

## THE **World** OUT where?

BY BEN HUGHES  
STAR STAFF WRITER

### North Korea & U.S. Resolve Nuclear Standoff with RPS Theory (tm)

Ending months of intense brinksmanship, North Korea and the U.S. finally resolved their dispute over North Korea's nuclear weapons program. The breakthrough stemmed from the recommendation of eminent political theorist Mark A. Lempke.

Dr. Lempke, renowned internationally as the "Daredevil of Diplomacy," presented his ground-breaking RPS Theory during high-level talks between the two powers. RPS Theory, known colloquially as "Rock-Paper-Scissors" Theory, was immediately adopted by the diplomats of both sides after reviewing Dr. Lempke's controversial article, "RPS Theory: Gateway to Global Peace," recently published in The Journal of Political, Economic, and Cryptonic Studies.

When asked about the stunning success of his previously untested RPS Theory, Dr. Lempke commented, "I'm not surprised in the least that this worked; they don't call me the 'Pontiff of Politics' for nothing." In gratitude, South Korea gifted the self-proclaimed "Fountain of Knowledge" with a year's supply of kimchi.

The U.S. won the best-of-five match by craftily deploying the Meilaender Maneuver, namely, five papers in a row. North Korea sheepishly assented to dismantle its nuclear armaments program. However, Pyongyang demanded that U.N. inspectors win a best-of-three RPS match with North Korean guards before entering a potential nuclear site.

North Korea's crushed spirit was soon abated, having won a subsequent RPS match determining which side would have first dibs at the diplomats' lunch buffet.

In related news, France lost its seat on the U.N. Security Council to Iceland after betting said seat against 100 tons of dried halibut in a best-of-seven match.

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## Keanu Reeves Speaks on *Matrix* Theology

BY JOSH MILLER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

This past week, Keanu Reeves, star of the *Matrix* trilogy, came to Houghton College to deliver a Chapel talk on the philosophical and theological import of the three movies.

When asked why Houghton chose to invite Reeves, Dean of Chapel Dr. Brittain said, "To tell you the truth, it was my wife's idea. I've never seen any of those *Matrix* movies myself. I'm more of a *Blazing Saddles* kind of guy."

Mrs. Brittain was in the front row for Reeves' talk, entitled, "*The Matrix*: It's Really Deep, Man." Reeves began by thanking Houghton for having him, saying that it was "most excellent" to be here. He then proceeded to give a rather disjointed presentation, filled with many moments of awkward silence, during which Reeves stared out into the audience and grinned stupidly.

One of Reeves' particularly profound insights involved his comments on the famous scene in the first *Matrix* movie, in which Morpheus (played by Laurence Fishburne) offers Reeves' character Neo the choice between two pills—the blue pill, which will allow Neo to forget all the new truths about his world that Morpheus has shown him, or the red pill, which would plunge Neo into a new life of truth and discovery in which he'd get to see "just how far down the rabbit hole goes." "It's like, red is

the pill of passion," said Reeves. "You know...like blood and stuff...But blue; man, blue is the sad pill, always getting you down. You don't want that, dude."

Reeves then flashed his boyish grin at the crowd for a full ten seconds and asked Dr. Brittain if his hair looked ok before he continued with his talk.

which many have labeled as too overt and heavy-handed with their philosophy and theology, making them inferior to the first *Matrix*. "You know, it really makes me mad when people say that," said Reeves. "I just like, don't understand where people get off criticizing a movie where I kick so much butt! I

mean, how many Agent Smith dudes do I beat up in the middle of the second movie? But does that matter? Nooooo."

Reeves concluded his talk with a handstand which he held for thirty seconds, eliciting applause from a few of the females in the audience, in particular Mrs. Brittain.

After hearing Reeves speak, many of the faculty and staff present felt disoriented and confused. "I realize I'm a bit out of the loop culturally," President Chamberlain remarked. "but what was that? I mean, do people in

this day and age not even have to make sense any more?"

"The end is near," said Houghton Bible professor Dr. Schultz.

Many students were also disgruntled by Reeves' talk. Commenting on the service, senior Ben Askins said, "He made me want to break things...mainly his face."



"And then Morpheus was like, 'Take the red pill' ...And I was like, 'No way!' But then I did and I got cool clothes and guns ...lots of guns. And then I got to kick Elrond's butt and save the world. But then I had to die. That was kind of a major bummer." Such were the valuable insights given during the highly anticipated Keanu

In commenting on the closing scene of the first movie in which Neo takes to the air in flight after conquering the matrix, Reeves said, "We all want to be like Superman...You know, fly around and melt stuff with our laser vision, and stuff. Sometimes I put on red spandex pants and pretend I'm Superman..."

Reeves also made reference to the second and third movies of the trilogy,

## SGA Provides 'Chic' Atmosphere for Coffee-Lovers

BY DAN PERRINE  
STAR STAFF WRITER

Expect to see some major changes in the layout of the Campus Center next year. After an emergency meeting with a representative from Douglas & Adams Architecture, it has been decided that the proposed plan to squeeze both a coffeehouse and the revamped student radio station into the same area just won't work.

"It became apparent that it just wasn't possible to fit all the radio station's equipment into a smaller space, plus there were serious concerns about freshmen in the midst of a make-out session kicking over a coffee pot onto sensitive radio equipment and starting an electrical fire that could burn down the entire CC. We didn't want an innocent PDA to cause an unmitigated catastrophe, so we decided to take action," SGA president Danielle Luckey said after the meeting.

So how is the student government going to go ahead with plans for reestablishing WJSL and installing the new coffeehouse?

The new plan, approved overwhelmingly at the most recent SGA meeting, is to let the radio station keep its old headquarters and install the coffeehouse in the SGA's current offices. "There's a lot more open space in the student government's rooms, which should go a long ways towards establishing the chic, lounge atmosphere we're looking for," Ash Houswarz, the head architect for the project, said over a phone interview. "Plus, our feng shui expert told us that geomantic energy currents in the current SGA office encourage liberal spending. Not a good place for a government to be based, but excellent for a purveyor of premium coffees."

Where does this leave the SGA? "We're going to move our operations upstairs, to the platform right next to the Info Center," Vice President Laura Pasieka responded. "At first, this might not look like a good place to work out of, but our studies of the Campus Center show that this area is under-utilized and wouldn't be missed if it was given over

to offices. Furthermore, we're hoping that this more central, open-air location will help us be more accessible to the student body. All in all, we think the new arrangements will work well for everyone."

