

the HOUGHTON STAR

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THE world OUT there

BY BEN HUGHES
STAR STAFF WRITER

Germany Begins Nuclear Phase Out

Last Friday, Germany officially closed a nuclear power plant near Hamburg, commencing an ambitious program to shut down all of its nuclear power stations. The Greens party and anti-nuclear lobbyists hailed the act as a historic first step towards the complete phase-out of nuclear power in Germany.

Celebrating the Stade plant closure with the Greens, Environment Minister Juergen Trittin declared, "Nuclear energy has no future in Germany." According to the nuclear shutdown legislation, all 19 nuclear reactors in Germany will be deactivated by 2020. In the meantime, more environmentally-friendly sources of energy, such as new technologies relying on gas and renewable sources, will be expanded. The government anticipates that the gradual nuclear phase-out will encourage substantial investment in alternative energy sources based on cleaner gas generators, wind power, and solar panels. Currently, nuclear energy accounts for almost a third of German electricity.

The plan to terminate Germany's reliance on nuclear energy was finalized after intense and lengthy negotiations between the government led by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and the energy corporations. The Greens party, an influential environmentalist and anti-nuclear lobby, is the junior partner of Schroeder's Social Democrat government. Opposition conservatives vow to revoke the nuclear shutdown if they regain control of the government.

Germany's innovative nuclear shutdown and replacement agenda is the first such plan among leading industrial countries.

[For more news about the shutdown, visit: <http://story.news.yahoo.com/fc?cid=34&tmpl=fc&in=World&cat=Germany>.]

► See *world news*, page 2

New Faces and Classes at the Equestrian Center

BY CHRISTOPHER STANLEY
ADVERTISING EDITOR

The Houghton College Equestrian Center has a long history of being blessed with generous donations. From an early gift that helped build the indoor arena, to a substantial contribution to build the classroom in the Lesson Barn, to horse donation offers that come in continually, to students that come up during the frozen cold of winter to clean stalls, it is clear that the Equestrian Center has been very fortunate. The latest donations are the new horses that

will be housed at the Center this year:

- Justin - a 10 year old Dutch

Warmblood gelding

- Ruby - also going by "Step Aside," a five year-old Hanoverian-Thoroughbred mare that's already made her mark by winning an award as a show hunter in Florida

- Duke - a seven-year-old

Quarterhorse gelding. His show name is "Kentucky Dynamite"

- Posie - an 11-year-old chestnut Quarterhorse mare standing tall at 16 hands.

It should be noted that all of these horses come as donations to the college, and that the equestrian alumni and friends of Houghton College continue to support the program through generous donations such as these fine animals. Speaking of alumni, Michelle LaBarre has joined the faculty at the Equestrian Center to take over the courses of retired professor Cathy Daggett. LaBarre is also starting something new for the regular school year: therapeutic riding lessons. These lessons have tradition-

ally remained in the Mayterm session; however, LaBarre is certified as "clinic staff for those seeking to become CHA-certified as instructors of riders with disabilities;" and because she is full-time faculty, therapeutic lessons have now become a part of the regular school year calendar.

Coming events at the Equestrian Center include the photography contest sponsored by the Equestrian Society and the Christmas Fun Show that will be on Saturday, December 13th. The show is open to the public to either watch or ride. Contact Joanne Young for more details and information.



PHOTO BY CHRIS STANLEY

Wheaton College Holds Its First School-Sponsored Dance

BY JOSH MILLER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

On Friday November 14th, Wheaton College held its first official dance in the school's 143-year history. While the college had sponsored square dancing in the past, typical social dances were considered inappropriate until a revision of Wheaton's Community Covenant last February allowed

students to dance on or off campus provided that they avoided "immodest, sinfully erotic or harmfully violent" behavior. To illustrate its support of this change, the college decided to put on its first social dance.

The response of Wheaton's student body has been primarily positive. "I think it's wonderful," says Wheaton student Steve Gieser. "It gives us a little more freedom. And it gives us a little more judgment in our lives."

Much to the surprise

of the students, some members of the media have seen this new freedom as a sign that Wheaton's commitment to conservative Christian principles is declining. "They want to know if Wheaton is going all liberal, falling apart," student Andy Morgan says. In response to such accusations, Sam Shellhamm, Wheaton College's spokesperson, notes that although "there have

been a few people outside the college who expressed some concern about this change and whether it affects our core values...those of us directly involved in the process feel that this new community covenant strengthens our core values."

Nevertheless, Wheaton seems to be trying to avoid overtly publicizing its first dance under the new covenant stipulations.

"We are kind of trying to downplay it because it really is [just] another event," says Bethany Jones, one of the students responsible for organizing the dance. The college also neglected posting any information about the dance on its website.

So, for those who are worried about the liberalization of Wheaton College, apparently you have nothing to fear for the time being.



Two Wheaton students practice for the first school-sponsored dance in the history of the College. What precedent does this set for other Christian colleges?

AP PHOTO

From **world news**, page 1

Canada's Prime Minister to Retire

On Nov. 13th, Jean Chretien stepped down from leading the Liberal Party, and will soon retire from his position as Canada's prime minister. Paul Martin, a former cabinet official under Chretien, was appointed head of the governing party and is expected to succeed Chretien.

The majority party leader functions as the prime minister in the Canadian parliamentary system. Consequently, Martin will become the prime minister without an election once Chretien officially retires. Observers speculate that Chretien, who has held his post for a decade, will step down within the next several weeks. The prime minister himself has remained vague regarding when he will leave his office.

