular support of the U.S.-led war in Iraq, which included the deployment of Spanish troops. Before the Madrid bombings, Rajoy was believed to be narrowly ahead of his chief opponent, Socialist Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

Unfortunately for Rajoy, police arrested five suspects on Saturday—three Moroccans and two Indians—who could possibly link this terrorist act to al-Qaida forces. This recent development has caused opponents of Aznar's administration to accuse the government of hiding information that could link these bombings with Spain's support of the war in Iraq. In spite of this development, police have not ruled out

world news continues in next column

ETA involvement or the possibility of collaboration between ETA and the al-Qaida in the attack.

Latest updates from Spain: <http://story.news.yahoo.com/fc?cid=34&tmpl=fc&ir=World&cat=Spain>.

Historic Iraqi Constitution Signed

Iraq's interim constitution was finally signed by its Governing Council on March 8th, despite continuing opposition from Shiites. The historic signing had been delayed due to objections from Iraq's head Shiite cleric and other prominent Shiites.

Repressed by Saddam Hussein's regime, Shiites amount to about 60% of the population. Their top cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, and other Shiite leaders have strived to augment Shiite influence amid the turbulence of their post-Saddam nation. Many Shiites fear that the new constitution will grant too much power to minority groups, such as the autonomy-seeking Kurds.

The interim constitution will oversee the gradual transition of power to the Iraqi people, and foreshadows an eventual permanent constitution. The handover of sovereignty to the Iraqis is officially scheduled for June 30th.

For more news about Iraq: <http://story.news.yahoo.com/fc?cid=34&tmpl=fc&in=World&cat=Iraq>.

South Korean President Impeached Amid Celebration and Outrage

South Korea's president was impeached by the National Assembly on March 12th, a dramatic event stemming from a mounting political crisis. Embattled President Roh Moo-Hyun, whose administration has been mired in corruption and controversy, was removed from power with a 193-2 vote. Polarizing the nation, news of Roh's impeachment produced both joy and protest. Thousands of Roh's supporters held demonstrations across South Korea.

The first Korean president to be impeached, Roh was charged with violating election laws and general incompetence by the opposition Assembly dominated by the Grand National Party (GNP). In seeking impeachment, members of the GNP and Millennium Democratic Party clashed with Uri Party members loyal to the president. Throughout the unprecedented impeachment proceedings, scuffles broke out between legislators backing and opposing Roh.

At the request of the speaker, angry Uri Party legislators attempting to block the vote were forcefully removed from the

speaker's podium by police. After boycotting the vote, all 47 Uri lawmakers then resigned in protest. Officially party-less, Roh had expressed interest in joining the Uri Party, and the illegal electioneering charge pertained to his public support of Uri candidates.

Stripped of his powers, Roh must wait up to 180 days while the Constitutional Court determines whether or not to uphold his impeachment. In the meantime, Prime Minister Goh Kun will serve as South Korea's interim president, and must somehow calm a nationally volatile situation.

Roh took office in February 2003, and his term would last until 2008. A series of corruption scandals touching all parties and bitter controversy over his policies have embroiled Roh's government and diminished his approval rating. According to analysts, the ongoing impeachment crisis accentuates deep problems and divisions within South Korean politics, economics, and society.

Recent news on the crisis: <http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/index.asp>.

Feedback on "The World Out There" is welcome! If you have any questions, comments, or ideas for stories, please contact Ben Hughes.

Campus Services Budget Proposal Approved for 2004-2005

BY ELAINE TOOLEY
STAR STAFF WRITER

Last Tuesday evening, SGA Commissioner of Finance, Jessica Spear brought before the student Senate the proposed Campus Services Budget (CSB) for the 2004-2005 school year. With an amendment to the budget concerning the amount of select SGA student scholarships, now known as campus services stipends, the budget passed.

After being passed within the Senate, Spear went on to present the proposed budget to the Financial Affairs Council (FAC), the advisory council to the Vice President of Finance. On Friday, the FAC approved the final budget with a change in scholarship policy for student service positions. In the past, student leaders—such as those involved SGA, CAB, The Star, The Boulder, The Lantern and various other organizations—have received scholarships for their services. These scholarships serve as compensation for the individuals performing the specific jobs, which means that they should be considered taxable income. Therefore, the scholarships will now be entitled, "Campus Services Stipends" instead of "Student Scholarships," at the request of the FAC.

Significant changes from this year's budget to next year's budget were addressed at the Senate meeting. First, the contribution from each student's tuition to the Campus Services Budget increased 2.8 percent. The estimated number of students enrolled in the new school year also increased. This means that in some cases, while each individual student's contribution to a particular item on the budget

may be decreased, the overall amount of money going toward that item may increase because of the additional number of students.

Next, CAB requested a one-time increase in their funding to provide the student body with a big-name concert that is scheduled for next year. This additional money will change the budget of CAB from this year's amount of \$16,248 to next year's budget amount of \$26,000. Each student will contribute \$11 from their tuition to CAB. This is approximately a four-dollar increase from last year.

The radio station status also beckoned for a change in the budget. For some time, WJSL had been a permanent line item on the Campus Services Budget. However, with the recent restructuring of the radio station—from an established organization to a student club—funding for the station will need to be obtained in another way. Instead of automati-

cally receiving funding through the Campus Services Budget, the leaders of the station will need to petition the Senate like other student organizations when the senate allocates funds. Therefore, the \$8,200 that once went to the radio station will be dispersed throughout the other areas of the budget, with the majority of it flowing into the Organizational Support Fund (OSF). OSF provides the money given to student organizations who ask for it from the student Senate.

Another change in the budget involved scholarships, or the newly named stipends, for select SGA positions. Based on discussion by the senate, the Chaplain position received an increase from \$1,000 to \$1,250, the Speaker of the Senate position increased from \$300 to \$1,250, and the Commissioner of Communications position decreased from \$1,500 to \$1,250. These various decisions were based on the amount of time the position requires and the amount of work the job entails.

Overall, the projected budget for the 2004-2005 school year totals \$236,607.33, an increase of \$3,000 from this year. The Campus Services Budget includes funding for the Artist Series, Intramurals, the Boulder, Homecoming and Winter Weekend, the STAR, the class cabinets, and student stipends.

Jessica Spear feels that the budget is in fine shape for the upcoming school year. "Last year's overall decrease was a difficult hurdle," Spear said, "but it gave us the chance to re-evaluate our financial priorities. This coming year, with the budgeted increase, we have the opportunity to put money toward a large-scale concert, as well as continuing to support the other student activities. We're constantly evaluating what we spend money on and why, and for that reason I'd say the budget's on the right track financially."

