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the HOUGHTON STAR

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THE world OUT there

BY ROSA GERBER
STAR STAFF WRITER

U.S. seeks new resolution to deal with Iraq

President George W. Bush confirmed Saturday that the United States, along with Great Britain, will present a new resolution on the problem of Iraqi disarmament to the United Nations Security Council early this week. Bush remarked that the new resolution would ask the simple question: "Is Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein complying with a November resolution demanding that Iraq disarm itself of weapons of mass destruction?"

According to CNN reports, Bush said, "[Resolution 1441] did not ask for hints of progress or minor concessions. It demanded full and immediate disarmament. That, and that alone, is the issue before the council."

Bush also said the new resolution would be the last opportunity for the U.N. Security Council to prove its importance, when asked by a reporter.

The United States and Britain expect to present the new resolution to the U.N. Security Council early this week, and the council will vote on the resolution on March 7, after the next report from chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix.

Blix ordered Baghdad to destroy its illegal Al Samoud 2 missile by the beginning of March, because they exceed the allotted range limits. Iraq had not responded to the demand.

Teenager of botched transplant dies

Jesica Santillan, 17, died Saturday after receiving a heart-lung transplant of the wrong blood type on February 7. Santillan, whose family migrated from Mexico to the United States in order for her to receive proper medical treatment, received the transplant because she suffered from a heart deformity that did not allow her lungs to get oxygen into her blood.

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A Night at the Oscars is a night to remember

BY JOSH MILLER
STAR STAFF WRITER

The sleepy hamlet of Houghton was in a rather peculiar state this past weekend: 1) The temperature rose and stayed around a balmy 30-35 degrees, and 2) Houghton College's campus bustled with more activities than you could shake a stick at. While Mother Nature was responsible for the former, the latter was the result of planning by seniors Nina Johnson and Aimee Smith. From Thursday evening through the wee hours of Sunday morning, the Student Life Office quieted the typical weekend lament of the Houghton student, "there's nothing to do!" by organizing a myriad of events, providing Houghton with a Winter Weekend to remember.

CAB kicked off the festivities with a coffeehouse Thursday night. Numerous Houghtonites packed up their guitars and brought their vocal talents to the auxiliary gym in the Nielsen Physical Education Center, where CAB had prepared an ideal environment for good food, fellowship, and music. The performances were diverse, including the "White Boyz II Men" singing "It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday," Mike Zale's hearty rendition of the Gummy Bear's theme song, and Jon Brennan's cover of Britney Spears' "Hit Me Baby, One More

Time" that was...well...a guy singing a Britney Spears' song...

Houghton's School of Music headlined the activities of the following evening, as the Symphonic Winds and the Jazz Ensemble presented their

followed with a variety of pieces that constituted a veritable stylistic smorgasbord—from the vivacious Romanticism of Mendelssohn's "Overture for Winds" to the high energy of Leonard Bernstein's "Slava!" (which featured

Jon Haley on guitar) to the somber "Night Soliloquy," highlighted by the hauntingly beautiful flute solos of Houghton flute instructor, Nina Assimakopoulos. After a brief intermission, the Jazz Ensemble closed out the program with five hopping numbers, including the Stevie Wonder hit "Sir Duke" (composed by Dave Wolpe); Arthur Herzog Jr.'s "God Bless the Child," which featured the vocal stylings of Andrea

Schmidt; and "Glad about Thad," a composition by the ensemble's

► See Winter Weekend, page 3



PHOTO BY BETHANY SCHWARTZ
Laura Neumann, Casey Furlow, Bonnie Meyers, and Erin Spear enjoyed the Winter Weekend banquet on Saturday night.

"Windy Jazzy Concert." The Percussion Ensemble opened the performance with a masterfully performed John Beck overture. The Symphonic Winds

Students offer tax assistance to local community

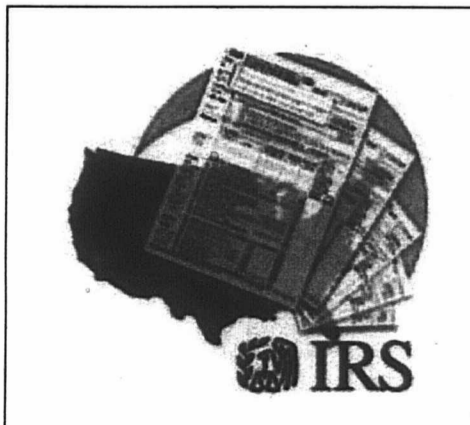
Tax day is still two months away, but Houghton College students are offering a service that will help local residents get a jump on completing those confusing forms.

Houghton accounting and business students are volunteering to prepare taxes for the local community through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.