While Martin maintains a high popularity among Canadians and across the globe, he has been a chief political rival of Chretien. Although Martin served under Chretien for nine years as finance minister, the two have frequently clashed. In 1990, Chretien defeated Martin when both battled for leadership of the Liberal Party. Their bitter rivalry peaked last year when Chretien dismissed Martin from his cabinet position.

Martin is regarded as both a fiscal conservative and social progressive, and is widely acclaimed for reducing Canada's vast deficit when finance minister. His objectives for improving the government and the nation include better relations with the U.S. (including security and trade dimensions) and balancing continued fiscal conservatism with elevated spending on struggling programs such as the military, education and health care.

Chretien's legacy as prime minister includes leading the Liberal Party to three consecutive majorities in Canada's parliament and distancing himself from the controversies that surrounded the previous administration's ten years of leadership. Coming from a middle-class family in Quebec, Chretien ascended to the acme of Canadian politics after four difficult decades.

[For more details and other Canadian news, go to: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/world/americas/northamerica/canada/>.]

New Round of North Korea Nuke Talks Planned

Delegates from six nations are currently working out the

details for the second round of talks over North Korea's nuclear armaments program. A new summit involving North Korea, South Korea, the U.S., China, Japan and Russia may occur in December, though North Korea has not yet committed itself to specific dates. The first such talks were held last August in Beijing and ended inconclusively.

The crisis over North Korea's nuclear program began in October 2002 when U.S. officials revealed that the communist regime was harboring a covert nuclear weapons program. The program is in direct violation of a 1994 agreement between North Korea and the U.S. as well as international nuclear safeguards. Following the U.S. disclosure of its nuclear program, Kim Jong-Il's government expelled U.N. inspectors, withdrew from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and eventually announced that it had achieved "nuclear deterrence" against a possible U.S.-led attack.

North Korea has repeatedly de-

manded that the United States sign a security pledge treaty. The White House has flatly rejected these demands, although President Bush recently indicated some flexibility. During his Asia trip last month, Bush stated that the U.S. would offer multilateral, unspecified security assurances if North Korea decisively terminates its nuclear weapons development and allows for inspectors to verify their compliance.

U.S. intelligence officials suggest that North Korea already possesses one to two crude nuclear bombs, and could soon manufacture six to twelve more with its ongoing program.

[For the latest news about the nuclear talks and North Korea, visit: http://news.yahoo.com/fc?tmpl=fc&cid=34&in=world&cat=north_korea.]

U.S. Will Give Up Administration of Iraq by June

On Nov. 15th, the Iraqi Governing Council announced that the U.S. will grant sovereignty to a new Iraq government by

June. An agreement for an accelerated transfer of power to an Iraqi transitional government followed talks involving the council, the U.S. head administrator L. Paul Bremer and the White House. The military occupation by U.S.-led forces would not necessarily conclude with the June power handover.

The Bush administration had previously demanded that democratic arrangements, including a new constitution and elections, be established before giving control to the Iraqi people. With increasing insurgency and coalition casualties in Iraq, the administration has apparently dropped this prerequisite and accepted an expedited timetable for a handover of power and the removal of the U.S. troop presence. Iraqi and international leaders have been demanding such an accelerated power transfer.

[The most recent Iraq news is available at: <http://story.news.yahoo.com/fc?cid=34&tmpl=fc&in=World&cat=Iraq>.]

GETTING TO KNOW ...

Michelle Labarre

by SARAH KUZIOMKO
STAR STAFF WRITER

Age: 24 in December

Where are you originally from? Born in Lexington, Kentucky; but I grew up in Cobleskill, New York.

Married? Kids? Single. No kids either, unless you count my horse and my dog (I do, but not all humans think that's legitimate).

Graduated from? Houghton in 2002 with a B.A. in Creative Writing

What did you do previously? I've been at school since I was 5. Before that, I remember playing a lot. After I graduated, I spent five months in Germany studying riding with an old-timer named Egon von Neindorff. And now I'm back at school again.

What are some of your responsibilities in the Equestrian Center? I teach a lot: lots of private and community lessons and, of course, my students. I also work with several horses. I do general barn management stuff when it's needed. I hope to manage to get a therapeutic riding program off the ground before too much longer.

What do you like most about working with horses? Working with horses is always both a physical and mental challenge; it is the most difficult and most rewarding thing I do. Horses have taught me how to accept and extend grace, how to receive and give forgiveness. And they are always teaching me. I never stop learning.

What do you like most about being at Houghton? There is a trail behind the horse barn. It is the place that I learned that sometimes you have to listen through the silence and you'll hear God on the other side.

Favorite verse? I'm afraid I have a terrible memory for verses. My favorite story is Jesus' interaction with the woman at the well.

What do you do for fun? Anytime I have an excuse to dress up like a Muppet, I take it.

Cookies or ice cream? Chocolate Chip Cookies. No question.

How great of an actor is Orlando Bloom? Should I know who Orlando Bloom is? If it's movies or TV, I'm afraid I've taken myself out of the loop.



PHOTO BY JOSH MILLER

world news continues
in next column

Counseling Center Forum Hopes to Educate Houghton Community

BY SHANNON CALLAN
STAR STAFF WRITER

On November 20, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Recital Hall, the Counseling Center and the Psychology Club will be sponsoring a forum on the topic of self-injury entitled, "Can you see my pain?" A video of the same title will be shown to open the forum. Dr. Michael Lastoria will be giving a special presentation on the topic, after which there will be a question and answer session. This forum is open to anyone who is interested or would like to know more about the behavior of self-injury.