CAMPUS SERVICES STIPENDS 2004-2005

	2003-2004	2004-2005
BOULDER		
Editor	\$1,800	\$1,800
Photo Editor	\$800	\$800
Layout Editor	\$1,500	\$1,500
Copy Editor	\$800	\$800
Business Manager	\$750	\$750
BOULDER TOTAL	\$5,650	\$5,650
LANTHORN		
Editor	\$500	\$500
STAR		
Editor-In-Chief	\$1,000	\$1,000
Managing Editor	\$800	\$800
Business Manager	\$600	\$600
Layout/Photo Editor	\$800	\$800
STAR TOTAL	\$3,200	\$3,200
SGA		
President	\$2,000	\$2,000
Vice President	\$1,500	\$1,500
Commissioner of Finance	\$1,500	\$1,500
Commissioner of Activities	\$1,500	\$1,500
Commissioner of Communications	\$1,500	\$1,250
Chaplain	\$1,000	\$1,250
Senate (19 members * \$100)	\$1,900	\$1,900
Speaker of Senate	\$300	\$1,250
SGA TOTAL	\$11,200	\$12,150
ORGANIZATIONAL POSITIONS		
YFC President	\$500	\$500
WMF President	\$500	\$500
ACO President	\$500	\$500
ORGANIZATIONAL POSITIONS TOTAL	\$1,500	\$1,500
CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BOARD		
Assistant Director/Treasurer	\$1,250	\$1,000
Sound Director	\$1,000	0
Rest of Staff	\$3,000	\$4,500
CAB Freshman Intern	\$250	0
CAB TOTAL	\$6,500	0
TOTAL STIPENDS	\$25,300	\$29,500

Chamberlain Essay Winner

More Than A Conqueror

By Sarah Bishop

The quiet and subtle breeze brushes into the open-air church, situated in the heart of the crowded street of Tema, Ghana. The three-and-some-odd thousand miles that it took to get from East Aurora, New York to this present destination are over. My team and I stand in awe that we have made it. We are ready to dedicate the next three weeks of my life to this people, the culture, my Lord.

Standing silently on the red clay floor of the church, I inhale a hint of salt from the murky body of water behind the building, mixed with the fragrance of broiling rice, and wet seagulls soaring and landing on the window ledges. The light breeze is refreshing on my sweaty face. My attention now shifts as the choir of twenty in ceremonial dress blast forth a sound of worship. It comes flooding forth, like rushing waters of the great falls, conveying the sentiment of the congregation. Drawing in a deep breath, my mind goes over the words of the sermon I had been planning the entire day. The song ends, and with it, my preparation.

Uttering under my breath a mere couplet of words, "Left. Right. Left. Right," I struggle desperately to keep my legs beneath my shaking body. Forcing myself on top of the stack of warped planks that make up the humble altar, I feel that the whole world is beneath my feet although I am only a few inches up. I take the appropriate place for the role I am about to play behind the creaky, balky, wooden pulpit with an etching of a cross on the front. My fearful eyes scan the unfamiliar but welcoming faces sitting patiently in anticipation of all that I am about to say. My translator, to whom I was never formally introduced, stands faithfully besides me.

Lifting my long and dangly arms, I press the ancient microphone to my lips. With my voice trembling, I manage the first words out of my lips and into the soundless air.

"Th-ank y-ou...for th-e oppo-rtunity t-o s-peak to you this evening."

Collecting myself, I push past my noticeable nervous twitch and look to my teammates for assurance. A easiness of spirit comes over me as they look upon me with kindness, attentively nodding in agreement to my sermon, grinning to relieve my stress, and instructing with a whisk of their hands when I need to be louder or a thumbs up to indicate a job well-done. I find myself now becoming comfortable with the sizable pulpit in front of me, the burning lights that cause an intense glare that stops me from facing the people to my direct left (which happens to be the beloved choir). The elders and church board staring at me, and with the scattering of local kids out the doorways by an assigned deacon, I continue my message.

Suddenly, I am catapulted back to my previous state of nervousness, realizing I had forgotten to stop for the translator for quite some time now. Placing her arm softly on my back is her way of indicating my hefty oversight that had left a third of the congregation in confusion. I begin bracing myself for the aftermath of this careless mistake. The fluttering butterflies in my stomach that I had just wrestled with so vigorously were returning, but this time much stronger. Amassing everything within me, I was determined to bring to completion that which I had begun.

Turning to my translator I simply could think of nothing more appropriate to say than, "Oops." As the congregation and translator look to me for the cue as to what to do next, not wanting to offend a visitor, I smiled, letting them know that it was all right with me if they have a chuckle at my expense. The chuckle turned into a full out tangent of laughter, that eased all previous cares and brought me back to the person I knew myself to be.

With the last scripture quoted and the final word lingering, I stepped down with a new desire as I descended the platform. I was finding my previous mentality gone, and replacing it was the will to wake up every day wanting to conquer the same challenge. I breathe in, I breathe out.

From Lecture, page 1

lecture, entitled "The Cross and Holy Violence," analyzed the question, "Is violence at the heart of the character of God?" Beginning his lecture by stating his evangelical convictions, Case emphasized that he understood how sensitive of a topic the death of Jesus is to the Christian faith and reassured his audience that he indeed believed in the reality of salvation through the death of Jesus. Case did mention, however, that theories of Christianity don't save anyone; Christ alone saves. With that said, Case introduced Rene Gerard's Mimetic Desire theory as a new perspective for understanding the function of the death of Jesus. This new interpretation focuses on a "scapegoat mechanism" throughout human history, a temporary and human way of restoring order and hiding real origins of hate within cultures. Applying this theory to the death of Christ, no longer does one argue that Christ died because God requires the blood of an innocent in order to be appeased, but rather that Christ died because humanity required a scapegoat. Through the Holy Spirit and the resurrection, Christ as the "scapegoat" was actually transformed into a "victim" of our sinfulness; Christ was innocent and we did the killing. Instead of propitiation, which Case suggested could be understood as God killing Christ, this new understanding focuses on the reality of humanity killing Christ. Dr. Case summarized his points by noting that the problem is not in God's wrath but in the gravity and hypocrisy of the people of God. He pressed the need to get away from the dichotomy which insists on pitting the "bad" God of the Old Testament against the "good" Jesus of the New Testament. The crucifixion, according to Case, allows God to be loving and merciful.