There was one other item of business discussed at the SGA meeting. As the Java 101 cart in the NAB will be discontinued with the introduction of the coffeehouse, and given the popularity of Krispy Kremes fundraisers here on campus, the student government is looking into bringing a Krispy Kremes cart into the NAB on weekday mornings. "We're looking for students willing to take a job running the cart. Those interested should email their application to [sga@houghton.edu](mailto:sga@houghton.edu) as soon as possible," Luckey said.

In unrelated news, the maintenance department is planning on reinforcing school stairwells and increasing the load capacity of all the elevators on campus over the summer.

From **world news**, page 1

### Archeological Evidence of Legendary Middle Earth Uncovered

Confirming ancient legends, archeologists recently discovered evidence of a primordial era that incorporated surprisingly sophisticated civilizations and warfare. Collaborating across the globe, archaeological experts believe they are proving the existence of the so-called "Middle Earth" age.

"You wouldn't believe the types of skeletons we are digging up," one excited archeologist said in a news conference. He continued, "There are distinct types of skeletal structures, including really small ones with disproportionately large feet bones, really misshapen skeletons that still reek, and some huge elephant-like fossils that make the dinosaurs look like house pets!"

Other evidence suggesting several distinct, sophisticated civilizations include the uncovered ruins of ancient cities and fortresses. Some examples include a lofty black tower found near modern-day Istanbul, a huge city carved into a mountainside around Rome, and an idyllic region with no contact with the outside world located in what is now Allegany County, New York.

The archeologists believe that, despite its profound cultural achievements, Middle Earth was characterized by waves of devastating wars. Many battlefields have been discovered, providing valuable clues about the civilizations that participated.

According to ongoing research, one civilization is believed to have perfected the art of cavalry charges. Another civilization with particularly violent inclinations relied on brute strength and numbers to crush its enemies, and was despised by all other cultures. A human-like civilization revered a certain tree, which was inscribed on its elaborate armor. One of the oldest races that walked Middle Earth seems to have literally disappeared, though the reasons are unclear. A failed mass excursion over the sea is a possible explanation.

Perhaps the most intriguing find so far is a simple gold ring found by a mountain that was probably once volcanic. The surrounding desolate area was completely devoid of artifacts except for the ring, puzzling archeologists. The artifact, which was described by its discoverer as "precious,"

**world news** continues in next column

was sent to a laboratory for tests.

### U.S. Cedes Power to U.N.

Citing its growing international reputation as a unilateral, imperial power, the U.S. government has agreed to cede much of its power to the United Nations. Several world leaders, who insisted on remaining anonymous, confided to reporters that they are elated with the unexpected U.S. announcement. "Now my country has a chance to become a hegemonic power," one such leader asserted, though quickly adding, "Actually, what I really meant was, 'Now my country will be in a better position to fully support the U.N. in its efforts to secure a peaceful world that

equally benefits all.'"

As a gesture of reconciliation, the U.S. intends to give up its Security Council seat. It will be given to one nation that the U.S. had unduly meddled in during the twentieth century (e.g., Nicaragua, Guatemala, Somalia, et al) to be determined at random. Additionally, the U.S. pledged to always vote in agreement with France and Germany in the General Assembly.

In a historic press conference, a White House spokesperson proclaimed, "This administration is done being viewed as a band of cowboys trying to single-handedly save the world. Since the global community thinks it can do better, it will now have full access to the resources of the United States."

The new U.S. policy will reduce national defense spending by 90%, with the savings to be transferred to an international fund dedicated to a global defense system against a future alien invasion. As one U.N. official put it, "It is likely that the NASA rovers will really annoy any aliens that they encounter on Mars...Would you want a little robot from another planet poking around in your backyard?" Various U.S. officials agreed with such sentiments, warning that provoking Martians could hold catastrophic consequences for Earth as it enters a new era of unprecedented global harmony, prosperity, and unity.

## GETTING TO KNOW ... Dr. Wile E. Coyote, Ph.D.

by RACHEL BRASK  
STAR STAFF WRITER

**Position:** Associate Professor of Physics, Houghton College

**Education:** B.S. in Physics, University of Arizona; Masters in Thermal Physics and Combustion Technology from Southwest University, Doctorate of Studies in Gravitational Forces and Thermo-nuclear Mechanics, New Mexico University

**Job Experience:** Field Tester for ACME Corporation, Special Products Engineer; physics consultant for Warner Bros.

**What Brings You to Houghton?** A few things. ACME Co. put a cap on my Workers' Comp, and stopped paying my medical insurance, so I needed another venue and a change of pace. I like the opportunity to pass on my genius to others, so I wanted a teaching job. And it would be nice to have a normal job instead of getting blown up, smashed into walls, and falling off cliffs all the time. I'm getting older; I can't be doing that stuff anymore.

**What Do You Do in Your Spare Time?** I like bird-watching. I started watching smaller birds and found larger birds to be much more interesting, especially the roadrunner in my native Southwest. I also like to go hunting, but the bird watching and hunting don't always overlap one another. I also like to read, early British literature in particular.

**Which climate do you prefer?**

Well, back home in the desert, there was really only one climate: hot. So being in a snowfall in the middle of March still takes some getting used to. I actually enjoy the Houghton climate, cold as it is. I just wish it would make up its mind sometime, instead of being warm and snowing on the same day.

**What's your favorite food?** I'd

have to say that my favorite food is barbequed roadrunner... although in lieu of such delicacies, the chicken tender subs from Big Al's are my second favorite.

**What do you do for thrills?** I like to perform physics experiments with myself. There's nothing like experiencing a free fall from a high cliff, and performing the calculations myself on the way down...it's pretty thrilling. However, the part where I hit the ground is my least favorite part.