This topic has been getting more attention in the media in the last 5-10 years and is becoming more of an issue on a national scale. Defined as the attempt to deliberately harm or injure one's own body, self-injury is often severe enough to cause tissue damage. This behavior is a kind of coping mechanism, used to deal with emotional pain by those who do not know healthier ways to express it. The counseling center chose to hold a forum on this topic in response to the suggestions of students and positive feedback they received from special programming on eating disorders and body image they sponsored this past spring. The goal of the forum is basically to demystify the problem of self-injury. They also wish to promote sensitivity to the topic and awareness

of the problem.

Wendy Baxter, a counselor in Houghton's counseling center who is helping to lead the forum, says that another main goal is to help people get a sense of the needs of those who struggle with this issue before attempting to simply find solutions and try to "fix" them. Although the expected audience at the forum is mostly those who simply want to know more about the issue, the forum will also be a non-threatening environment for those who struggle with the problem, who Baxter hopes will be able to come and realize they are not alone. This forum could also help those who don't struggle personally with the issue to discover their potential role in helping someone they know who does.

Baxter also says that if one knows of someone who struggles with self-injury, the best thing to do is to be supportive without condoning their actions. Often people who admit to this behavior are immediately labeled as crazy, which leads to even more guilt and trauma. According to Baxter, one can help people who struggle with self-injury much as one would help any friend who was going through a difficult time emotionally. Offering to go with them to the counseling center or to go on their behalf to get information for them are both good options. Above all, it is important to keep communication honest and open in the

relationship. If one feels like the situation is over one's head, he or she needs to acknowledge that to the person in a non-judgmental way and offer to get him or her help from someone who is more capable.

This forum should be an excellent opportunity for anyone in the Houghton community to come out to learn more about an important issue

and be equipped with the tools to help. As Wendy Baxter stated, "We know that [self-injury] exists out there. That's one of the reasons people are interested in it. And it's one of the reasons we want to address the issue." For further information, contact Wendy Baxter or stop by the counseling center.

Quotable Quotes

"I need drugs. Anybody live in South Hall?"

-Dr. Bressler

"I hate Krispy Kremes. Just looking at them makes you get fat."

-Greg Sigountos (class of '05)

"Hey, could I have the book of Romans? Oh, and hey you have Leviticus on sale...hmm, funny, nobody wants that!"

-Dr. Paige imitating how the ancient Jews could purchase the Septuagint.

"Above all else, I try to stay out of the Houghton Star."

-Dr. Walters

"I don't inhale my food - I eat with a purpose."

-Ritter Haaga (class of '04)

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



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Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead: 'A Complicated Play'

BY LIZ SANDS
STAR STAFF WRITER

"This is a complicated play." One might get frightened when one reads such an opening sentence in the 'Director's Notes' for any given play. And perhaps one should. This one was, after all, a complicated play.

Last Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the Houghton College Shakespeare Players presented Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. Stoppard's play centers around the very minor *Hamlet* characters of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. Someone actually wrote a play about them, you ask? Well, yes. Was it worth seeing? Well, YES!

Directed by Nathan Boyd and featuring Jeremy Bullinger and Jonathan Wise as Rosencrantz and Guildenstern respectively and Laura Slye as the Player, the production was a success, if success can be judged by the audience laughter and silence at the right places. Even throughout the less-attended shows on Thursday night and Saturday afternoon, the cast maintained energy and pulled off powerful performances. Boyd is "amazed by the progress the cast had made, both in realizing the broad humor of the play but also the deeper questions about life that [the play] raises." He is "proud" of his actors for "taking on a philosophically and technically challenging script and making it both entertaining and thought-provoking" for the audience.

If a brief summary of the show were possible, I would explain the plot. Unfortunately, this play is not about the plot, i.e., the actions, at all. One could explain this play as simply a different perspective on the *Hamlet* story; and indeed Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, the major players, spend the entirety of the play trying to figure out how they fit in to Shakespeare's script with *Hamlet*'s original major players. Yet the small pieces of plot in which Rosencrantz and Guildenstern actually interact with the other charac-

ters are not central to this play at all. *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* is more about life than about action, for life does not exist only in action or in the interaction between characters. Stoppard explores the meaning of life as well as some of its major philosophical questions.

Bullinger's questioning simplicity as Rosencrantz and Wise's philosophical frustrations as Guildenstern bring their characters to life as distinct individuals searching for their identities. Questioning each other even as they question life itself, they seek certainty to questions that are inevitably left uncertain. Introduce the Player (Slye) to the picture with her traveling acting troupe, the Tragedians (Aleshia Ellingson, Katie Gorham, Ruth McFarland, Becky Mohrlang, and Stephanie Pocock), actors acting as actors, the "opposite of people," according to the Player, and the answers to life's questions seem even further beyond the grasp of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

Yet to say this play is simply about searching for answers to life's questions would be an understatement. Anyone who has seen or read *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* more than once can testify that the multiple layers of humor, irony and conflict can really only be peeled back one at a time and slowly comprehended. Still, the Shakespeare Players did an astounding job portraying this thick drama, a comedy and a tragedy rolled into one show.



The cast of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. Front row: tragedians Ruth McFarland, Aleshia Ellingson, Stephanie Pocock, Becky Mohrlang, Katie Gorham, and director Nathan Boyd. Back row: Hilary Young (Ophelia), Dan Fessenden (Hamlet), Ryan Mayers (Polonius), Jon Wise (Guildenstern), Laura Slye (the Player), Jeremy Bullinger (Rosencrantz), Rebecca Ballard (Gertrude), Glen Benedict (Claudius), and Hiram Ring (Soldier).