The free services, co-sponsored by the Houghton College Business Department and the IRS, are available to the general public in room 328 of the Academic Building on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. through April 12. No appointments are necessary. There will be no sessions March 1, 5 and 8 due to spring

break.

The program, now in its tenth year, gives students who have taken the



Federal Income Taxation Course at Houghton College the opportunity to interact with people and experience

working with real documents. Business and accounting majors such as Alex Masters and Charlie Farnham are some of the students involved in this volunteer service.

"The students gain the invaluable opportunity to apply their classroom knowledge and experience to 'real-world' tax problems, while providing true service to those in need of their assistance," said business professor Steve Alderman. "Community members receive free assistance in an area that produces various levels of anxiety within taxpayers—namely, tax preparation and filing."

Students are also available to answer questions, check forms, and teach community members how to prepare their own tax forms. They expect to complete over 100 tax forms this year.

During her first transplant, doctors at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., mistakenly transplanted type A organs to Santillan, who is type O blood. Her body rejected the new organs.

Santillan was near death when she received a rare second transplant on Thursday. Her new organs were performing well, but doctors detected no brain activity in Santillan and her brain was swelling and bleeding.

Doctors declared Santillan dead Saturday afternoon after not having detected any brain activity for over one day. The doctors took Santillan off life-support before her parents could get a second opinion.

Medical examiners were scheduled to perform an autopsy Monday to determine the exact cause of death. In case of legal action, a lawyer for the Santillan family agreed an autopsy was appropriate.

Ninety-six die in nightclub fire

A nightclub in Rhode Island burned to the ground Thursday after complications with the performing act's pyrotechnics. According to CNN reports, the rock band Great White's stage show fireworks caught soundproofing material behind the stage on fire and quickly set the entire building in a blaze.

Out of the 96 people were killed in the nightclub, 31 have been positively identified, according to officials. They expressed hope of identifying all victims by Monday. Eighty people remained hospitalized after the fire on Sunday.

Confusion existed as to whether Great White had permission to use the pyrotechnics. Their management commented that the owner of the club, Jeffery Derderian, had given the band permission, while Derderian claimed he had no knowledge of the fireworks.

West Warwick Fire Chief Charlie Hall said the fire engulfed the entire wooden structure in less than three minutes.

Officials found most of the victims crowded near the front door, although three other exits were open. Officials guessed many victims could not see the other exits because of the thick, black smoke from the fire. Victims died from smoke inhalation and from being trampled.

This incident marked the second nightclub tragedy in the United States this week. In Chicago on Monday, 21 people died and more than 50 were injured as they rushed to exits after a security guard tried to break up a fight with pepper spray.

Did someone say 'food?' Meal plans about to change

BY REBECCA WILLIAMS
STAR STAFF WRITER

When it comes to food, it seems everybody's interested. Houghton students will be especially interested in hearing that the Board of Trustees has approved a new meal plan to be implemented in the fall of 2003.

There are several noteworthy changes in the structure of the meal plan. First, there will no longer be five- and ten-meal plans, or any block meal plans. Instead, the college will offer 21-, 14-, or seven-meal plans. The highlight of this change is that students will be allowed to transfer a set number of their meals per semester to Big Al's. In other words, with the 21-meal plan

students are able to transfer (eat) 21 meals per semester at Big Al's; with the 14-meal plan, 14 meals can be transferred per semester; and with the seven-meal plan, students can transfer seven meals per semester to Big Al's.

Transfer meals at Big Al's will be a great way to add variety to students' eating schedules; however, they will only be able to order transfer meals at certain times of the day. On Monday through Friday, available hours will be 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 9 p.m. to 10 p.m., but only if dinner was not eaten in the cafeteria—

set up where ID's can be scanned, and then students will be able to order from a menu made up specifically for the transfer meal program—it includes an entree, side, dessert, and beverage (no menu substitutions will be allowed).

The new meal plan also offers some choice. Currently, freshman and sophomores are required to be on the 21-meal plan. While freshman will still be required to be on the 21-meal plan, the changes give sophomores the option of being on either the 21- or the 14-meal plan. Juniors and seniors will be free to choose from any of the three plans.

Laurinda Wallace, director of Administrative Services, says, "I believe the more flexible meal plan structure, which allows some meals at Big Al's, is a step in the right direction to meet the needs of students. I am excited that Pioneer is a partner in this change, and we

will continue to look at ways to be creative in meal plan structuring."

Though there is no set pricing for the meal plans at the present time, effort is being made to keep the costs at a moderate level.



PHOTO BY BETHANY SCHWARTZ

Noteworthy changes are taking place in regard to student meal plans. Students may even have the option of taking meals in Big Al's next year.

which students may want to do on purpose if they're in the mood for a meal downstairs!