**How many times have you been to the hospital for injuries?** Do you know how much a google is? That's your answer.





# HOROSCOPES

BY MADAMME RAQUELBRASKA  
ASTROLOGER

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** You see new beginnings in the horizon beyond, much as Christopher Columbus could see the edge of the world before he toppled over it and landed in what he thought was India. You will likewise make a decision about something that will leave a permanently erroneous impact upon history.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** The voices are at it again. The voices in your head. Listen to them again. They've started to sing a modal mix of anhemitonic pentatonic harmonies. You need to get out of the music building more often.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21)** There is something wrong with your life. There is something right with your life. There is something else wrong. Deal with it, and stop looking to horoscopes for all the answers in your life.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22)** Love is coming your way, watch out. Cancer is a hot sign this month. Your compatible signs for love are Taurus, Gemini, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius and Aries. Pisces is a little fishy.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Today is your bad day. You woke up to bagpipes playing outside with the chirping birds, and before the end of the day, you will find yourself being chased by hairy bearded men wearing tartan and plaid kilts, mullets and yellow chicken heads. Start running now.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** The weather is plotting against you. If you want today to be warm, then it will be snowy, freezing and cold. If you want today to be cold, then you just need to see a psychiatrist.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** A deep thinker and philosopher, you find yourself questioning the significance and intricacies of Bovine Deity while eating Holy Cow ice cream. Just eat the ice cream. Questions of Bovine Deity are a sign of deeper-rooted issues in your life that you must resolve very soon.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)** Sleep has been difficult for you. Too many late nights and dreams resembling Campus Center artwork is enough to keep anyone awake. Consider catching up on lost sleep in an 8-o'clock class.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** The alignment of the stars this week marks an important event: the great squirrel pilgrimage. During this time, you will likely see more squirrels in the area than you have in your whole life. They will follow you and talk to you. Take this week to get in tune with your inner-squirrel.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** There are relationships in dire need of repair somewhere in Timbuktu. This has nothing to do with you. Appreciate the relationships you have because you never know when they might move to Timbuktu. Bake them all cookies to show how much you care.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** Be aware of your spiritual priorities. Be aware of what you yield your self, time, possessions, energies, and offerings to. Playing with a flying disc begins innocently, and before you know it, you too will be consumed.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** You cannot ignore the sense of immediacy with which a very important deadline is fast approaching, with approximately less than two months. But fear not, your search for that living souvenir will not have been in vain. You still have time.

## HOUGHTON COLLEGE NEWS BRIEFS

BY D. ELLIOTT TAIT  
STAR STAFF WRITER

### "Chapel PowerPoint Guy" Replaced

CHAPEL - After months of scouting and interviewing, Dr. Brittain and the Office of Student Life have finally found a replacement for the "Chapel PowerPoint Guy."

On Monday, April 5, Dr. Brittain will "unleash" his office's latest employee: "Henry." Henry is a sea urchin who has been trained to push the spacebar at the correct time during a song and/or sermon.

"The job doesn't require a whole lot... Henry doesn't even have a central nervous system and he's an esteemed professional in this field."

Henry is also scheduled to teach sociology next semester.

### Outsourcing Strikes Academic Records Office

LUCKEY - Due to a lack of funds from random brand-new automobile purchases by the school, Houghton College has decided to outsource the entire Academic Records Office.

A tent outside of Delhi, India is currently housing 19 Indian natives, who are answering phones and processing student registration and course schedules for 50 hours a week. As previously stated in The Star, all academic records are now web based in order to facilitate for this change.

This is the second outsourcing decision the college has made in the last 2 months. Houghton College Security was first outsourced to primitive huts in China at the end of January. No one has noticed.

### "Perspective Palace" Plans Ratified

HOUGHTON - The plans for a new glass palace have been approved by the Board of Trustees, the final authorization step needed before the palace's controversial start.

The palace, complete with 20 honeymoon suites, each with indoor and outdoor Jacuzzis, marble flooring, queen and king-sized beds, and Amethyst folders, is to house prospective students who are visiting Houghton College.

The student body has raised a considerable voice of protest against the proposed \$1.2 million palace, as it is 157% of their annual tuition. An amendment to the Constitution ratified by the students last week, however, took away the student's voice in such matters.

The amendment, which received a measly 15% of the total amount of eligible votes, also handed The Star and the entire SGA organization into the hands of the school's administration.

Dean Tilley stated that funding for the palace would be derived mostly from the near-future outsourcing of the sociology department.

### Recent Poll Displays Confusing Results

FOURTH FLOOR NAB - A recent poll conducted by The Star showed that 73% of the students think Esther was the most influential figure of the entire Old Testament. About 12% think Sarah was the most influential figure, and an assorted 15% said Moses, Abraham, or Isaiah.

Regarding the most influential figures of the last millennia, Hillary Clinton and Joan of Ark tied with 32 % each, followed by Margaret Thatcher with 19%, and the Power-Puff Girls with 12%. "Some Guy" filled in the remaining 5%.

The polls were conducted by the theology department.

Regarding this news story, 55% are confused, 22% are insulted, and 13% think Nalgene are the most overrated product on Houghton's campus.

## Spring Break 2004

Travel with STS, America's #1 Student Tour operator to **Jamaica, Cancun, Acapulco, Bahamas and Florida.** Now hiring campus reps. Call for group discounts.

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## Houghton Hosts Forums on "Homosexuality and the Church"

BY MELANIE MARCIANO  
STAR STAR WRITER

This past week, Houghton held a series of forums entitled "Homosexuality and the Church." The forums offered helpful information through Houghton professors and guest speakers in an attempt to clear up some misconceptions and foster critical thinking about the Biblical acceptance or rejection of homosexuality.

The forums sprung out of President Bush's rejection of the opportunity to allow gay marriage nationwide. Since his declaration, there has been widespread discussion of the topic. Struggling to concretely establish their views, Christians are consulting the Bible and other Christian authorities. Thus, many Houghton students eagerly jumped at the opportunity to hear discussions on this topic.

The recital hall just wasn't big enough as herds of students and faculty piled in to witness what many suspected to be a carnage of controversy unfolding on Houghton's campus. In spite of these nervous sentiments, everyone got along in a civilized manner; and insightful arguments provoked informed thought. Houghton Professors and guest biblical scholars calmly and rationally searched the Bible and Christian tradition to illuminate both sides to the heated issue of the accurate Christian attitude towards homosexuals.

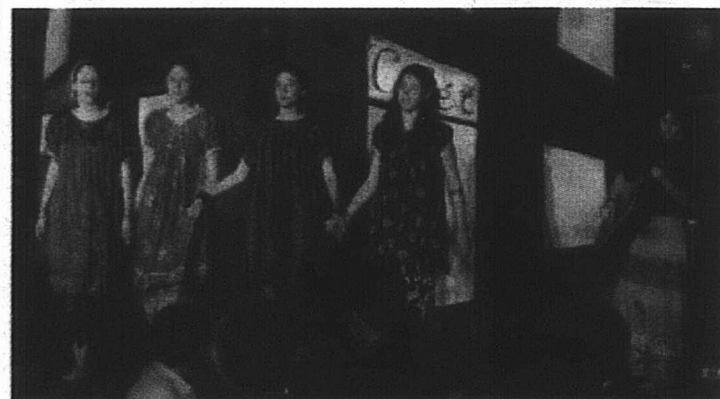
Biblical principles were used to back both the arguments supporting homosexuality as God's will and those that label it a sin, as all that the Bible had to say specifically having to do with the nature of sexuality and God's purpose for

humankind was discussed. Students had a chance to understand how each side came to their conclusions and learn the basis on which to make their judgments. While God's plan for humankind could be looked at as the chance to find a partner to escape loneliness, it could also be interpreted as the specific joining of male and female.