The play concludes with an interesting twist: the Tragedians pack up the set and props onto their cart and roll it away, leaving the stage bare and empty. The Player flips a coin. She is in control of herself, and nobody else is left. This is more than a cute ending; the suggestion remains that perhaps the entire play itself was not to be taken as reality, but only as... well... a play. Is life itself merely a drama?

Through his characters, Stoppard probes the depths of reality, truth, and existence. In response to Guildenstern's exclamation, "For all we know, that isn't even true!," the Player responds, "For all anyone knows, nothing is. Truth is only that which is taken to be true." Declarations such as this (*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* is laden with similar assertions) help illustrate why this type of play is so important for a Christian campus like Houghton's. Life's questions cannot be solved by

cookie-cutter answers that we so often hand out to the world around us, and the world around us is certainly asking questions like Stoppard's.

After the evening performances, audience members were encouraged to stay for an interactive discussion with the cast, facilitated by Dr. Wardwell, professor of English and faculty advisor to the Shakespeare Players. In the true sense of the play, most questions could not be 'answered' per se, but ideas about the plot itself and the deeper, underlying meaning of the entire play were given an outlet to be expressed.

All in all, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* was a rare treat for Houghton College. For three dollars, audience members were treated to an evening's entertainment that probed the meaning of life and made them laugh. It doesn't get much better than that.

Students and Faculty Getting Involved in Service-Learning

BY NICOLE ARENSEN
GUEST STAR WRITER

Houghton College students and faculty are working in partnership with the Wellsville Chamber of Commerce, the Allegany County Department of Tourism and the Wellsville *Daily Reporter* in an effort to create a more user-friendly Allegany County Tourism website with an interactive map of the county. This service-learning project was first initiated in the fall 2002 semester when Scott Northrop from the Wellsville Chamber of Commerce and Jesse Case from the Allegany County Department of Tourism met with a group of faculty to discuss the possibility of a collaboration between the county and the college. The website that is being created is housed at the Wellsville *Daily Reporter*, where the cost of development and maintenance can be covered by advertisements.

In the spring of 2003, a business senior seminar group first worked on the project to develop a framework for students to collect, analyze, organize, and present information for the website. This semester, to enable and encourage the students in the business department, the business faculty have made the opportunity available to students in one or more of their courses to participate on a team to research, collect, and organize the information in several key categories. Depending on the professor, students are given some incentive to be involved in the project, such as extra credit points or substituting this project in place of a paper or other assignment.

There is currently a group of nine students from the business department updating and expanding information from an Allegany County profile put out by the Allegany County Office of Development in the early 90s. The

Allegany County profile covers key areas of demographics, labor pool, transportation, finance/tax incentives, technology transfer/entrepreneurship, resources, housing, community activities, culture, recreation/leisure/sports, health/safety, and education. Each student is working on his or her own section of the county profile to update and expand on the information. The business students participating in the project are Jesse Crikelair, Chelsea Kinsman, Sebastian Loaiza, Christopher Moore, Patience Scaglione, Deborah Silva, Amanda Sylor and Kwok Wah Tsang.

Also working on this service-learning project this semester are five students from Professor Bill Doeze's American Survey course. These students are Bethany Bialy, Andrew Dickerson, Lindsey Kuciewicz, Kelly LaPolla and Tara Lydell. Doeze's students are beginning to research and write up

mini-histories of the towns in Allegany County. Allegany County historian Craig Braack has also met with the students to give them some background and help guide them in the right direction. This section of the project will need to be carried on over several semesters until all of the mini-histories can be completed.

There will be more sections to research next semester, which can provide good opportunities for the faculty to build partnerships and give students hands-on experience working with the county. If you are a faculty or a student interested in becoming involved in this service-learning opportunity, contact Nicole Arensen for more information.

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Thanksgiving: Noting Our Blessings and Blessing the Unnoticed

BY CHRISTINA TURNER
STAR STAR WRITER

Next week, Houghton students will pack up their cars and leave campus for a few days of friends, family and, of course, eating. However, for many Allegany County families, Thanksgiving is neither a getaway nor a time of overabundance.

Many Houghton students may be unaware of the surrounding area's poverty because of the prosperity of the immediate community. "The Houghton community is a bit upscale compared to a lot of areas in Allegany County," says Janette Keyser of Allegany County Social Services.

Although Houghton is relatively prosperous, Allegany County as a whole is ranked the second-poorest county in the entire state of New York. According to Marge Perkins of the Allegany County Social Service Commissioner's office, 995 people in the county receive public assistance, and 4,103 individuals receive food stamps, 1,134 of which are children. Everyone who receives public assistance or food stamps is under the poverty level, which is just over \$1500 a month (\$18,400 a year) for a family of four.

There are also many other impoverished families who, for whatever reason, do not receive government aid. Kathie Brenneman, who works with relief drives on campus and at the Houghton Wesleyan food pantry, cites the series of long, complicated forms as one of the reasons many local families are without aid. "There's too much bureaucratic red tape," remarks Brenneman. "No wonder people get so discouraged by this."

Regardless of whether or not they receive government aid, all poverty-level families are struck hardest

during the holiday season. Keyser says that families receive no extra government aid during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons despite the increased financial need. According to Patricia Stalker, who is involved with Houghton Wesleyan's food pantry, more families also need help buying food in the winter because the money that would usually go to food is used to pay higher utility bills.