In order to transfer a meal to Big Al's, having a student identification card will be a must. A special transfer window will be



HOUGHTON COLLEGE Student Government Association

Important Election Dates: Applications and Petitions are due **Friday, February 28th**

Student Elections: Friday, March 14th

SGA Cabinet Elections

There are seven open positions in the SGA Cabinet:

President
Vice-President
Commissioner of Communications
Commissioner of Finance
Chaplain
Commissioner of Activities (CAB Director)
Treasurer of Activities (CAB Treasurer)

To learn more about what these positions entail, please visit the SGA Bylaws, or contact the current Cabinet members to learn more about what specific responsibilities they have. If you're interested, you need to contact Matt Preston, the Elections Commissioner, as soon as possible. You may either print off the forms from the website (<http://www.houghton.edu/orgs/sga>), or pick them up in the SGA Office, which is located in the basement of the Campus Center. Remember, applications and petitions are due this Friday, February 28th. Any exceptions must be made through the Elections Commissioner.

Student Media Positions

There are four different publications that have openings:

| | | | |
|--------------|--|------------|--|
| The Boulder | Editor-in-Chief Photo Editor Layout Editor Business Manager | The STAR | Editor-in-Chief Managing Editor Layout/Photo Editor Business Editor |
| The Lanthorn | Editor Business Managing | WJSL Radio | |

Remember, applications and petitions are due this **Friday, February 28th**. Please contact Matt Preston, the Elections Commissioner, with any questions.

► From **Winter Weekend**, page 1

director, Ken Crane, that included impressive improvisational solos by bassist Daniel Wartinger and Crane himself on the trombone.

Friday evening's festivities continued with a "ten-cent movie" showing in Wesley Chapel. The selected film was a true classic: "Breakfast at Tiffany's," starring Audrey Hepburn. It also aptly fit with the "Hollywood" theme of the weekend—a theme that characterized the banquet the following night.

Houghton students and faculty came to the Campus Center in their finest garb (or as their favorite movie character) to enjoy a pleasant evening and a break from typical Houghton cafeteria food. The Office of Student Programs rolled out the red carpet (literally) to welcome the attendants to "A Night at the Oscars." Silver stars dangled from the cafeteria ceiling as entertainment stars of yore were projected on a screen in the back of the room. The decor was complemented by classy music from the '30s and '40s, which incited some student slow dancing.

Baritone Sanford Sylvan took center stage at an Artist Series concert after the banquet, performing multiple works of primarily Romantic poetry arranged by composers such as Wolf and Tchaikovsky.

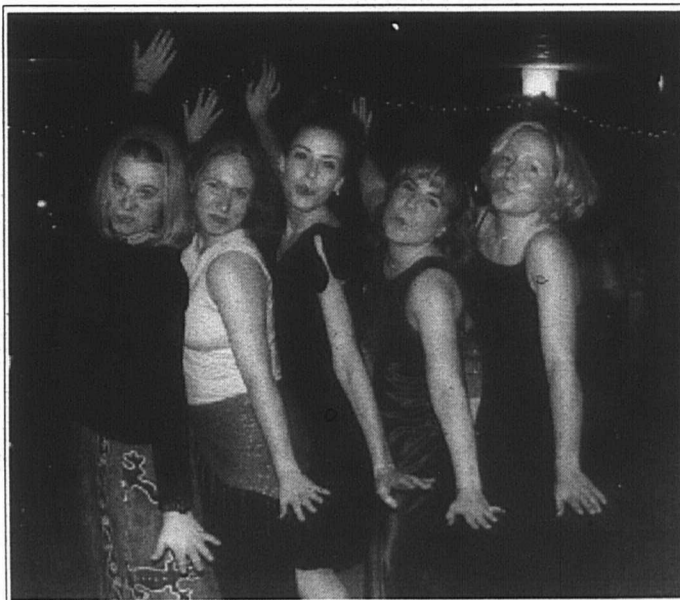
Following Sylvan's concert, set-up began for the final activity of the evening: SPOT. Around 11 p.m., the majority of Houghton's population piled into Wesley Chapel to watch this biannual tradition of songs and skits by Houghton students and staff. The crowd waited impatiently, clapping, chanting, and tossing rolls of toilet

paper across the room. Finally, at 11:30, the audience's feelings of anticipation were met and exceeded by the National Anthem performed in gorgeous male four-part harmony. This tribute to the armed forces was followed by multiple displays of talent and hilarity.

Hosts Ryan O'Connor and Nate Rigby kept the evening going, segueing from one act to the next with a parodied version of the David Letterman show. The performances were an array of diversity, including a reenactment of Sister Act 2's "Joyful, Joyful," featuring Matt Webb and Denise Bakerink; a spoof of "Joe Millionaire" entitled "Noel Billionaire"; and "Houghton College Idol," a rip on "American Idol" that involved an amazing and hilarious rendition of Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You" by Michael Farrow, as well as a first-rate impersonation of cranky British music critic Simon Cowell by Dr. Terry Paige.