Speakers also explored the difference between homosexual orientation and practice and when (if ever) its practice is Biblically justifiable. Many of those who opposed homosexuality on any grounds argued that one can be tempted to act on homosexual impulses without giving in, just as one can be tempted without acting on heterosexual impulses. However, it was also noted that while it can be argued that all homosexual activity is a sin, the possibility that the standards of sin are the same for homosexuals as heterosexuals (where only sexual activity outside of marriage is sinful) was discussed.

Students and faculty were encouraged not to focus on singular, isolated references in Scripture but to analyze what we know of the nature of God and the principles of the Bible as a whole. The discussions seemed to reach the conclusion that the overarching message of the Bible is to love God and each other. Thus, no matter what the view of the Church or individual Christians is on the issue of homosexuality specifically, all people should be loved and respected as those created in God's image. In fact, the words of the opening prayer on Tuesday night reminded those present that theology is about people, not just ideas; and that Christians should be sensitive towards and not isolate those who hold differing views.

## Images from the International Banquet



## Houghton's Annual Opera Workshop Works for Me

BY AARON BOYNTON  
MANAGING EDITOR

Once in a while, you just have to give in to your curiosities and do something that you don't usually look forward to doing. On Friday, I attended the second performance of the Opera Workshop, held in Tysinger Auditorium at Houghton Academy. The first half of the performance consisted of the first act of *Susannah*, an opera based on the Apocryphal addition to the book of Daniel that is set in New Hope Valley, Tennessee. In this act, the lead character of Susannah Polk, played by senior Sarah Keely, goes through an ordeal where she is singled out to be one of the "sinners" in the town, is seen bathing nude in the creek behind her property, and is then shunned by the community, with the exception of Little Bat (Jordan Markwood) and her brother Sam (Donald Schuessler). Susannah laments the possibility of leaving the valley even though she had dreamed of one day departing.

For only performing one-half of the opera, the cast made it worthwhile for the audience. Although some of the voices were hard to hear, on account of an accompanying orchestra and lack of a proper orchestra pit, the most important parts were heard loud and clear. With

show with their emotionally heart-wrenching presentations in Scene V. Clearly, *Susannah* is an opera, where in a proper performance hall, can be thoroughly enjoyed. For Houghton, it was a fairly solid performance and showcased some of the future talent in the music department.

The second half of the Opera Workshop's performance consisted of scenes from six different operas and musicals, including *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Carmen*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *A Weekend In The Country*. These performances showcased some of the other vocal talent of the ensemble. Junior performance major Selena Duroy blew the audience away with her high aria in a scene from *Lakme*. Duroy's

performance exemplified how I feel an upper soprano operatic soloist should sound. Even with some notes being in a high register, Duroy nailed them clearly and beautifully.

The second half was much more cheerful and happy than the generally dark tone of *Susannah*. Two duos really

stuck out in my mind from the second act. In a scene from *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Julie Charlton and Alicia Atwater provided a humorous look at two women who are being sweet-talked by the same man. After discovering this, the "wives" combined revenge and humor into a witty number that had the audience laughing in their seats. In the next scene, Sarah Kleymann and Kimberly Prins brought me back to my childhood with a song from Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*. Prins was firm in her role as Hansel, a male role written for performance by a female soloist. Hansel's line, "I am a boy! I am never lost" had me in stitches.

The ensemble closed out the night with *A Weekend in the Country*, a humorous song highlighted by the stubbornness of disgusted Anne, played by Amy Rogers. Rogers delivered what I deemed to be the top performance of the second half with her dry humor and vocal "sneer" of sorts.

Shirley Close, Opera Workshop director, has guided students through these performances for the past five years. Without her, there might not be the staffing and motivation to put on such exhaustive performances.

Overall, I would have preferred to see one whole opera and not a "revue" as has been done in the past few years. Does this make me want to go see more operas? No, but it at the least made me appreciate the art of opera and those who hold it in the highest regard.

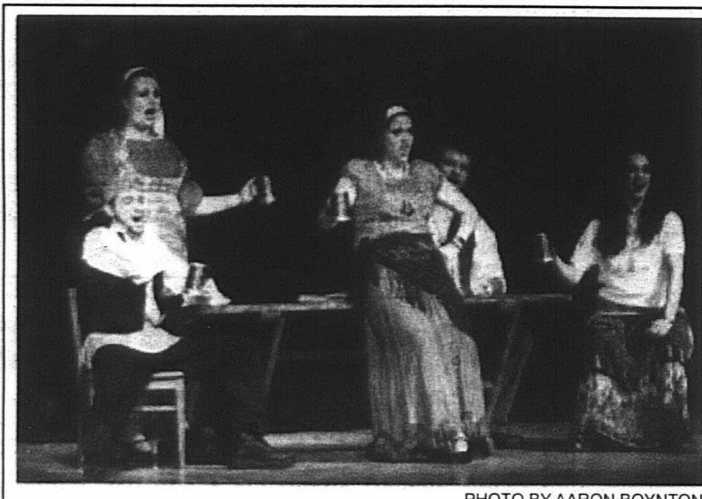


PHOTO BY AARON BOYNTON

Houghton Academy being the only place with proper space to produce an opera, the performers and orchestra musicians made the best of what they were given. The first half of *Susannah* kindled a desire to experience the entire opera, especially with the outstanding performances of Keely and Markwood. They stole the



## Break-In at SGA Offices; Documents Reveal Scandal

BY CHRISTOPHER STANLEY  
ADVERTISING EDITOR

Last Wednesday, a shocking and unprecedented event occurred. The SGA offices were the victim of vandalism as someone unbeknownst to the Houghton community smashed the glass doors of the SGA offices.

One student interviewed speculated that it could've perhaps been one of the community children hosted by "Family Night" in Big Al's; another student drew the conclusion that the vandal was a disgruntled student who was upset at the latest loss of suffrage due to the new constitutional amendment. Whoever the violator may be, one member of the Class of 2004 summed up the situation well when he said, "It's as if the curtain of the holy of holies has been split in two. Has the veil of secrecy been lifted?" Found missing were top-secret documents pertaining to the new coffeehouse initiative and three red binders belonging to members of the high

command of the SGA, also referred to as "The Little Red Binders." Houghton Security told *The Star* that the ongoing investigation will not rest until the perpetrator is caught and fined.

From another aspect of the break-in, *The Star* was recently mailed these top-secret documents from the perpetrator that may prove to be the smoking gun in the coffeehouse scandal that has gripped this community for several weeks this past winter. The documents obtained show enhanced blueprints of the coffeehouse, the real

semester, raising tuition another 15 to 20 percent, and creating a "Houghton Tax" on all items purchased within the hamlet of Houghton. According to the note accompanying these documents, the vandal was really only interested in the Vice President's duct tape kangaroo and Speaker Rudd's Lego collection, but after stumbling across these documents, changed his/her mind.