Although most local families have food to place on their Thanksgiving tables, it is far from the lavish meal most of us enjoy. "Terrible junk food is cheap, and that's all they can afford," says Brenneman. "If you want a nutritious meal, it's more expensive than if you buy Kraft macaroni and cheese."

Fortunately, Allegany County has several church ministries that provide impoverished families with food. Houghton Wesleyan's food pantry gives food on an emergency basis to families who are either awaiting food stamps or do not receive them. Several other food pantries, such as those run by the Fillmore United Methodist Church, Belfast United Methodist Church, Cuba First Baptist Church and the ACCORD program help provide food. Since there are no community kitchens in the immediate area that serve during the holiday months, these ministries are vital for poverty-level families.

For these ministries to keep running effectively, they need help from those of us that are more fortunate. To help, we don't even need to step off Houghton's campus. One way for students to help out is by donating to the Thanksgiving Turkey Drive, headed up by Kathie Brenneman in the Info Center. Each needy family that requests a turkey is given a ticket good for one turkey at the Jubilee in

Fillmore. The Jubilee's manager keeps the tickets and the turkeys are paid for out of the donations received for the Turkey Drive. Since the Jubilee gives the turkeys to needy families at the wholesale price, the cost per turkey is extremely low, only \$12.

According to Brenneman, the response has been slow this year, mostly because students are unaware of the opportunity. Last year, the Turkey Drive raised \$600-enough to provide 60 needy families with turkeys. However, this year, only about \$200 in donations has been received. Students are encouraged to drop off donations of any amount in the turkey-shaped can in the Info Center until the Monday before Thanksgiving.

There are also several other opportunities to give back to the surrounding area. Since next Monday's chapel will be a special "Harvest Festival," students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to bring staple food items such as canned and boxed goods to be distributed to needy families this Thanksgiving. There is also a collection box in the Info Center for individuals to donate nonperishable food items, which will be given to Houghton Wesleyan Church's emergency food pantry.

Aid to families in the surrounding area does not stop at Thanksgiving. Throughout the year, Brenneman collects donations for My Sister's Closet, a thrift store in Fillmore. My Sister's Closet accepts donations of clothing, utensils, and any other items and then gives these items to needy individuals for whatever amount they

can afford.

"But I'm just a poor college student." We say those words over and over, disappointed because we don't have extra money for a movie, a CD or a new sweater. It is easy to forget that by having enough money to attend college, even having enough money to consistently eat nutritious food, sets us apart as some of the

richest people in the world. During this Thanksgiving season, realizing the severe poverty of many local families can help us realize the extent of how much we have been blessed. It is certainly important to gratefully give thanks for food, clothing, shelter, family, and friends.

We must not forget,

though, that the gratitude that is most pleasing to God consists not only of praying prayers of thanksgiving but also of thanking Him by caring for the needs of others. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes, "This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God" (2 Corinthians 9:12). Only by following our prayers with acts of compassion do we really give a complete expression of thanksgiving to our Lord.

As we approach Thanksgiving break and begin to envision that dinner table loaded with turkey and all the fixings, let us remember the words of Jesus: that to whom much has been given, much is expected. Let us give thanks, both with our words and our actions.



Top Ten Signs that Thanksgiving Break is Near

BY RACHEL BRASK
STAR STAFF WRITER

10. Turkeys in Allegany County mysteriously disappear...but cows are still in abundance.
9. Signs all over campus teach geography as desperate car-less people beg drivers for rides home for the holiday: New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Fillmore, Wellsville, Walmart...
8. Gas money and chocolate chip cookies are bargaining chips for transportation.
7. The library is the happening place to be on Friday night.
6. Students are mistaken for hunchbacks as they lug 50 books at a time for procrastinated research papers not done earlier in the semester.
5. People confuse Thanksgiving with Christmas because of the freezing temperatures and the amount of snow already on the ground.
4. The late-night population of Big Al's doubles.
3. Students' attitudes drop from "I want to get a good grade on this" to "I just need to get this done and handed in" and "I don't care anymore."
2. Sleep is optional.
1. Of things to bring back from home, "parka, gloves, insulated boots, scarf, knit hat, snow shoes, and sled-dog team" are at the top of the list.

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Bleach Gets Out of This World

BY MIKE MORDENGA
STAR STAFF WRITER

Let me take you back to 1996 when Christian rock was starting to move away from its only two categories: "sounds like Petra" or "has an acoustic guitar." That year Bleach emerged onto the scene with their debut album *Space*. They infiltrated the industry with their energetic sound. They were an alternative for the youth who were sick of listening to Newsboys' "Breakfast" for the millionth time.

Now Nashville's five-man rock force is out on Tooth and Nail Records with their album *Astronomy*. They haven't lost their touch. I respect Bleach's choice not to tilt into punk or lower themselves to pop (like so many bands have done). They have captured the youthful sound of alternative rock. *Astronomy* has the perfect balance of rocker songs and contemplative sad songs. In the rocker songs like "Get Up," "Plan To Pull Through," "December" and "Living," you definitely see influences from old Foo Fighters, Everclear and maybe a tiny echo from Counting Crows. The contemplative songs "Patience," "Jaded Now" and "Astronomy" bring back memories of Ben Folds Five. Bleach also throws in

a little country on "Tired Heart." The band is not a mere imitator by any means; in fact, the combined vocals of Davy Baysinger and the instruments of Sam Barnhart, Jared Byers and Jerry Morrison make a sound all their own.