In Dr. Case's third and final lecture on Friday morning, he addressed the issue of our digitalized society and what that may mean for the traditional understanding of a church body. Case described what postmodern spirituality is like in our technological age as the "peanut butter cup phenomenon": the "chocolate" of near-unlimited freedom to choose what to believe with the "peanut butter" of unlimited options and opportunities to be exposed to multiple belief systems. In order to adapt to changing culture, Case suggested

three things to think about as a church: developing interactivity online to deal with short attention spans and loosely-structured ministry; recognizing how the Christian faith is seen as equal with others and thus encouraging questions while having resources available to answer those questions by combining ministries; and recognizing the twenty-four-hour nature of the online community. Still, Dr. Case was careful to articulate that a need remains for the conventional understanding of a church congregation. The heart of the Christian faith, Case said, is the incarnation of Christ. Christianity is an "embodied spirituality" and we do not believe that the mind or spiritual world is above and superior to the body. Case warned against this Gnostic understanding of faith. Furthermore, he noted that the online community is a disembodied community, one that lacks personal identity. On the other hand, Case argued that the physical presence of the church gathered houses the power of the Christian faith. We "jack into" Christ's power through the church body, through the sacrament, through discipleship, through passing the peace, through passing the casserole dish, etc. This physical and necessary reality, Case insisted, can not be actualized in cyberspace.

If the ability of a lecture series to generate discussion is a sign of its applicability to our campus, then Dr. Case's lectures were both successful and appreciated. As Dr. Walters' five reasons for wanting Dr. Case to come this semester culminated with, Dr. Case was "fair dinkum," Australian-speak for a genuine, sincere individual. Dr. Case delivered his lectures with humility and allowed for disagreement on his main points, yet he distinctly maintained a Christian focus. His desire for the student body to understand the difficult points was made clear by his illustrations: littered throughout Case's lectures were references to classical musicians like Liszt, rock artists like Mick Jagger and the Dave Matthews Band, movies like *The Lord of the Rings*, and television sitcoms like *The Simpsons*, *South Park*, and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. These examples added humor and understanding to tough-to-grasp ideas of contemporary philosophers and theologians. Overall, Dr. Case's lectures were challenging and insightful, and seemed to be greatly appreciated by the Houghton community.

Panel Leads Discussion on Christian Egalitarian Marriage

BY AARON BOYNTON
MANAGING EDITOR

Last week, as part of ESA's celebration of Women's History Month, a panel featuring Dr. John and Eileen Brittain, Drs. Mark and Kristina LaCelle-Peterson, and Dr. Bradley and Elizabeth Beach discussed the positives of egalitarian and Christian marriages in the Egalitarian Marriage Panel Discussion.

The panel attempted to outline the workings of an egalitarian marriage. They roughly defined it as an equal partnership between the man and woman, where there are no certain

"men's roles" or "women's roles." Decisions are made equally and there is a healthy balance on most, if not all, levels. One of the most important aspects of marriage, agreed on by all the panelists, is the idea that partners should respect one another as humans worthy of that respect. If you don't have this level of respect in your relationship, your marriage will tend to fall back into the dominant-subordinate roles that often pervade marriages today. In addressing this issue of respect, the panelists stressed compromise, emphasizing that "It is more important to get it right than to win."

In discussing the issue of marriage

from a biblical perspective, Dr. Kristina LaCelle-Peterson expanded the typical boundaries of dialogues on this topic. While she acknowledged Scripture passages that explicitly talk about marriage, LaCelle-Peterson also said that "Every passage in the New Testament about how Christians should treat each other pertains to marriage."

Approaching marriage from a slightly different perspective, Dr. Brittain talked about striving to have a Christian marriage which can entail egalitarian views and behaviors but is not necessarily considered egalitarian. He referenced Colossians 3 and

Ephesians 5:2-33, typically cited texts for instructions on Christian marriage, but went on to say that Christians should never forget that man and woman were made equal. Adam and Eve were both commanded to look after the world; Adam was not looking over Eve and the world.

After a lively discussion, the panel encouraged students to keep their points in mind in hopes that Houghton's student body can help change the image of what is considered to be a good, healthy, Christian marriage.

SGA Candidate Platforms

PHOTOS BY JOSH MILLER



Candidate for SGA President

Marisa Roach

My name is Marisa Roach and I am currently a sophomore, a member of the class of 2006. I am running for the position of President of the Student Government Association and I believe that I am qualified to do so for several reasons. First and foremost, in high school I served two years on a committee called the ACE (Action Creating Excellence) team. This shared decision-making team consisted of administrators, faculty, staff, parents, and students. I was one of two participating students who worked with the group to develop, implement, and assess plans for the senior high school that would positively impact student achievement. The process greatly enhanced my ability to set goals, develop strategies, and take action steps toward meeting those goals. It also gave me the opportunity to directly represent my classmates to the administration of the school. Another reason that I am qualified for the position is that I served as the President of the National Honor Society my senior year. Along with organizing and carrying out service projects, this position provided me with the experiences of working directly with both a cabinet and advisor. Lastly, I have served on the Senate here at Houghton for the past two years (save the semester I studied abroad). I feel that I am knowledgeable as to the role of the student government and that I am capable of acting as the President of such an organization.

If I were elected, there is one goal that I know, at present, I would incorporate into my presidency. As a member of the student body, I feel that it is pertinent for students to be well-informed as to what roles they can engage in on campus. This would include creating a means of communication whereby the majority of students would be aware when there are openings in the student government, including positions on senate as well as within the four class cabinets. This would also involve informing all students when there are vacancies on any of the numerous college councils, committees, and boards. If this communication were established, it would allow for students to pursue their interests outside of the academic world and, equally important, improve diversity in areas of student representation. I would also like to ensure that all students are aware of the Student Project Fund that they contribute to, as well as understand the method for submitting an SPF recommendation. Finally, I would like to see that the class cabinets further develop into purpose-driven organizations, bearing fruit in our campus community.

All that said, I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve the student body as President of the Student Government Association.



Candidate for SGA Vice President

Karis Koett

I feel that I have a lot to offer SGA, and the student body, were I given the opportunity. It is a place not only where people gather to share different ideas, but a place where those ideas can be put into action. Too many times in other places I see where there are good ideas for changes, but nothing is done in attempt to turn those ideas into reality. As the vice president I would make it a personal goal to take into consideration every suggestion presented and see whether it would be plausible or possible to run with it. Although I have confidence in myself to hold such a position of leadership, I do not claim to be perfect by any means. Nor do I expect to never make a mistake. I can only promise that I will work my hardest and do my best, as is my character, to fulfill the duties of vice president.