"The release of these documents does not change the position of the SGA," one senator was quoted, "We are simply in the business of creating student unity and community. It is a proven fact that people feel more communal sitting on couches drinking coffee than they do sitting in their rooms playing cards and talking."

Finally, in order to give the coffeehouse a more "modern" and "hip" feel, look-alikes of the cast of *Friends* will be hired on a daily basis to sit on the couch and talk about their day. Documents provided show that

their pay will be taken directly from the SPF fund as a "continual" expense of a "student" project. The Office of Student Life chose not to go on record with *The Star* with regards to this investigation.



A cracked entrance door, quickly patched up with high-quality clear packing tape is all that tells of the "Family Pizza Nite" burglars. A new door will be ordered soon, but only after other more pressing money issues (like intramural proctor referees) are dealt with.

budget of the project - \$75,000, and a list of potential places from which to draw funds in order to pay for the extra expense. Some of the suggestions included draining the Special Projects Fund for a second straight

## Get Ready to Freestyle Dawg, Foshizzle!

BY AARON BOYNTON  
MANAGING EDITOR

What better way to connect Houghton students with the outside world than by infusing rap and hip-hop music with academics? With so many different styles of music in the world today, it seems fitting for Houghton to introduce an Urban Music Performance major, beginning Fall 2004. "There is a dire need to expand the student's knowledge and taste when it comes to modern music," said one long-time music professor. "It seems appropriate for Houghton to offer this program even with the majority of music majors being of a Caucasian background. This will be a good way to develop a cultural sensitivity among students." Even though the hip-hop scene is being dominated by a number of white artists, the Christian community generally has given rap and hip-hop a cold shoulder.

The major will include such required courses as MUS271: The Art of Turntabling, MUS222: Rap Diction which will be a course tele-linked to Los Angeles and guest taught by Prof. Calvin Broadus (formerly Snoop Dogg), MUS444: Holy Hip-Hop, and ECON337: Intro to Bling-Bling. Students will have the opportunity to study abroad in their junior or senior year with the East Coast/West Coast Rap Studies program, where the student will spend half of the semester in New York City and the other half in Los Angeles. In the program, students will get direct experience in the rap business and will be able to apply their skills firsthand.

This program, however, is not a stable program. If there is a lack of interest shown in this major, it will be dropped and replaced by a number of backup plans such as the Country-Western music major, Ukelele Performance, and Didgeridoo. Any of these alternatives are better than the last resort, Castrati Performance.

## Houghton to Introduce Nocturnal Recreation Major

BY SARA ELSTON-MOORE  
STAR STAFF WRITER

Recreation majors have long been able to choose between studying outdoor or therapeutic recreation. Starting next fall, they'll have another choice: Nocturnal Recreation, announced college officials on Thursday. "I am pleased and thankful that this course of study has been approved," said William Swanson, chair of Houghton College's physical education and recreation department. "As far as I know, Houghton is the only college in the country to offer a Nocturnal Recreation major. I see this becoming a major Houghton distinction in the next decade."

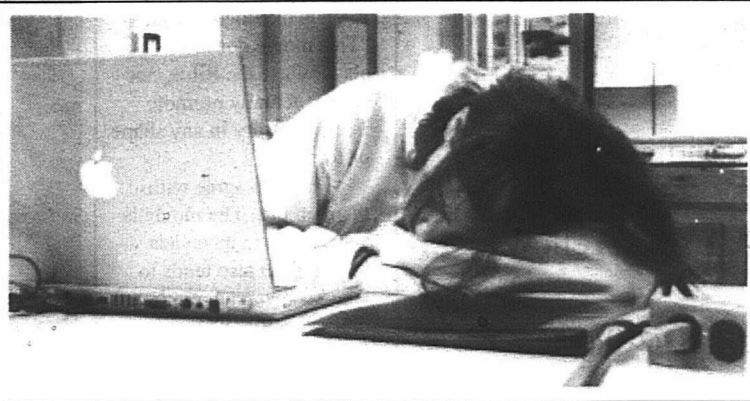
Don't let the name fool you; Nocturnal Recreation students won't be studying only at night. In fact, most of the classes will be held during the day, although not always in classrooms. The initial NR101: Sleeping In Class, will be offered every semester and also offered as a Study Skill elective to non-recreation majors.

Other courses offered next semester include NR250: Sleeping in Big Al's, NR368 Napping During Lunch, and NR259: Special Topics: The Philosophy of Sleep, where students will learn how to sleep through a philosophy class. The senior capstone course,

traditional homework would interfere with the purpose of the major, sleep, it will be kept to a minimum. Students will be graded on the length, quality, and frequency of their naptimes. "The students who sleep the most and the longest will, obviously, receive the

need to succeed in any career. Those who choose to major in Nocturnal Recreation will be well equipped to sleep through board meetings, project deadlines, and encounters with their boss. While many students will benefit from this major, it is not, Swanson cautions, for everyone. "Those students who wish to attain a particular level of success in their field should probably not choose Nocturnal Recreation as a major," he says.

Though the college has not yet begun to market this program, numerous students have already expressed interest in Nocturnal Recreation. The first "official" class of students will begin in the 2004-2005 school year. "It's a natural extension of Houghton's mission," said President Chamberlain. "Houghton's mission is to provide a strong liberal arts education in a Christian setting. Houghton College has always demonstrated the important link between sleep and faith. This program will teach students the importance of combining sleep and church, as well as sleep and business."



NR412: Sleeping Through Chapel, will only be taught in the spring.

Students who choose to major in Nocturnal Recreation will spend the majority of class time sleeping. As

highest grades," Swanson said.

Keeping in the tradition of the liberal arts, Nocturnal Recreation does not prepare for a specific career; but instead gives students the skills they

## -- TECH CORNER --

by SARAH KUZIOMKO

### Solutions as Easy as Unplug, Swear, and Beat Down

So you have a 20 page paper due in 10 minutes and your printer is on the fritz. You grab some paper, a coat, and book it to the print center. Then, when you get there, you find a line extending to the other side of the room. You'll never make it now! So you run back to your room to see what you can do yourself.

Been there? Probably. Well don't fear because today I will answer your questions concerning ANY computer or printer problem.

**Q1:** "My printer never prints, or if it does it stops halfway through and won't finish. Help!"

**A:** What I suggest first is shut off and unplug everything. This is usually the cure-all for computer/printer problems. If this doesn't work give it a little tap. Not working still? Okay a little harder and throw a few curse words in, like "!!\$&\$\*#&@&\$" That should do it.