The winners of the weekend's snow sculpture competition were also

announced during the SPOT program. The sophomores' Hollywood sign won best representation of the theme; the freshmen's mermaid fin received the award for most artistic; and the senior class's car—complete with a branch for an antenna, plastic cups for



Seniors Erin Lawlis, Kristin Pillsbury, Beth Maples, and Laura Sheppard posed for the camera at the Winter Weekend banquet on Saturday. About 250 people attended the banquet.

PHOTO BY BETHANY SCHWARTZ

headlights, and a \$60 parking violation ticket—was dubbed most creative.

The evening concluded with a bizarre final skit. Three Houghton males greased themselves up and performed Bon Jovi's "Always." Their presentation contained many homosexual overtones, which offended a large portion of the audience, eliciting boos.

The technicians running SPOT experienced some technical difficulties presenting a student film entitled "Lord of the Worms," so the piece was omitted from the program. The video's creators had the opportunity to present their work Sunday night in the

NAB. The movie was a combination of a "Lord of the Rings" parody and crazy stunts. It began with the forging of "the worms"—gummy worms that determined dominion over the dorms. Unfortunately, the "one worm to rule them all" was forged in Shenawana and used for ill. In light of this crisis, the men of South went on a quest to liberate the campus, but didn't get too far. After a series of stunts, they finally made it to Shen, broke in to the room of RD Jason Holmwood, and destroyed the evil ruling gummy worm once and for all...by flushing it down the toilet. Goodness and peace had been restored, and there was much

rejoicing.

Thus, Winter Weekend and "Lord of the Worms" came to a similar end. After a time of rampant and wild activities, the student body can return to the peaceful life of Houghton College, thankful for a fun-filled weekend and ready to brave the last week of classes before March break.

For banquet and SPOT photos, see pages 4 and 5.

The ABC's on an M.B.A.: Houghton alumni return to share

BY NOEL HABASHY
STAR STAFF WRITER

Meeting in the Alumni Dining Hall, four Houghton College alumni returned to speak to the Business Club. At dinner on Thursday, February 20, Kayann Gutkunst (currently at University of Buffalo), Andrew McCauley (graduated '01 from Simon School of Business at University of Rochester), Heather Curtis (currently at R.I.T.), and Jon Carpenter (currently at Simon at U of R), returned to their alma mater. The four came to share what they had learned about getting their Master's of Business Administration degrees.

The alumni were able to provide many insights in the business graduate program for students planning on entering into the program at some point and those simply curious about more information. They were able to share some of the differences and similarities between the master's program and the undergraduate work that the students are involved in.

For students who might be potentially interested in a M.B.A., some of the main tips the group shared were as follows:

- There are three major types of M.B.A. degrees: full-time, part-time, and executive.
- Houghton does prepare you well for the program, much better than other schools.
- Generally, the first year of an M.B.A. degree program is very demanding and is used to weed out those who aren't entirely committed.
- The M.B.A. itself is no longer a distinguishing factor because it is so common, so look to other things as well to set you apart in the business field.
- There were differing opinions between starting the degree immediately following graduation from college (if are ready, you "have the fire in your belly") or waiting for a few years work experience (to get a practical understanding for what you are studying).
- R.I.T., Clarkson, and Alfred State all offer an M.B.A. to graduates of the Houghton College business program for one year instead of the traditional two years (and it is possible to get credit for courses at other schools).
- Do well on the GMAT entrance test as that can make a big difference



Former Houghton student Heather Curtis recently came to speak to a Business Club meeting. Curtis is now pursuing her MBA at R.I.T. in Rochester.

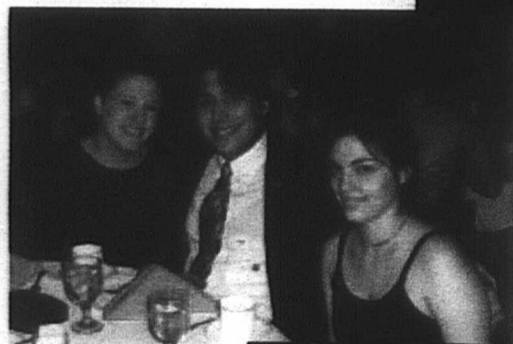
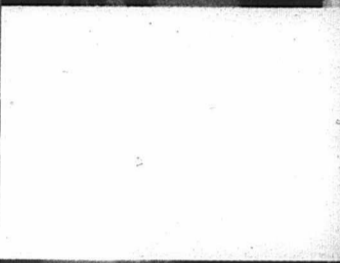
PHOTO BY BETHANY SCHWARTZ

in getting scholarships and apprenticeships.