After reviewing the duties for the elected vice president as stated in the SGA By-Laws, and discussing the responsibilities I would hold were I to have this position with the current vice president, I can confidently say that, although there are many things that I would be involved with and in charge of, I am capable of meeting this wonderful challenge. It is an opportunity that would be a privilege to undertake, one that I would face head on, giving it everything that I have to give in order to fulfill the commitments I have made completely and to the best of my ability. I would be most honored to be representing and serving the student body of Houghton College, should I be elected. If it happens that I do get elected I can only imagine that God has made some special plans for not only the college student body and the Student Government Association, but also for me. And it will be the same way if I am not elected. Although I sincerely hope that I will be given the chance to be used by God in assuming the position of vice president, I have full confidence that the will of God will be carried out in whatever decision is made.



Candidate for SGA Vice President

Kevin Thompson

The role of a vice president is oftentimes jokingly referred to as one that involves very little responsibility. However, the vice president of the Student Government Association has numerous duties and responsibilities, the most important of which I believe is the maintenance of communication between the branches of the SGA, and between committees, clubs, organizations and the branches of the SGA. In order for the campus to thrive, the students and those in leadership positions must be informed. As vice president, one of my goals will be to facilitate the effective communication and functioning of student activities. Additionally, the vice president, serving as the chair of the Committee on Student Organizations (COSO), has the responsibility of working with clubs and organizations to ensure quality operations. Another goal of mine will be to attempt to increase the student involvement on campus by working closely with the clubs and organizations students can become involved in. Another important area of service and responsibility is coordinating Red Cross Blood Drives to help ensure an adequate blood reserve in the region. I have some experience in this area as I assisted for many years with the bi-annual blood drives at my high school.

My experience with the Student Government Association began in the fall of 2003 when I became a Senator for the Class of 2006. Since that time I have been actively involved in the student governmental system. My service as chair of two Ad Hoc Committees - one to investigate "camping" in Big Al's, and the other to investigate the future of a radio station on campus - exemplify my proactive role in the student government process. Also, I was recently elected by the Senate to serve on the Constitution Council that recommends changes that need to be made to the SGA Constitution.

I am very interested in representing the students of Houghton College as Vice President of the Student Government Association. If given the chance, I will actively work to (1) increase and maintain communication, (2) increase student participation in clubs and organizations by establishing a close working relationship with the student clubs and organizations, and (3) make necessary updates to the SGA Constitution.



Candidate for SGA Commissioner of Communication

Elaine Tooley

"Knowledge is power." My high school history teacher used to preach this saying until students in her classes repeated it in their sleep. I used to scoff at this saying, however I have come to realize how applicable this adage is.

One of the major problems that I see plaguing the student body of Houghton is apathy. Students need to be informed of what is happening in order to participate in activities. Without knowledge, students are robbed of the opportunity to be involved and take ownership of clubs, activities and decisions made on campus. Thus, without knowledge, there is no power to generate positive results for Houghton College. Lines of communication must be opened and readily accessible. Therefore, my goal as the Commissioner of Communication is to provide students with the information they need to be active, purposeful members of the Houghton College community.

I believe that I am qualified to fulfill the position of commissioner of communication for several reasons. I am a junior majoring in Communication with a triple minor in Business, Political Science and Writing. I thoroughly enjoy writing and communicating with people, and my political interests are vast. The skills and interests I have make me a natural fit with the position of the commissioner of communication. I have also served in various capacities in student government before. I was the junior class vice-president in high school. I was the president of the Wooster High School Class of 2001. I served as president of the Wooster High School State Championship Speech and Debate Team my senior year, after serving on the executive committee for the previous two years.

I believe that I am capable of and qualified in handling the position of commissioner of communication, and that I will be a diligent worker—giving the students the information they need to make purposeful, meaningful decisions so that great things can happen on this campus. Knowledge is power—and it is with a willing heart that I ask for the opportunity to aid in the growth of the student body at Houghton College.

Candidate for SGA Chaplain

David Clem



As a candidate for Chaplain, I feel that the best thing I can do in a platform is share my heart and vision concerning spiritual life and chapel, so here it goes. John 17 accounts a prayer Christ offered towards the end of the Last Supper, just before going to pray in Gethsemane. He prays first for himself regarding what he is about to do, then for the disciples, and finally for the church, or "those who will believe in me through their (the disciples') message." In this portion of the prayer, Christ prays regarding us, "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." (John 17:23b, NIV) Earlier in his ministry, Christ tells us "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40, NIV) These two verses convey what I consider to be a very important message to Christians: We are to love each other as Christ has loved us; He loved us to the point of suffering crucifixion for our sins while we were still his enemies. Out of our love for God and the outpouring of God's love in us overflowing to others, the church finds unity of purpose in Christ in a manner that serves effectively to witness to the world that God has "loved (Christ) and has loved (the church) even as He loved (Christ)." Similarly, we are told in 1 Peter 2:9-10: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (NIV)

It is my desire to see the students and faculty of Houghton become increasingly aware of our position both as a local community of believers and within the global church (the people of God). I think one of the most important things we can do to this end involves an increased focus on intercessory prayer. I appreciate the ministry of One Thing, and would like to work with them and others to see intercessory prayer groups become an even bigger part of spiritual life on campus. I believe that the sharing of God's love with others and unity in a Christian community can only come about with the help of God as he works in the lives of individuals to shape such things, for it is the He who can change people, campuses, cities, and even countries, hence the importance of intercessory prayer. I would also like to continue pursuing the effort seen this year to recognize our unity in Christ through expressing diverse views on certain issues concerning Christians today via forums and chapel times. Finally, I would like to see a continuing push for diversity and eclecticism in communal worship in chapel. I look forward to serving with Dr. Brittain and other students and student organizations as we endeavor to show each other and the surrounding community the "love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Candidate for Star Editor-in-Chief

Dan Perrine



Under the guidance of the current editorial staff, *The Houghton STAR* has made great progress in raising the quality and diversity of its content. Despite this, the *STAR* is still not a widely-read campus publication. Sure, everyone grabs a copy, but who actually reads more than a couple eye-catching articles and "Austin Time?" Not many. A lot of hard work goes into producing the *STAR* each week, and each and every article certainly deserves to be read, but let's face it: most students are not very interested in the admittedly hum-drum campus news that often makes up most of the paper. Rather than fight this attitude, as chief editor I would adapt to it. The *STAR* is, after all, a student publication; it should cater to the student body and offer them content they are interested in. I have some ideas on this.