**Q2:** "My computer freezes often, makes weird noises and generally doesn't cooperate. Maybe it was that grape juice I spilled on it, but I doubt it."

**A:** This is an easy one to fix. First I am going to tell you why this is happening. Because the grape juice was spilled on it, it seeps into things like, uh, important things. Hence the noises and un-cooperation! But like I said, luckily this is easy to fix. First pour water all over the keyboard to dilute the grape juice. Second, soak up the water with a towel. Oh...make sure everything is plugged in still...it helps with the cleansing process.

**Q3:** My computer won't turn on! It hasn't worked since I got back from February Break. I've tried everything. It just won't work. I've never done anything bad to it. I've tried turning it on, I've asked friends to help, I've...oh wait...it wasn't plugged in...never mind...

**A:** Oh.

**Q:** My computer takes like 15 minutes to reboot. I have no idea why. It was fine 4 years ago.

**A:** The problem here is that you're a senior and, frankly, have a crappy laptop. I am going to take you through some rather fast steps to fix this, so stay with me. First, meticulously unplug your laptop. Next find something hard, like a bat. Now take your laptop outside to the parking lot and give it a good chuck. You'll instantly feel relief! Now run after it like you're chasing it and start beating it senselessly with the bat. After you've calmed down I'm sure you'll start to feel some emotion like, "uhuh!" But stay calm. Next I want you to go find a freshman (preferably a little one), beat them up, and take their laptop! Just not mine...

**Q:** Hi, I'm still waiting for a Houghton guy to make the first move.

**A:** Wrong column, and uh...give up.

Well I hope this information was helpful in solving your computer and printer problems. Feel free to e-mail me with any more questions.

## Top Ten Crayola Crayon Colors

BY AARON BOYNTON  
MANAGING EDITOR

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 10. White       | 5. Indigo         |
| 9. Chartreuse   | 4. Bright Yellow  |
| 8. Brick Red    | 3. Sky Blue       |
| 7. Periwinkle   | 2. Pumpkin Orange |
| 6. Forest Green | 1. Burnt Siena    |

## Movies...

WITH MIKE MORDENGA

### Exodus: Let My People Go ...or Else

GRADE: C-

Mel Gibson's *The Passion* sparked a whole new wave of cinematic perspectives on the Bible. Today's Hollywood directors and screenplay writers are looking to revitalize the stories of the Bible with their cinematic artistic licenses. There has been a lot of these movies as of late, but none of them has caught my eye quite as much as Johnny Woo's *Exodus: Let My People Go...or Else*. Woo artistically portrays the timeless story of Moses, breathing new life into it with his artistic expression.

As any Bible reader knows, the Exodus was about Moses, an Israelite, being led by God to free the Israelites enslaved in Egypt. Woo not only shows this astoundingly, but puts in a little of his magic touch. When asked about this "magic touch" he said,

"I guess I just wanted to show the spirituality of Moses that I showed in *Hardboiled*, *MI: 2* and *Paycheck*. I am a devout Egyptian and I need to go back to my roots."

*Exodus* has a star cast that rivals *The Ten Commandments*. Johnny Woo didn't want a famous or ritzy star for the part of Moses, so he chose the Rock. Woo's thoughts on the Rock were interesting. "After seeing his (the Rock's) stellar performance in *The Scorpion King*, I knew the Rock was born with Moses qualities."

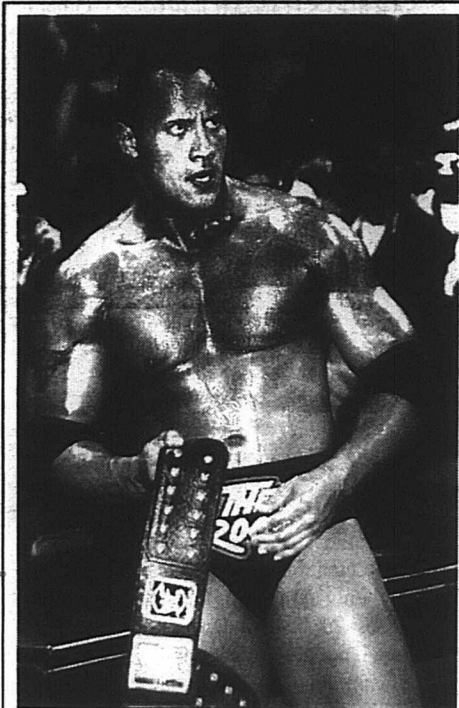
I have to admit that when I first saw the Rock in a gray beard, it was a bit awkward, like the campus center after 10 p.m., but then I saw that maybe Moses really was a towering man with a pro wrestler's figure. Other star performers include Lawrence Fishburn (*The Matrix*, *Fled*) as Pharaoh and Chris Tucker (*Rush Hour*, *Money Talks*) as Aaron. Fishburn gives the role of Pharaoh the respect it deserves with his seriousness and philosophical mood (he even makes a reference to *The Matrix* when he asks Moses to take the red staff or the blue staff). Chris Tucker also aptly takes on the role of Aaron with his loud-mouthed sarcasm and witty jokes. The voice of God is cleverly played by James Earl Jones, who seemed ready for the part after his Darth Vader days. Like all good biblical films there must be a Satan figure in the movie (even if it doesn't make sense). Christopher Walken, oddly enough, plays this role with the eeriness and mysteriousness typical of movie portrayals of the devil. There is a scene where Christopher Walken (who is dressed in only snakes) tempts Moses to pick the blue staff over the red staff.

This movie would not amount to anything if it didn't have Woo's special style of movie-making embedded in it. There are many scenes that have Woo's signature action sequences. The scene where Moses parts the Red Sea and a killer whale attacks him and the scene where the burning bush explodes consuming the desert in flames both show Woo's exquisite direction. Instead of a plague of locusts, Woo cleverly replaces them with apache helicopters that fire missiles. In the twelve-minute fight scene between Moses and Pharaoh, Moses delivers the rock bottom to Pharaoh through a window. I admit, I've been a little tough on Woo's past movies because the action was a little too unrealistic, but I honestly think it works even less in a Bible story.

Even with the star cast and the excellent directing of Woo, this movie is still in controversy with many theological societies. I suppose they are just trying to

hassle him like Mel Gibson. Some theologians sat that this movie has some anti-Pharaohism in it that might offend Egyptians. Other theologians say that Moses never used wrestling moves on people. A CNN theologian says, "This movie doesn't actually use the Bible, nor does it actually promote Israel's history in any shape or form."