The lyrics of *Astronomy* are all about recovering from bad days and not worrying about problems. Bleach creatively tells the audience that God is bigger than any problem. In the song "Plan To Pull Through," Baysinger wisely sings "Add it up on a list so long / of all the things that have gone wrong. / A

feather falls and lands so perfectly / reminding you that you're beneath a wing."

I have a few minor problems with this album. *Astronomy* should've been bigger. The 11-track, 39-minute CD seems like a side project rather than a new CD. Not just the length is small, but the theme of *Astronomy* isn't explained well or elaborated to its full extent. The band doesn't show much more maturity than their last release. However, Bleach's wonderful foundation of rock roots puts them above the new bands who are struggling to establish their own sound. I fully recommend this CD (and it's only \$9.99!).



ATTENTION ALL ART-MINDED STUDENTS

The Houghton College alumni magazine, *Milieu*, is sponsoring an art contest. The winning photo or illustration will be printed on the back cover of the February 2004 magazine. The magazine goes to over 19,000 of Houghton's alumni and friends. The theme of the February *Milieu* is "commitment to service." The artwork or photography should represent this theme. Submissions must be received in the *Milieu* office on or before December 12 to be considered. The college's PR team—the editor, graphic design staff, webmaster and PR director—will choose the winning submission. Besides placement in the magazine, the winner will receive a \$50 honorarium. Questions? E-mail the editor at milieu@houghton.edu.

!Hero: The Rock Opera Plays to Sellout Crowd in Williamsville

BY KYLE NAGY
STAR STAFF WRITER

This past Monday, the cast of *!Hero: The Rock Opera* continued its 19-show, 23-day tour and played a sellout performance at the Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church in Williamsville, NY. Featuring many popular Christian artists, this rock opera depicts the gospel in modern terms. For those that had the opportunity to listen to the two-disc set of *!Hero*, the show was slightly clearer. For many, however, the show was their first time hearing this compelling drama.

Overall, the show had its good points and its bad points. The storyline

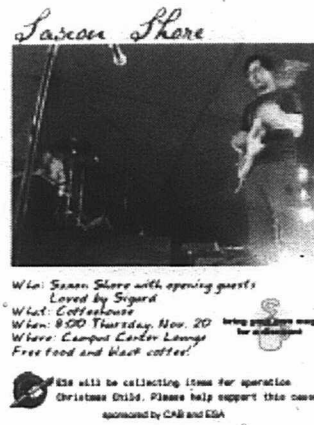
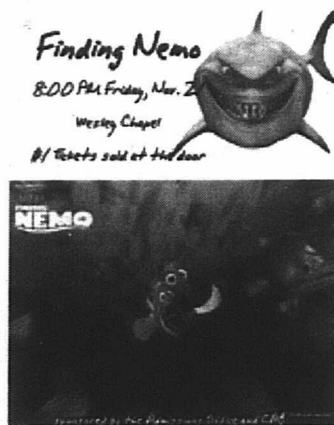
itself, although it did not include all of the biblical story, was a very good representation of what the life of Christ would be like if he were raised in Brooklyn. The wardrobe designers did an excellent job with costumes, particularly in the scene where !Hero meets Maggie (who represents Mary Magdalene). While still keeping within the bounds of Christian modesty, the playwrights portrayed the scene of prostitutes trying to seduce the !Hero. In my opinion, the best scene would have to be "He's Not Here." As all the actors came on stage to rejoice in the fact that !Hero had resurrected, the crowd stood and celebrated as well. The final interlude with Agent Hunter (who functions as a

narrator of sorts, yet was also involved in the plot, although he does not represent a biblical figure) gave the show its completion as he says "I was sent to find the truth and I found it!"

The acting itself was fair, considering that most of the actors were actually singers; and, despite popular opinion, not all singers can act. The worst part of the show itself was the fact that the lead singer of Skillet, John Cooper (playing Rabbi Kai), was not present on the tour. Although the fill-in did an excellent job, the role of Rabbi Kai is specifically designed for a singer like John Cooper. There was also a scene where Maggie (Rebecca St. James) fell in love with Special Agent Hunter. This scene not only had

no biblical reference; it also had no real contribution to the storyline. It could easily have been removed and not missed at all.

Although my seat probably was the worst in the auditorium, it was still worth the 90-minute drive. The artists are only touring during the month of November, but the overall seeker theme leads me to believe that there will be another tour in the not-so-distant future. As I said in my previous article where I reviewed the CD, I gave it a 7.5 out of 10, and the show receives the same score. Although it's not perfect, *!Hero: The Rock Opera* offers a practical way to share the Gospel with those that are unsaved in a clear and concise manner.



QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What's your favorite thing about Thanksgiving?

"That cozy feeling that you have right after the meal, when you curl up in your favorite chair and take a nice long nap."
(Liz Hopper, '05)

"Eating people."
(Jeff Babajtis, '06)

"Getting together with family."
(Dane Knoll, '05)

"Pumpkin pie."
(Monica McCray, '05)

"No classes."
(Michelle Saylor, '05)

ANSWERS COMPILED BY SARA ELSTON-MOORE

An Evening of Choral Music

BY KIMBERLY PRINS
STAR STAFF WRITER

"The devil sneaks in expertly amidst praises, songs, and dances..." Perhaps it wasn't exactly your typical bill of fare as far as choral lyrics are concerned, but it certainly caught the audience's attention as the Houghton College Chamber Singers opened this past Saturday evening's program with the striking *Daemon Irrepiit Callidus*. The piece, a 21st century work by Gyorgy Urban, describes the devil as he deceives and attempts to win souls, but is always frustrated because all he can offer is so much less than the heart of Jesus.