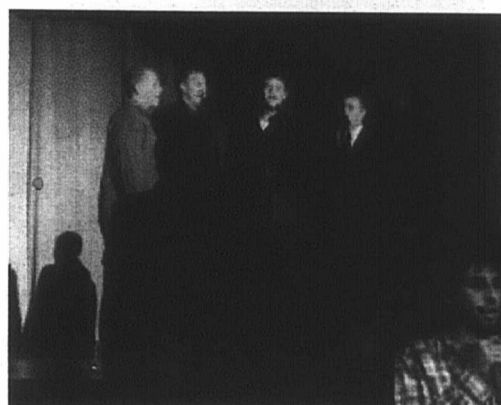
For more information on M.B.A. programs, go to: <http://www.businessathoughton.com/10/71>

or contact a business faculty member. Next year it may be you coming back to share with students.

WINTER WEEKEND
 A NIGHT AT THE OSCAR'S
 FEBRUARY 22, 2003 @ 6 P.M.
 ADULTS ONLY



spot



CD review: Caedmon's Call comes Back Home with another album

BY AARON BOYNTON
STAR STAFF WRITER

Caedmon's Call, the band that gave us such hits as "There She Goes," "Shifting Sand," and "40 Acres," is back with their new album, *Back Home*. Anyone that is familiar with the band will be pleased with the musical precision and quality that Caedmon's Call puts forth. However, if you read the songwriting credits closely, you'll find that Derek Webb and Aaron Tate, who were the primary songwriters on Caedmon's previous albums, did not write many of the new songs. Joshua Moore, the band's keyboardist and co-producer, Webb's wife Sandra McCracken, and Caedmon's label-mates Andrew Peterson and Randall Goodgame penned many of the songs on *Back Home*.

The first song, "Only Hope," was inspired by Charles Wesley's hymn, "Depth of Mercy." The

band stuck true to the words of the hymn but added their unique musical style to the song. "Beautiful Mystery" and "Thousand Miles" are two songs that proclaim love for God and recognize God for being so magnificent and wonderful. Caedmon's Call pours emotion into their works and touches each listener in different ways.

Just recently, to the dismay of Caedmon's Call fans everywhere, singer/guitarist Derek Webb left the band—with the support of the rest of the band and his family—to focus more on his upcoming solo release. Without Webb, Caedmon's Call vows to press on and do their musical work for God in front of fans across the country. While not the best Caedmon's Call album, *Back Home* is still a good buy and will be a success.

Rating: 7.5 out of 10



and I quote...

QUIPS HEARD ON CAMPUS

"I didn't know Houghton College had a lake. It isn't in any of the brochures."

-Prospective student, walking through a puddle in front of the Academic Building-

"Paul Young is from the Maritimes. They play the fiddle, and they might go to school. We're not sure."

-Dr. Cameron Airhart-

"They treat me like garbage on the Wegmans' parking lot! They kick me around and don't even notice!"

-Amber Crombie-

"Girls should come with directions."

-Mike Zale, junior-

People all over campus say funny, random things! Sometimes they say serious things, too... Either way, the Star would love to print any quotes that you hear, so please email them to star@houghton.edu!

LETTER TO THE CAMPUS

Offensive SPOT skit

Matt Webb

To the student body of Houghton College:

As I am sitting here in my office thinking about the SPOT from Saturday night, I am reminded of a similar feeling I had a couple years ago regarding what happened in a SPOT and how it left many students and community members feeling offended and upset that we "allow" such things to happen on our campus. I actually didn't see the SPOT from two years ago that created such a stir (I was at a conference in Florida with my wife at the time), but when I returned to campus the following week, I was inundated with emails and phone messages regarding the offensive nature of the act.

This year, however, I was in attendance (and even performed in one of the acts) and felt for myself what I think many of you may also be feeling. I, too, felt uncomfortable about the nature of the last act from SPOT. However, I don't believe that the young men who performed that particular act were intending to be malicious and offend people (see their letter of apology on page 7). I believe they were simply trying to get people to laugh at them by singing and acting silly. Does this make it OK? Of course not. For any poor choice that is made there are repercussions. I think we can all look back on poor choices we have made and as a result experienced some sort of repercussion, be it on an individual level (ex. a damaged relationship) or at a community level (ex. an imposed disciplinary sanction).