I have to agree with them on this. The movie is actually set in a Nevada desert. Woo also tends to take his own path on the biblical story of Moses. Some of his biggest critics are saying that this movie is "heretical" and "biased." Maybe Woo's movie won't win an Oscar because of his religious interpretations, but it was a fair shot and his movie is a lot better than ABC's interpretation of Noah.



Can you smell what Moses is cooking? The WWE's The Rock is slated to play Moses in Johnny Woo's biblical smackdown version of *Exodus, Let My People Go ...or Else!*



# AUSTIN TIME

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

BY CHRISTOPHER AUSTIN  
LOVIN' THE JOYFUL FONT CHOICES

This Week's Topic:

## SUPER WONDERFUL JOY

Today is a joyous day. It is one of those days you just wake up feeling the breeze through your hair and happiness all around you. I know at any second the Fancher Hall bells will start ringing out the tune of that song that goes 'And I think to myself, What a wonderful world.'

Today is a day we celebrate Pioneer Foods for all the work they put into our meals. If we didn't have Pioneer, we would starve to death, and that is gross. A salute must go out to the dedicated employees, putting up with weird food / silverware creations that I put on the conveyor belt ("I" meaning everybody at Houghton). They are the people who suck up the ice when it is done with a vacuum. They are the ones who set up spice racks just for our viewing pleasure. They don't have to do that, but they do. That's dedication.

And I think today of the phone music. What a blessing to hear every time I make a call. Sometimes, I just take the phone and dial people and record the music so I can hear it again later. Sure, it is probably illegal, but the music is just so tasteful I want it for my own, and I don't know where you could find that music in stores. Maybe Borders, but I haven't checked.

And how about that weather? Sunshine all over the place, even creeping its way into the depths of the science building. Crickets have gathered almost overnight it seems, chirping and chirping. This is the chirping that sounds a new season, the season of spring. That means no more cold snow. Today I even feel like taking a long bike-ride on my purple-pink bike. I could bust out a book and read it, even though it is not a text-book. Perhaps that is a bit rebellious-but when the sun is out, I get a bit reckless in my reading.

I wish everyone a great day and a fun rest of the semester, because I know mine will be and I want to share that same joy with all of you. Because that is who I am, the sharer of joy. It is in my nature to be joyful and write joyously and bring joy to the world. It just comes naturally. Some of you may wish you had this very natural style of writing joy, but I was born with it and you were not so there really isn't anything else to say on the subject. But chin up, because reading this is joy to you, I know, because I wrote it.

Finally let me end by saying that this is an impossibly hard article to write. I actually am not a joyous writer like I may have led you to believe. I don't know about you, but I find forcing this style of upbeatness is very difficult. It is a wonder that anyone can write children's books, because they are mostly happy. If they were not, no children would read them and we would just have sad children moping around on the streets, so I commend the children's story book writers of the world.

I have been struggling to figure out what to write for this *Fallen Star* article for at least a week and I am grasping at straws, so that is why it is disjointed. But hey, the rest of the paper is disjointed too, so at least we are all jointly disjointed. The key words of today are **sunshine** and **happiness** and **upbeatness** and **wonderful world**. What a happy picture those words paint.

## EDITORIAL

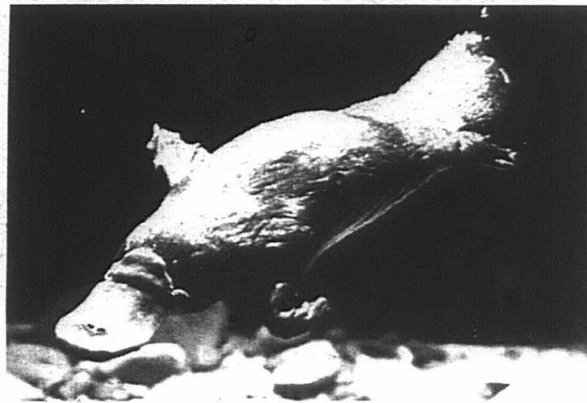
I Have Something to Say!

by Josh Miller

I would like to share my thoughts with you on an issue—an issue that's been plaguing Houghton's campus for quite some time, but is rarely ever addressed. In the past, I've avoided mentioning it, primarily because of my fears of the reactions of faculty, staff, and the student body. When one brings up a problem of this magnitude, the explosion of public sentiment and criticism is inevitable, particularly within the administration. But I think you would all agree with me that this issue cannot be overlooked any longer; its resolution is essential to the health of our campus. As uncomfortable as it may make each of us, we must work together as responsible adults and Christians to formulate a solution in the best interests of all parties involved.

Granted, in a situation such as this, finding that ideal solution is never easy. I confess that I've wrestled with the issue for days, even weeks, in my own mind, and every possible answer seems to leave some group left out, offended, upset. But does this mean we shouldn't address the matter at hand? That we should just ignore it and pray that it goes away? No. No it doesn't. Praying for such a thing without having the guts to confront it is unfortunately all too common in situations on campus that involve potential confrontations, and I for one will not stand to let this problem go unheeded, buried under the false covers of complacency and cowardice when it comes to conflict management. Instead, I'm calling you—staff, faculty, students—each of you to accept your responsibility as a member of the Houghton community and take part in reaching a consensus concerning this extremely explosive and delicate topic.

So let's be open and honest with each other about this, shall we? After all, it does affect each of us. We need to be willing to listen to one another, to be humble enough to put others' interests before our own, and to seek unification within the Houghton community upon the chosen solution. This may take days, weeks; perhaps it will extend beyond this semester and await resolution until the coming year. Still, we have no excuse to let things continue to fester in this area. As mature Christians and human beings, we must confront this issue with a bold humility.



SO I WAS WATCHING TELEVISION TODAY (MTV TO BE EXACT) AND THERE WAS A GIRL WHO, ON SEEING A TURTLE, SAID: "OH LOOK...A PLATYPUS!" WELL, IT WASN'T. THIS IS A PLATYPUS. AND THIS IS WHAT YOU GET FROM THE STAR EVERY WEEK CHILDREN-FUN ANIMAL FACTS LEARNED AND MISCONCEPTIONS DONE AWAY WITH. THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY.

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The *STAR*, CPO Box 378  
1 Willard Avenue  
Houghton, NY 14744  
star@houghton.edu

## Messier to Coach Field Hockey Team

BY JOSH MILLER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

In a surprise move, Houghton's administration decided to hire current New York Ranger Mark Messier to coach the Lady Highlanders field hockey team. Messier will be replacing Donna Hornibrook, who left the position to coach at Cornell.

Best known for his skills on the ice, Messier decided to hang up his skates after 24 years in the NHL and try his hand at coaching what he referred to as "hockey of a different sort." When asked why he made this move, Messier answered, "I figured I'd try something different. It can't be any worse than playing for the Rangers."