The 13-member Chamber Singers, under the direction of Dr. Brandon Johnson, presented an evening of music in four distinct sections: 21st Century Composers, Edward Elgar, Franz Joseph Haydn, and Folk Songs & Spirituals. A highlight of the

concert was Haydn's "Missa Brevis," nicknamed the "Little Organ Mass." The work is unique in that it presents the entire Mass in less than twenty minutes. The "Missa Brevis" features a beautiful soprano solo-sung on Saturday with pristine elegance by Julie Charlton and an instrumental ensemble consisting of two violins, cello, and organ. Finishing the program with a fresh contrast to the Haydn was a set of folk songs and spirituals, including "Lord of the Dance" (which most recognized as the familiar "Simple Gifts" with a different text) and ending with William Dawson's rousing "Ain't-a That Good News."

The concert's overall combination of old and new, classic and innovative, performed expressively and with trademark excellence by the Chamber Singers, formed an appealing musical blend, providing both enrichment and entertainment to all present.

AUSTIN TIME

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

BY CHRISTOPHER AUSTIN
RANTING STAFF WRITER

This Week's Topic:

OVERWORKED MAINTENANCE AND STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Actually, to be quite honest, this column has nothing to do with the title. It was just an attention-getter. Some people like to read things of importance, not someone else's opinion. So this is just my way of saying tough luck to you if you thought this was a column of importance. You know who you are. This is actually an opinion column, not a news column; so if you don't want an opinion, don't read my column. Read the rest of the newspaper. Moving on, here's our question for today:

"I think the word 'shebang' is awesome. What are some of your favorite words, and in what contexts would you use them?"
- Forever yours, Vocabulary Vern.

I cannot help but think this is an odd question, Vern, as I make it my sacred duty to terminate each column with an awesome word. I shared many a great word back in the day, words like manybods and deathtraps, perspiration and corrugation. However, seeing as you were special enough to compose a query, furnishing this column with the "sustenance of life" as it were, I will endeavor to reveal additional pleasant terms for our mutually expanding vocabulary.

Concordantly, I do in fact enjoy a well-used "shebang" every now and then. It is almost more of a feeling than a word itself. Truthfully, it could be called a feeling on paper. SHEBANG! Can you feel it? Just like bass that pounds your eardrums, reverberating inside your head. If you are like me, your pulse is probably racing now; there is a throb in your throat as you choke past the sheer power of its sound. When the little hairs on your arms and neck start to come down from their excited state of pointyness, you can finally fully enjoy the quality of the 'shebang' experience. Therefore, I wholeheartedly agree with the term shebang being awesome.

It can be related, of course, to the word 'bingo.' But it's not just bingo. It's bingo on steroids. There is too much power wrapped up in one shebang then a poor little bingo can handle.

As for other words I enjoy, there are many. I consider myself well versed in the art of verbal combat, and thus I know all kinds of great words. At least I tell myself that. I am personally very attracted to the word 'indeed.' Here it is in a dialogue:

Person 1: Are you annoyed by all the people clapping in chapel at things that don't deserve clapping?

Person 2: Indeed, I am annoyed.

It works as a simple yet classy alternative to the common 'yes.' Another great word is 'pantomime.' In context: "I like the word pantomime." Still another fabulous word is aggravate, which I find very easy to use. "It is fun to aggravate my enemies" or "People who clap in chapel all the time aggravate me so much I want to pantomime them in the face." Last but not least, I like the word 'function.' It has so many definitions that I can hardly comprehend its vast wonderfulness. It is also a good way to express concern in a matter or situation, because you can use it as a question, like so: "What the function?"

Well, I have just about reached my 600 word limit, but I am content because so many good words were included in the 600. Key word of today: lexicon. If you look it up, you get a prize.

EDITORIAL

And They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Humility... or Will They?

by Josh Miller

During the month of November, two faculty members of the religion and philosophy department gave a chapel presentation that emphasized the importance of Christian humility. Dr. Kristina LaCelle-Peterson was the first to bring it up when she spoke of the need for Christian humility in one's occupation. LaCelle-Peterson also commented on our imperfect knowledge of God, which, according to her, mandates a meeker presentation of our faith. The following week, Dr. Brad Beach reiterated this subject and took it one step further. He encouraged faculty and students to tolerate other viewpoints, acknowledge our uncertainty-the possibility that we could be wrong-and to seek truth everywhere.

This message made me squirm, not because it was heretical (both LaCelle-Peterson and Beach made it very clear that they firmly and passionately believe in Christ), but because it seems to leave very little room for evangelism. How, as humble Christians (based on Beach and LaCelle-Peterson's definitions), are we to share our faith?

Perhaps we should take the Thessalonians as our example. In Paul's first epistle to them, he encouraged them to "lead a quiet life, to mind your own business...so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders" (4:11-12). But, as other epistles note, even Christians who are not directly involved with the ministry of the Church are still called to "give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have" (1 Ptr 3:15). While this is to be done "with gentleness and respect," it still must be done, and involves speaking out for the truth.

Which brings us to another point of conflict between specifically Beach's message and witnessing: the issue of toleration. In his chapel, Beach encouraged us to tolerate all views except those that are "misanthropic" and "promote hatred." Yet how does one draw this line? And from a Christian perspective, doesn't every non-Christian religion promote eternal death by pointing to something outside of Christ for salvation? Even if they're not "misanthropic," they still can be equally as destructive as more explicitly hateful philosophies from an eternal point of view.