There are two issues that bother me about what happened Saturday night. The first is the last act of SPOT itself. I too did not appreciate what happened on stage, as I have already explained. The second issue is probably more frustrating for me and is much more difficult to deal with. Knowing how to address the misconception that we "allow" things like this to happen on campus is difficult. I am sure many of you are aware of other inappropriate, immoral, and at times illegal activities that occasionally occur on campus and I would hope that you don't actually believe that we "allow" or "condone" all of these behaviors simply because they happen. I do, however, understand the perception that we "allowed" this act to occur because it was in a public forum. We take precautions through an

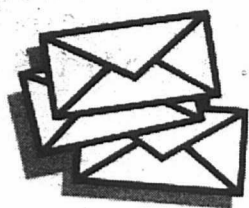
audition process for each SPOT and some of your fellow students can confirm that we frequently ask for groups to edit videos or cut out offensive material, and occasionally we don't allow some groups to perform. Please be assured that had we been properly informed of the full content of the act it would not have been allowed.

The audition process for SPOT is usually an effective method of "weeding out" potentially inappropriate acts. The uncertainty of what is actually going to happen on stage is the risk we take with a live variety show such as SPOT. So, one option would be to simply do away with SPOT. I'm not in favor of doing that and I don't think that would be fair to the Houghton community. SPOTs have been around since before my time at Houghton, and it is probably safe to say that it is the most supported and anticipated event on campus (in spite of the occasional bad act). The attendance this past Saturday is typical for a SPOT and is evidence that you as a student body look forward to SPOT and will attend, even if it means starting at 11:30 p.m. and not getting out of the chapel until 1:30 a.m! You love seeing your fellow classmates display their talents, humor and creativity. I would rather risk the occasional case of poor judgment and appropriately dealing with it, rather than simply eliminating the entire program.

So..... why am I saying all of this? The Houghton College student body is great to work with! My wife and I came to work at Houghton 10 1/2 years ago fully intending to only be here for two years. Well, we have now been here almost 11 years and love it! Yes, there are moments that are difficult and sometimes people make choices and behave in ways that are not easy to deal with (this includes faculty and staff also - not just students). However, those moments are rare and the positive moments far outweigh the negative. I would encourage you to remember SPOT for the positive moments (when else are you going to see Denise Bakerink trying to be "ghetto" and hear Dr. Paige use the word "colonoscopy"). Adam, Jacob and Mark have asked for forgiveness. I have forgiven them and encourage you to do the same.

Matt Webb

Director of Student Programs



Letterbox

star@houghton.edu

An embarrassment to our school

I attended SPOT this weekend and was really entertained and amused by most of the skits. I almost had a really enjoyable time.

However, this was ruined by the last sketch.

I was appalled by both the audacity of the participants and the cheers from some of the audience.

This skit portrayed (to the many non-students in attendance) Houghton as a homophobic, bigoted haven for sheltered Christians to come and laugh at a gay person's expense.

This was an extremely offensive, even hateful, display of a sentiment NOT held by all students here. I would never want to be grouped with a student body that felt this was in good taste. I even felt ashamed of my college as I watched this distasteful exhibit.

If the SPOT committee approved this sketch, I count that as a further embarrassment to our school.

I wish I could apologize to all those who were offended by it, but this is not possible, nor is it my responsibility.

-Susan Liedke, '04

Disgusted by SPOT skit

I am writing to express my feelings of disgust toward the final skit of Saturday's SPOT. SPOT is supposed to be a time for students and faculty to come together and laugh, but I cannot find anything funny about that portrayal of homosexuality. It is naive and arrogant to deny homosexuality among Christians and the constant struggle that comes with it. Acts like these continue to separate "Christians" from the unsaved—building barriers instead of bridges. I was—and still am—highly offended and find this display of indecency impossible to mend.

-Gregory Tedesco, '05

Apology to the campus

In regard to specified reactions, we would like to offer our sincere apology. The performance "Always" by "Bon Jovi," on Saturday, February 22 at SPOT, anticipated a positive and jovial response; however, some spectators found it to be dirty, offensive, and violating. We want everyone to know that it was not the objective of any band member to demonstrate immoral exploits, inappropriate acts, or disgusting behavior. Consequently, we ask for forgiveness.

Furthermore, South Hall Residence Staff and directors in no way should take any responsibility. The staff and directors felt misinformed with reference to the performance and its objective, and we take the fault for the ill communication regarding the routine.

To Mark Hanna we state that we are especially sorry because we never meant to deceive or sneak the act past you. We honestly did not communicate to you properly all that we intended to do and we are sorry for the trouble it has caused. Mark and the staff in no way allowed for this and they are not to be blamed.

Again, we apologize and hope you understand this so that you can forgive us.

Respectfully yours,
Adam Thomas Zoeller
Jacob Jonathan Nuncio
Mark William Reitsma

For a letter from Matt Webb, Director of Student Programs, regarding this issue, see page 6.

Further comments and letters may be emailed to star@houghton.edu for consideration for publication in our next issue.