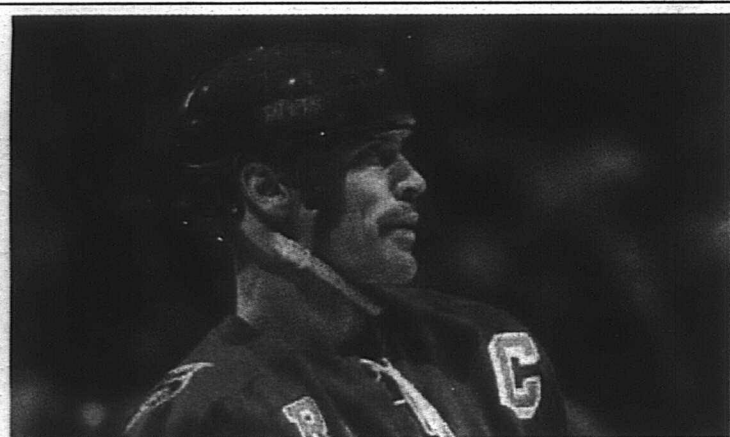
In between Ranger games, Messier came to Houghton to watch an inter-squad scrimmage and lead some drills for the Lady Highlanders. A few of the players were somewhat surprised by his sideline demeanor. "He yells a lot," said sophomore forward Kelly Mazzeo. "And with that bald head and those missing teeth...well...I don't want to sound mean or anything...but he's kind of scary."

Mazzeo made these comments after Messier knocked over the water cooler in a rage when she missed a shot.

After the scrimmage, Messier worked with the team on body checking, in spite of the team's insistence that checking isn't a part of field hockey. His response to their complaint was, "Who's been in the NHL All-Star Game? Anyone? Anyone? Oh wait...ME!" During the drills, Messier knocked junior Laura Hanks to the ground, splitting open her kneecap. When Hanks began to cry, Messier responded, "What? Are you crying? There's no crying in hockey!" Messier then stormed off the field in a rage while Hanks' sister and fellow player, freshman Kelly Hanks, went to get the trainer.

Many of the players were frustrated by Messier's coaching. "He doesn't seem to know the game," said sophomore Victoria Claybourn. "He spent the first half of the practice asking us why we were wearing skirts and if we could get new uniforms; then he wanted to teach us all how to pull our opponent's shirt over her head when we got into a fistfight."

In spite of their rough beginnings, the Lady Highlanders still have high hopes for the season, as does Messier. "They're a good group of girls," Messier said. "Once a few of them start getting knocked around a bit and their nasty side comes out, I think we'll have a real team on our hands."



Messier promises to bring a new style of field hockey to the campus. First thing to go, he vows, are the skirts and mamby-pamby purple plaid color scheme.

## Houghton Drives into New Territory

BY AARON BOYNTON  
MANAGING EDITOR

Beginning this Fall with a class and carrying over into the following semester with competition, Houghton College will be venturing into another area of intercollegiate athletics, men's and women's golf. Believe it or not, Houghton will actually try to compete in a spring sport. When asked about the new program, one official stated, "We needed to keep the students busy in the spring time. So why not?" One student commented, "Spring? What the heck is spring in Houghton?"

One of the factors in deciding whether to have a team was the

location and availability of a golf course. The decision was finally made to have a course built on the Houghton campus. A plan is the works to have the course span from the far soccer practice fields all the way up to the gym, going as far back as the lean-tos and the ropes course. Land will have to be leveled as will Shenawana Hall and the tennis courts, the latter of which are rarely used. The course will be a nine-hole, Par 4 course, with a total length of 3,254 yards. Houghton will compete with other AMC teams and have matches with various foursomes of retired men wishing to lower their handicap. The first match will take place in March 2005.

## March Madness Contest Drawing to a Close

BY JOSH MILLER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Final Four is almost upon us and two of our top three contestants, Daniel Fuller and Justin Pauley, have correctly picked all four remaining teams! That makes the two of them the

obvious frontrunners down the home stretch. But remember, the stakes are high in the last two legs of the tournament—1600 points for each correct Final Four pick and 3200 points if you pick the champion—so the contest is far too early to call. Here are the scores as they stand going into the Final Four:

### OUR NEW LEADER

Daniel Fuller 9500

### THE REST OF OUR FINAL FOUR

Justin Pauley 8700  
Lindsey VanVoorhis 8700  
David Musselman 8500

### ROUNDING OUT THE TOP 10

Brian Middleton 8200  
Adam Buczek 7900  
Peter Pasieka 7900  
Jesse Crikelair 7800  
Joanne Grimm 7700  
Joshua Grimm 7700

### STILL IN THE HUNT

Nick Furman 7600  
D. Elliott Tait 7600  
Elizabeth Overhauser 7400  
Kelly Mazzeo 7300  
Billy Stokes 7300  
Kyle Crocker 7200  
Sean Johnson 7200  
Kirby Schuler 7200

### WILL PROBABLY TAKE A CHAMPIONSHIP PICK

#Michael Russell 7200  
#Steve Rudd 7100  
Laura Cadden 6900  
Mike Fraher 6900  
#Elizabeth Weaver 6900  
Adam Kline 6800  
David Lewis 6800  
\*Josh Miller 6800  
Brett Sherwood 6800  
#Danny Visger 6800

#Robert Erbeling 6700  
Ruth Kroeger 6700  
Jennifer Mosher 6600  
Keith Parker, Jr. 6400  
Lisa Poore 6400  
#Andrew Sonnekalb 6400  
Kyle Nagy 6300  
Rob Campbell 6200  
#Adam Steen 6200  
Jordan Matteson 6100  
#Robert Mayle 6000  
Anthony Gryckiewicz 6000

### THANKS FOR PLAYING...

### UNFORTUNATELY WE DON'T HAVE ANY PARTING GIFTS...

#Melissa Murray 5900  
Joel Hamilton 5800  
#Lindsay Kuciewicz 5800  
#Kelcey Stack 5600  
#Dustin Newman 5500  
Stephanie Pocock 5500  
#Josh Hazelton 5300  
Sarah Kuziomko 5200  
#Elaine Tooley 5200  
#Eric Jankov 5100  
#Autumn Bailry 4700  
#David Truesdell 4600  
#Daniel Roorda 4500  
#Rachel Moran 4300  
#Larry Petry 4200  
#Jared Reinhardt 4200  
#Aleshia Ellingson 4000  
Mike Mordenga 3700  
#Liz Sands 3000  
#Chris Nafziger 2700  
#Jon Davidson 1900

\*Ineligible for prizes

#Cannot score any more points

List continued, next column

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

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