Under my direction, the *STAR* would continue to cover important campus news, but would shift its focus to include more student interest content. It is often said that Houghton students are apathetic towards serious issues in the church and in the world. I believe that students really do care, but so much emphasis here is placed on fostering a sense of "community harmony" that any potentially divisive issues are avoided. The new *STAR* would break with this unfortunate tradition by using opinion columns, both regular and guest, to explore different perspectives on controversial issues. Recognizing the reality of student life on campus, the *STAR* would also expand its media reviews to include secular material. Increased attention would also be given to the ever-popular humor pieces through a variety of new content, potentially including a comic strip.

Of course, although I understand this is hard to believe, I do not know everything. Consequently, as soon as possible I would undertake a survey of the student body to seek input on what you, the students, would like to see in your paper. The results of this poll would be given primary consideration when determining the future course of *The Houghton STAR*.

Senate Amendment Proposes Changes in CAB, Lanthorn, Boulder

BY D. ELLIOTT TAIT
STAR STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, March 18th the student body will vote to approve the third amendment to the SGA Constitution, marking the final step in its five week-long ratification process. If approved, the proposed amendment will change the manner in which the CAB commissioner of activities (director), and *Boulder* and *Lanthorn* Editors are selected for their positions.

Currently the SGA Constitution cites that persons in these positions are to be elected by the student body at large. The proposed amendment, however, changes the process so that a committee consisting of the "Director of Student Programs (Matt Webb), the assistant Director of Student Programs (Elizabeth Sartor), the newly elected SGA president, the outgoing SGA president," and a student elected by the Senate will select the people for the positions.

It makes the selecting procedure "more like a hiring process than an election," SGA Vice President Laura Pasioka stated.

Current CAB Director, Ben

Howard, proposed the amendment during the Senate's February 16 meeting after discussing the matter with the amendment's originator, Matt Webb. Howard's reasons behind his proposal, given in an SGA summary of the amendment, are "to improve and simplify recruitment, generate interest and to make sure that qualified students serve in these positions."

Referring to Howard's proposal, Pasioka said that there have been vacant ballots in the recent past, and "Some people don't run [for unopposed] positions, but wait for Senate approval instead...which is a lot less work."

The SGA Constitution states that unoccupied cabinet seats, such as next year's CAB director position, must be filled via a nomination and election in the Senate. Those who run for cabinet positions in the SGA general election, however, must complete an application, obtain 100 student signatures on an election petition, and submit a short platform to be published in *The Star* in addition to obtaining a plurality of the votes cast by the students.

To "make things less complicated," Pasioka argues, the amend-

ment will eliminate the direct student-wide election process that has, in actuality, selected a relatively small amount of CAB directors and *Boulder* and *Lanthorn* editors, and place responsibility in the hands of the Student Life leadership. "Student Life will be able to advertise better," and provide a means of selection "with less red tape," Pasioka asserts.

In its original form, the proposed amendment included the position of editor in chief of *The Star*. Arguing for freedom of the press and the necessity of direct accountability between *The Star*'s editor and the students, Ben Hughes revisited the proposal in the Senate and had the editor's position removed from the amendment with a majority of the Senate's votes.

Although current SGA President Danielle Luckey and current SGA Vice President Laura Pasioka are in favor of the proposed amendment, it is not without its opposition in the Senate. Sophomore class senator Kevin Thompson was adamantly opposed to Howard's given reasons. "I didn't like the rationale for the changes. The CAB, *Boulder*, and *Lanthorn* are student organizations

which deliver a product to the students." Thus, since the student body is the party served by these officers, "they [the students] should be the ones to elect the people," says Thompson. "The CAB, for example, is a highly public organization. Whoever is in charge of the CAB needs to know how to listen and deal with people," Thompson added. "If the whole election process freaks you out, maybe you aren't qualified for the position."

Thompson, however, is quick to affirm the capabilities of the proposed Student Life committee. "I am not saying I distrust the administration and their decision...I know they can do a good job." But Thompson went on to say "Just because people aren't interested in running this year doesn't mean we should change the constitution. If apathy corrects itself then the students will really regret the amendment."

The proposed amendment will be included on the SGA ballots along with the candidates for SGA offices.

Movies... WITH DANIEL GRAFFAM AND ADAM KLINE

Secret Window

Adam's Review - Grade: D +

Secret Window starring Johnny Depp, John Turturro, and written and directed by David Koepp (*Stir of Echoes*, *Panic Room*) is about Mort Rainey, a writer in the midst of a troublesome divorce with his wife who finds himself stalked at his remote lake house by a psychotic stranger who claims Mort stole his best story idea. From that point on the intended suspense for the film comes from what lengths the stranger will go to in order to set the "story" straight and how Mort's relationship with his wife affects that outcome.

Secret Window is a movie that grabs your attention with an inventive opening scene, and an intriguing first 15 minutes. After the first 15 minutes we realize that writer/director David Koepp is going to take us through this story with a blend of unique and classic use of the camera, which supports the movie for the most part. Koepp creates a sense of eerie observance, as if the audience is floating right above the characters, watching it all play out. He also creates specific shots with reflective visuals that are stylish and innovative.

However, there is another realization that comes after the first 15 minutes: the plot is a formula that has been seen on screen before. Yet, with Johnny Depp's most casual performance to date, it was still very enjoyable. In fact, he, along with Koepp's camera work, may be the only reason my enjoyment of *Secret Window* was sustained as long as it was.

Depp has been one of my favorite actors for years, and his casual quirkiness, confusion and unexpected humor in this movie keeps your interest-level high for just about 90 minutes. Nonetheless, as I mentioned, we have seen this story before.

The script is a duplicated formula and Koepp tries to reinvent this movie formula with a new ending; but when your only option for reinvention is nonsense, I think it is safer to stick with the original formula.

In addition to the ending, another thing that did not work for this film was the violence: there was not enough. Now, that is something I will rarely say, but here we have a suspense/thriller which contains murderous acts of violence yet is edited so that it can receive a PG-13 rating. This choice, made by the studio, only leaves the film the option of portraying unconvincing evil. Movies like this need to not only entertain the audience but also grip them and *Secret Window* does not do this because of the lack of violence. This lack of edge may also be due to the amount of humor in the film, whether intended or not.