EDITORIAL

The Homosexual Dilemma Bethany Schwartz

There is, and probably always will be, a continuing debate among Christians regarding how the church ought to respond to homosexuals. (When I say "the church," I mean the body of believers, not a particular organization or denomination.) This controversy stirs up much dissension and conflict between Christians and non-Christians alike, yet the question goes beyond, "Is homosexuality wrong?" The question, therefore, settles on, "How do we, as Christians, respond to homosexuals?"

The Bible clearly presents a negative image of homosexual behavior, saying that it is a sin and the violators will be dealt with accordingly. God clearly frowns upon sexual relations between individuals of the same sex. Scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments portray homosexual sex as sin. (Sex or lust outside of heterosexual marriage also violates God's commands, and any homosexual activity of this sort is also be against His will.) The issue of homosexual behavior is defined in the Bible as being against God's commandments.

Christians, however, must face the question of how to respond to homosexual individuals. Many believers are repulsed by such behavior and shun these people altogether, but the Bible tells us to love each other and respect one another. To love someone is to treat him or her with dedication and selflessness. Paul gives a clear definition of this word in 1 Corinthians 13, saying...[etc] And we are instructed that the greatest commandment is to love others with just as much regard as we treat ourselves. Just as we would not condemn or shun ourselves for our personal sins, we are not permitted to do the same to homosexuals.

The church plays a major role in this as well. It has been a major issue in many churches as they try to determine whether or not homosexuals may become part of the church. When the Bible says to love one another, it does not mention any exceptions for churches and homosexuals. The church is comprised of sinners; it cannot turn anyone away because of a sin. In fact, the church ought to be reaching out to homosexual individuals instead of shunning them. This is the way that God works—He reaches out to sinners even when no one else does. Jesus spent his time with tax collectors and other sinners. If we are to be "little Christs," as our name indicates, shouldn't we be following Jesus' example?

I am not advocating homosexuality in any way, nor am I saying that Christians do not struggle with this. It is a real issue in our culture today. However, we as a church and a body need to be careful how we respond to homosexuals. They are looking for love and acceptance just as we are. If we are not careful, they will soon learn that the only place they do not find rejection is in the world. This should not be the case; we do not want to turn away people whom God has created. Jesus didn't.

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LETTER GUIDELINES

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Last indoor track meet runs to a successful halt

BY KATY SYKES
STAR SPORTS WRITER

Strong and swift were the strides of the Houghton Highlanders this past Saturday as they raced their last indoor meet, closing the season with strong performances that promise more to come in the approaching spring track and field season. Once again the team returned with a number of school records, a couple of provisional qualifications, and numerous personal records.

The athletes of the meet were Diane Benedict, Mary Gibson, Sarah Gardner, Hallie Fairchild and Nick Ruiz.

Benedict ran an outstanding 800m race, qualifying provisionally for nationals with a time of 2min. 23.47 sec. Gibson

ran the 500 meters for the first time and came off the track with the school record in a time of 1:21.65! Both Benedict and Gibson were also members of the 4 x 800m relay team who qualified provisionally for nationals (with a time of 9:47.54). Nick Ruiz had a

powerful anchor in the men's 4 x 800m relay team. Fortunately for the sprinters, the technology was up and running, giving official computer-timed finishes. Hallie Fairchild broke two school records: the 60m sprint and 200m dash with official times of 8.35s and 27.37s

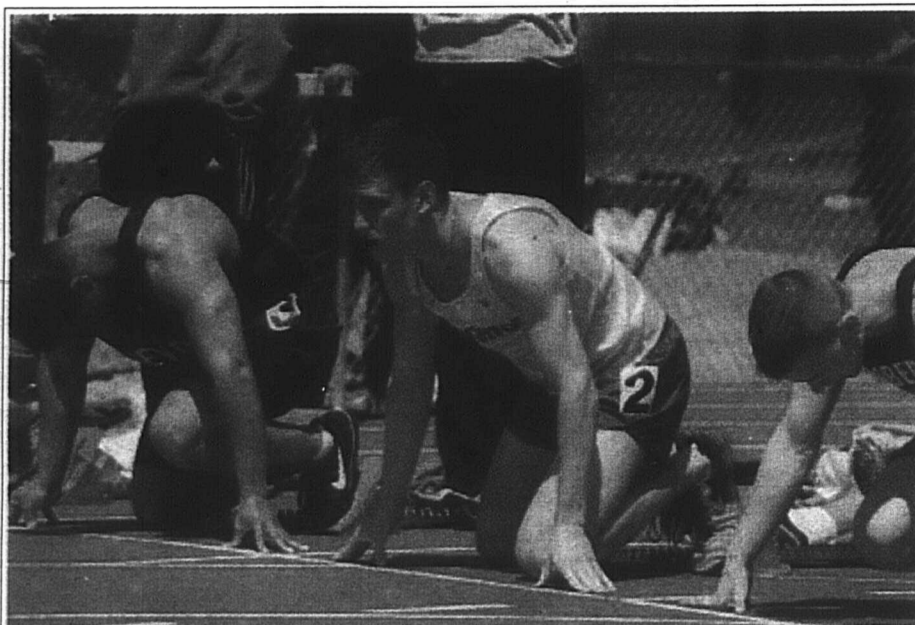
record and ranking her third or fourth for NAIA nationals!