Secret Window has some decent qualities to its acting and directing. But I was enjoying a perfectly good predictable movie that was ruined by the ending, so I must grade hard. If a movie can not even keep a duplicated formula straight, then I do not think it is worth the money to see it in the theatre. On DVD? Yes.

Dan's Review - Grade: D

When I first saw the trailer for *Secret Window*, I was intrigued at the prospect of the outstanding Johnny Depp sharing the screen with one of the great character actors of our time, John Turturro. Who would have known that these two fine actors, as well as a respected writer/director, could put together such a poor film? The dream sequences and flashbacks keep you interested just long enough to be disappointed by the predictable ending, but the film's awful last act is the least of its problems.

The movie's first half is decent enough. Depp plays the eccentric writer role well, and while Turturro's southern accent doesn't quite fit him, his presence creates the appropriate uneasiness for the audience. However, as the film moves along, it becomes much too predictable. About halfway through you will find yourself saying, "It couldn't end like this, it's too predictable." Sure enough, it will end like that. Any attempt to steer the audience off of the right track becomes wrapped up in formulas that have been used several times before. It is ironic that the film deals with plagiarism, as it is obvious that every plotline is taken from a film that has already been made.

David Koepp's direction is nothing spectacular; however there are some fine camera shots throughout. Perhaps a director more experienced in the genre could have created at least a few "jump" scenes, as no part of the movie could really be considered scary. This could be due to the several attempts made at adding humor to the film, all of which fall flat. This could also be a result of the excessive amount of voiceover, which is fine when done right, but in this movie is nothing more than an example of lazy storytelling.

Not one of the members of the fine supporting cast gave a memorable performance, with even Depp's acting becoming more and more over the top as the movie progressed. For whatever reason, everyone involved in the film seemed to be disinterested while making the last half, another piece of irony as a central theme in the film is that the ending is the most important part of a story.

Unlike Adam, who was very impressed by the first half of the film, I found myself only mildly interested in what would happen to the characters. No character (or performance) intrigued me enough to care how it ended, which only added to my dislike of the film's climax. There is little else to say about the movie, except that we've all seen it before, and it was undoubtedly better the first time.

Next Week's Review:

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

Starring Jim Carrey



Letterbox

star@houghton.edu

I briefly perused Amanda Shine's letter, and I have to agree. I didn't attend the most recent SPOT for a variety of reasons—including that I was pretty sure that it wouldn't be funny. A friend and I tried out for SPOT as a rap duo with a rap that we wrote ourselves. It had blatantly Christian lyrics that glorified God and yet was still somewhat skillful. This was something we had been praying over, thanking God for the grace He had given us, as well as the opportunity to challenge and inspire the community. Sure, some of my views may be tainted by bitterness, but I pose the question: why must we leave Jesus out of SPOT? I know of other very good acts that got the axe because the sponsors "were looking for something less serious." (This also raises the point that if every act were similar in its funny content, SPOT would be very dull because it would lack variety.)

We fall so easily into the trap of dropping our faith and moral judgment as soon as it comes to entertainment. We just want to be spoon-fed what makes us happy and what excites us. God forbid we ever be challenged. God forbid we disgrace our comfort for the sake of Godly living. I'm not saying SPOT is evil. I'm not saying entertainment is evil. I'm not saying I am perfect. I just don't understand how we get so off-track sometimes. Sure, there are no easy answers, but I don't see why we can't have a SPOT that highlights people's talents and God-given abilities (including humor) without completely neglecting our concern for others.

-Larry Petry

Letter to the editor in response to the SPOT article:

The Friday night of Winter Weekend I waited eagerly backstage in Wesley Chapel for the doors to open. After working 100+ hours with Houghton Faculty, staff, and students, I was hoping and praying that things would come together. Just five days before SPOT, I had only four acts and was fairly stressed out. I had never planned anything like this in my life. As an attendee of SPOT for three years now, I knew that expectations would be high. Eager, well-meaning students would ask me, "Is SPOT going to be funny this year?" about 10 - 15 times a day as the weekend approached. At that time all I could answer was, "I don't know. You'll have to come and see for yourself."

I say what I said above not to get pity, but to give some context to the following article.

The "lessons" about women brought up in reference to SPOT in the previous issue of the *Star* were very extreme, exaggerated, and out of context. I, as a woman, would in no way include skits that would be offensive, insulting, or degrading to women, or any other group for that matter. It would be tactless and tasteless. However, I do realize that with a broad and diverse audience, things that are funny to some people may not be funny to others. With that said, let me explain a few things.

First, "Lesson Number One: Women are too stupid to argue well." I don't even see where this attitude could have been reflected. The original comment was about men and how they don't understand how to respond to women when women bring in irrelevant topics into an argument. This is when we say, "It's funny cause it's true." However, it is human nature, not just women's nature, to desire to be right. So sometimes we both bring in things that we think will prove a point, but in fact it just make the points brought forth more confusing. I think it is an extreme exaggeration to infer that women are stupid and can't argue well with men from the comment in the act. I also think that intellect is based on more than just arguing strategies.

Second, "Lesson Number Two: Women are 'living souvenirs' of four years at Houghton College." While some souvenirs do end up "in the junk drawer," not all do. It all depends on the value that you place on that object. I'm not going to begin listing the souvenirs that I still have from childhood, or lecturing on values and whatnot, but knowing the guys that made the comment, I'm positive that they did not mean for it to be degrading. To me, one of the things that made the skit so funny is that the words were so uncharacteristic of them. I have seen both of them open doors for women and other random acts of kindness and cannot see how one could say they are "insensitive and unemotional." One of the goals of this college is to have the students, men and women alike, become "Scholar Servants." I challenge us to think of the comment more like this, "Look what I got at college! A diploma and a girl that is just as smart as she is humble and caring."

Third, "Lesson Number Three: The best girlfriends bake cookies and arrange their lives to fit the needs of their boyfriends." Wow. I think this is both untrue and would make for a very unhealthy relationship (in more than one way). Enough said.

Fourth, "Lesson Number Four: Overweight girls are funny; they are especially funny if they are wearing leotards and tutus." The purpose of Ben Askins going on stage in the blown-up ballerina costume was by no means meant make fun of overweight girls in tutus. It was for the sole purpose of how it appeared, that is a really tall guy wearing a ridiculous costume. If someone were to even get the idea of dressing up as a "fat girl" for the sole purpose of making fun of "fat people", it would not even get anywhere near the stage. Dare I say that if it the costume was a blown up sumo wrestler, "Lesson Number Four" would not have been suggested? Just a thought.