Honorable mentions for athletes of the meet were Lucas Rees, racing the 400m dash as well as competing in the men's 4 x 800m relay. Rees is a season-trained sprinter and ran a solid 800m leg on the relay, a distance twice the length of his typical race. Chris Moore also made athlete of the meet honorable mention this weekend, breaking two personal records in the mile and 1000m. The women's 4 x 800m relay team (consisting of Diane Benedict, Kerri Koch, Katy Sykes, and Mary Gibson) was also named honorable mention.

Coaches Smalley and Rangel were pleased with the competitiveness of the team Saturday, as the athletes seemed ready to run against competitive division I and division III schools. Both coaches were excited about the team's performance as a whole, and the indoor season concluded with a total of 11 school records and at least 34 personal records!

Hallie Fairchild concurred, saying, "Our indoor season ended on a stellar note-leaving us enthusiastic and determined, anticipating an even better outdoor season."

Indoor nationals will be held in Tennessee over Feb. break and the first outdoor meet is on March 22.



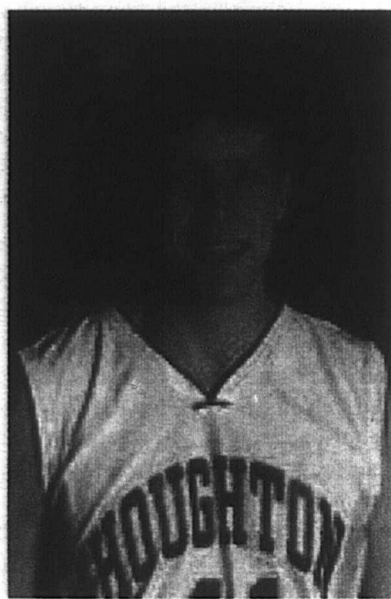
FILE PHOTO

This photograph from the AMC track and field championship was taken in the spring of 2002. The outdoor track season will soon be beginning for both the men and women's track teams. Several of the players will be competing in national indoor championships.

number of exceptional performances as he set a new personal record in the 800m and proved a

respectively. Sarah Gardner ran the 60m hurdles with an official time of 9.09s breaking her previous

HIGHLANDER athlete of the week



Joel Hamilton
center, basketball

This 6'7" junior from Bloomsburg, PA was a definitive factor in Saturday's game against Malone. Hamilton had a career-high 23 points, 12 rebounds, and three blocked shots during the game. He leads the team in rebounds.

Highlander basketball teams end season with losses to Malone

The men wrapped up their season with a home loss to Malone, 85-80, on Saturday. Houghton (6-20) led for the entire first half until Malone tied the score at 35 in the last minute. Neither team could gain much momentum in a second half that produced six ties and 16 lead changes. The Highlanders pulled ahead by four (80-76) with a minute and a half to go, but wouldn't score again as Malone ended the game on a 9-0 run. Joel Hamilton finished with a career-high 23 points, pulled down 12 rebounds, and blocked three shots. Jason Lee added 13 points, Eric Jankov had a career-high 11 points, and Seth Raper added 10 points and five assists. Houghton shot 49 percent from the field, while Malone converted 50 percent of their attempts.

The women couldn't get going offensively as they closed their regular

season with a 65-57 loss to Malone at home on Saturday. Houghton led by one (30-29) at the half, but shot just 25 percent from the field in the second half. Malone took the lead for good (34-32) just a minute into the second half and would lead by as many as 11. The Pioneers converted 10-of-30 three pointers, while the Highlanders hit just two of their 22 attempts from long range. Houghton held a 50-40 edge in rebounding, but could never take advantage of their height advantage down low. Angela Layne finished with 18 points and 11 rebounds, Amanda Sweeney added nine points and 10 boards, while Casandra Mills tallied eight points, five rebounds, and three steals. Houghton (15-11) now moves to the first round of AMC playoffs where they will play at Shawnee State on Tuesday at 6 p.m.

HIGHLANDER SCORES

Women's basketball

2/15 Houghton 68, Ursaline 61
2/18 Houghton 59, Roberts 71
2/22 Houghton 57, Malone 65

Men's basketball

2/13 Houghton 57, Geneva 64
2/18 Houghton 77, Roberts 84
2/22 Houghton 80, Malone 85