I also do not think that the majority of people on this campus would say that "Humor is about making fun of situations and people." However, I do think that there's a consensus that people are funny, and they do funny things. We all have our quirks that make even ourselves laugh. I agree that we are called to more than what this world has to offer, and that we are to be uplifting. As Christians we need to guard our hearts and minds and examine the things that we "intake," yet it is just as imperative to guard the things that we say as well. I do not apologize for any of the skits that were in this semester's SPOT; however, I do apologize if things were able to be misinterpreted.

-Rebecca Cote
SPOT chairperson and Jr. Class Chaplain

AUSTIN TIME

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

BY CHRISTOPHER AUSTIN

STAFF WRITER WHO SOMETIMES LACKS A REFEREE FOR HIS WRATH

This Week's Topic:

INTRAMURALS OR INTRAMESSES?

As you may have guessed, a title like that is leading to my thoughts on intramurals; more specifically - my negative thoughts. I do have much positive to say. For the most part Houghton College intramural players are skillful, in the game and through their attitudes towards the referees and opposing teams. It is a joy to play some of the time. My problem, however, is in three areas. Number 1, 'unsportsman-like players', number 2, referee issues, and number 3, poor administration/direction of college level intramurals.

Unsportsmanlike players are, in a word, uncool. The game is just a game; you don't play Houghton College indoor soccer to be recruited somewhere by an MLS team. So there should be no desire to win so badly that you become physically or verbally abusive towards the team that you are competing with. As far as I know, none of the Houghton intramural sports are full-contact, so don't be the guy (or girl) who pins someone to a wall just to get a ball. It's rude.

Deus. Refereeing is in fact a fairly difficult job. I have rarely done it myself, but it is obviously a tiring and stressful job sometimes, that is, if you are a good referee. Players should not be mouthing off to referees because it is a hard job. At this point you may think I am defending the referees, but in fact I actually am not. There are some good intramural refs, and some poor ones. I don't mean poor money-wise, I mean poor judging-wise. They do not make good calls, and that is why there is sometimes the issue where a player cannot say anything to a ref, even though something needs to be said, and that can be quite frustrating. As a referee, if you have friends on one team, you shouldn't be calling in favor of them because you like them. Don't say this doesn't happen, because it has before, and that is just as rude as slide-tackling someone into the ground in, say, volleyball or something.

Three. There are multiple problems with how Houghton intramurals are run. The past few years have been sad, and it just seems to be getting worse - I will explain that later. For now, suffice it to say that the seasons are unbalanced. For example, basketball has 9 weeks of play (with at least 2 courts a night and only 11 teams) and coed volleyball has 6 weeks (one court a night and 18 teams). Both soccer seasons are 3 weeks shorter than the basketball season. Now, some might ask, how did I get this information about the length of each season, and I will readily point you to the master intramural schedule on the Houghton website. But if you are going to the schedule to find out when your next game is, let me forewarn you - it is easily misread. A normal calendar would have one column for each day of the week that is important, i.e. Monday through Thursday for intramural season. The calendar would not split each day into multiple columns because that would easily confuse people when the schedule is so big that it doesn't barely fit on the screen and the day headers are scrolled out of view. But somehow, that is how our intramural calendar is set up. Finally, as I was saying before, it's only getting worse. This is because now there aren't even referees for volleyball games. They've been removed from the budget or something like that. I guess the calendar-editor was removed from the budget a long time ago. Now the volleyball games are so much harder because you have teams not knowing the rules arguing about whether a play was good or bad, and the supervisor just stares and says, "You judge your own games, I'm only the supervisor." Well, what are you supervising supervisor? What is your purpose, other than to block the view of spectators? These are my questions.

Today's key word is **intramessy**.

EDITORIAL

So, Why are We Voting to NOT Vote for Student Leaders?

by Josh Miller

Back in February, I sat in on the Senate meeting that discussed Ben Howard's proposed amendment to the SGA constitution that advocated removing the editors of the Star, Boulder, and Lanthorn, as well as the CAB Director from general elections and instead selecting them by having applicants evaluated by a committee that would then make recommendations to be approved by the Senate. By the time of the meeting, I was fairly familiar with Ben's idea. I had already discussed the amendment with Matt Webb and my two fellow editors, Jamie Potter of the Boulder and Elizabeth Larakers of the Lanthorn. I left that meeting frustrated and late for my nine-o'clock class. The amendment seemed pointless to me. Webb had presented its two-fold rationale: 1) Some people don't run for these positions because they don't want to go through the elections process. They don't want to speak in front of people or prepare a platform. By removing these offices from the ballot, this amendment would encourage student interest. 2) This amendment would also allow the Student Programs Office to take a more active role in generating student interest.

I disagreed on both points: 1) These are student *leadership* positions. If students aren't interested in going through the elections process because it makes them uncomfortable, they probably wouldn't be good student leaders. 2) As head of Student Programs, Webb had no clear idea as to how he would generate more interest within the student body.

I also had a problem with a committee appointing the editor-in-chief of the Star. This idea seemed to violate my understanding of the Star being (ideally) the voice of the Houghton student body.

I voiced some of my concerns. Those present listened politely, then dismissed my comments without adequate explanation.

Unfortunately, at the Senate meeting, I had a bad case of dCjO vu. Not only were my comments glossed over; those who shared my sentiments-Senators Kevin Thompson, Parker Ormerod, and Ben Hughes-were also relatively ignored. No one present, including the creator of the amendment itself, fully addressed our concerns of free press, what the Student Programs Office would actually *do* to encourage student interest, or why it seems acceptable or desirable for such high-profile student officers to *not* be elected by the student body. Instead, those who supported the amendment contented themselves with saying, in effect, "Well, the current system isn't working." So the amendment passed with only three nay votes.

Then surprisingly, in a later Senate meeting, they revisited the amendment and accepted Ben Hughes' proposed revision to strike the Star Editor-in-Chief position from the amendment.

Consistent rationale? I think not.

In spite of this change, the amendment will still remove the head positions of the Boulder, the Lanthorn, and CAB from general elections. And even though the amendment has yet to be passed, both the election committee and the Student Programs Office have apparently assumed that the student body will approve this change. Accordingly, the election committee will not be submitting candidates for the Lanthorn, Boulder, or CAB positions on the ballot. But what has Student Programs done? How have they generated student interest, as Webb claimed they would? An ad in the Scoop (which is online, meaning virtually no one reads it) and on the TV screens in the Campus Center. To my knowledge, that's it.

So, to review: instead of electing these student offices, we are now going to pick students who don't like getting up in front of people and speaking or creating organized platforms that present their ideas to the student body and Student Programs is going to encourage more people to apply for these positions by putting an ad in the Scoop and on the TVs in the Campus Center.

Why do I have a feeling that this won't change anything for the better?

Instead, this amendment will only rob students of an opportunity to elect the leaders of two of their most prominent publications and the head of the organization that coordinates on-campus activities during the year. This change *should not take place*, and I would encourage all of you to vote against this amendment in the upcoming election, which would mandate another election that would *include* the Lanthorn Editor, Boulder Editor, and CAB Director positions. Otherwise, we'll be saying goodbye to these three *student* leadership positions actually being elected by *students* and hello to a new selection process via committee that has no clear advantages over the current election process.

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DESIGN EDITOR
Nathan Boyd

BUSINESS EDITOR
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ADVISORS
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LETTER GUIDELINES

The *Houghton Star* encourages the free interchange of opinions and suggestions in the form of letters, articles, guest editorials, and advertisements. We welcome the viewpoints of faculty, staff, townspeople, alumni, and all others having an interest in the Houghton community. Ideas printed herein do not, however, necessarily reflect the view of the editorial staff or of Houghton College. The staff reserves the right to omit or reject any contributions for reasons of professional decorum. Unsigned letters will not be printed. Letters (signed) should be sent to:

The STAR, CPO Box 378
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Stress Fair a Success

BY KATY SYKES
STAR STAFF WRITER

Although the campus center is normally a bustling center of activity, this past Thursday activities were far from normal as the Counseling Center in conjunction with the Psychology Club put on the Houghton Stress Fair. The Stress Fair happens every two years during the middle of the week in the middle of the semester, a period of heightened stress for many students.

According to Wendy Baxter of the Counseling Center, the Stress Fair is not only a great way to offer students the means to take care of themselves, but it provides an opportunity for the Counseling Center staff to become better known to the students. "I think it's a great idea," affirmed Laura Clark, president of the

Psychology club. "People can walk through in five to ten minutes and leave feeling relieved."

Study tables, chairs and stressed out students were replaced with numerous ways to relax, have fun, and de-stress. The event offered stations for time management, blood pressure measuring, coffee from Java 101, massages, caricatures, balloon animals, stress ball-making, coloring, manicures, toys, live entertainment, and sumo wrestling. Funded by SGA and CAB, the event was free for all students and this year many took advantage of it.

The Stress Fair was a great success as seen in the number of students who filled the relaxed, fun atmosphere of the campus center. One student happily remarked, "I think the campus center should always be like this."

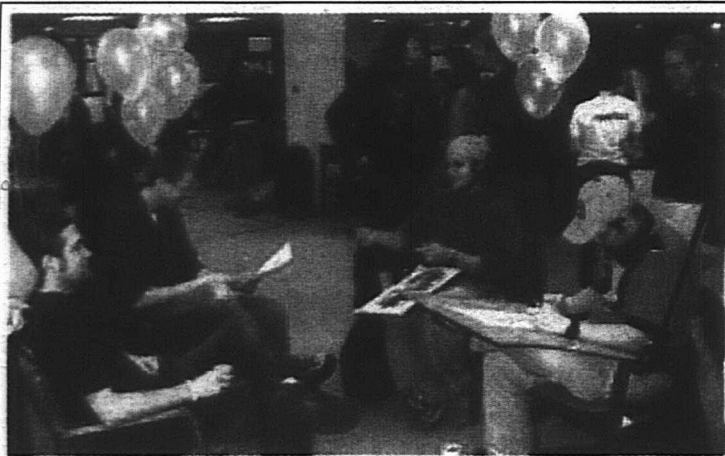


PHOTO BY AARON BOYNTON

Artists Jon Hnaituk and Nathan Boyd were kept busy throughout the afternoon of the Stress Fair drawing caricatures for a waiting line of students and staff.

Top Ten Ways to Turn Down a Date

BY SARAH KUZOMKO
STAR STAFF WRITER

10. "Sure! I just have to check in with my parole officer at nine."
9. "Uh.....well.....uh.....uh...."
8. "I only date.... fish"
7. "Gee, I'm really busy, I have to cut my toenails tonight"
6. "I'm not allowed to date yet."
5. "Yah, sounds great. But hey can we stop at the Jub on the way back so I can pick up some Goodnights(r)?"
4. "Sure, is it all right if my boyfriend comes?"
3. "Hmm..Hey look!!" (start pointing excitedly behind them)
(Run)
2. "Oh, well, see me and the boys are having 'spandex bonding' time tonight.....so..."
1. "No."



AND THEN, AGAINST ALL BETTER JUDGEMENT TO THE CONTRARY, THE HAPPY-GO-LUCKY WEE LEPRECHAUN BEGAN TO DANCE WITH HIS FOUR LEAF CLOVER.

BUGS ARE EVERYWHERE. THE KIDS TALK BACK. THE ONLY AC IS THE BREEZE.

OK. When can I start?

If you're up to the challenge of a year-round outdoor adventure, being a Youth Counselor at an Eckerd Youth Alternatives wilderness camp may just be the perfect job for you. Get paid to canoe, backpack and make friends that you'll keep for life. If you have the patience and dedication to help turn an at-risk kid's life around, we'd like to talk with you. Excellent salary and benefits plus paid training. Free room and board. As a Youth Counselor, you'll make more than in living. You'll make a difference. ARE YOU READY?

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Quotable Quotes

"Go to Star Lake, come back with a minor"? That's illegal!"
-Dr. Charles Bressler commenting on the signs for the Adirondacks Program

"Using the computer for Bible study...that is the pit of hell!"
-Dr. Kingdon

"Well, I played horsey an awful lot..."
-Professor Alderman, when asked how he spent February Break

"Well, I am both feminine and creative, and I am making a kangaroo out of duct tape."
-Laura Pasieka (Class of '05) in the late stages of "paper writing"

"I like saying the word 'quiche'."
-Professor Bradshaw

"This food is so good I haven't thought about girls in FOUR minutes!"
-Zeb Thomas (Class of '05)

Have you overheard a student, professor, or staff member say something witty or funny on campus recently? The Star would love to take that quote out of context for the enjoyment of the campus! If you have quotes or quips, send them, along with the name of who said them, to the Houghton Star through CPO 378 or at star@houghton.edu.