The apostle Paul knew this. In his sermon at Athens, he refused to tolerate the Grecian conglomerate of paganism. Instead, Paul stood before them and declared "what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you" (Acts 17:23). Note the absence of typical postmodern qualifications. He does not say, "I am going to proclaim to you what I think" or "I am going to proclaim to you what I believe to be true." Paul presents his message as absolute truth, without making any consolations to other Greek religions or philosophies.

Of course, Paul was an apostle, called to a specific type of ministry. So how are those of us who aren't apostles (presumably all of us) supposed to share our faith? Should we, as Beach suggested, merely present our view as one of many, trusting "the beauty of our truth to shine forth?" This philosophy sounds more American-more Jeffersonian-than like a teaching of Christ or His Church.

I suppose this is the point in my editorial where I should present a solution...but I don't know have one. Instead, I'd like to challenge the faculty, especially those who will speak in later chapels, to share your ideas on evangelism with us. You've made it very clear that we shouldn't cram our faith down people's throats at the workplace or out in the world. How then should we share the truth we do know, or, to be postmodernly correct, claim to know? Will they know we are Christians by our humility alone? I'm not so sure they will...

LETTER GUIDELINES

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

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Despite Loss, Women's Soccer Team Advances to Nationals

BY AARON BOYNTON
MANAGING EDITOR

After a heartbreaking loss to Tiffin in last year's regional finals, Houghton's Women's Soccer team was determined not to let it happen again this year in the NAIA Region IX Semifinals. The two teams faced off on a muddy, snowy Burke Field last Friday and would battle down to the wire. Tiffin opened the scoring in the first half, but Cassandra Mills tied the game for Houghton with her 11th goal of the year. Tiffin regained the lead in the second half when goalkeeper Rebecca Fuller mishandled the slippery ball and a Tiffin forward kicked the ball in the net. Late in the

half, it was Mills who tied the game up at 2-2 with her second goal of the game.

The Highlanders had many chances to end the game in regulation but came up short on attempts by Hannah Toth and Jen Switzer. In the first overtime, the teams battled back and forth with Houghton getting the most opportunities to win the game. With four seconds left in the overtime period, Cassandra Mills was pulled down in the box and Houghton was awarded a penalty shot. Tiffin goalkeeper Tracy Shannon stopped JoAnna Beardsley's attempt, and the game went into a second overtime. After another scoreless overtime period, the match was to be settled by

a penalty-kick shootout. Hannah Toth and Cassandra Mills both missed their attempts while Tiffin converted their first two shots. Senior Johanna Berryman and freshman Brittany Crozier each scored on their attempts, matching Tiffin's tally. However, Fuller could not stop Tiffin's last two shots and Tiffin won the game by a 4-2 margin in the shootout.

With the loss, Houghton still had a chance to make it to the NAIA National Tournament with an at-large bid. One or two higher-ranked teams, including Westmont College (CA), had to win for Houghton to move on. Late Saturday night, the team found out that they would be going to Nationals because Westmont had won

their region. The Lady Highlanders will head out to Santa Barbara, California, for the tournament which runs from the 19th to the 25th of this month. The 8th ranked Highlanders' first game will be against Union College (KY) on Friday at 4 p.m. Eastern/12 p.m. Pacific time.

The men's soccer team was not so fortunate. After having traveled to Rio Grande, OH for the men's NAIA Region IX Semifinals, the team lost in overtime to no.2 seed Tiffin. Kwame Oduro had the Highlanders' only goal, while goalkeeper Mike Cox had three saves in the loss. The winner of the men's Region IX Semifinals advances to the national championship in Olathe, KS, Nov. 19-25.

Being a Champion of Character

BY JASON MUCHER
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETIC
COMMUNICATIONS

You may have heard me make the following announcement before home sporting events:

"Houghton College and the NAIA would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to help everyone enjoy tonight's contest by being a true Champion of Character. By displaying respect and good sportsmanship to all involved, you can help us create a positive environment for the teams and the fans."

Interestingly, the above pre-game announcement did not originate from the Houghton athletic department, but from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, a secular organization that has begun the "Champions of Character" initiative. In essence, the initiative is focused on the development of five core values—respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship—within the ranks of the NAIA. The long-term goal of this program is for all involved—athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators—to develop positive habits and good character in

their lives.

As a member of the NAIA, Houghton has made serious efforts to educate its coaches and athletes on the components of the initiative and has encouraged them to take active steps in displaying character on the court and field. Our student athletes and coaches have each signed character pledges and they have taken part in outreach and speaking opportunities in the local schools. Guest speakers have also come to campus to talk about the program to our athletes and to local high school athletes.

For its efforts, Houghton has been recognized as a Champions of Character Institution for each of the program's three years.

The arena of athletic competition continues to become an imitated model for society. The NAIA sees the present culture of sport as an opportunity to bring more formal emphasis to character development on every level using sports as a centerpiece.

The NAIA "Champions of Character" program is designed to assist those influenced by sports programs to know the right thing, do the right thing, and value the right thing in all areas of their life. It is the

intent of this program to have the NAIA student-athletes exhibit exemplary character and sportsmanship. It will go beyond hopes and mission statement and become "this is what we

communities as they compete in athletics and life.

This is not just a program for our athletes and coaches. Our fans, in the form of students, faculty, staff, parents, and alumni, need to buy into this program for it to be successful. This means making only positive comments toward officials and opposing teams.

This initiative is something we Christians should be modeling in our lives anyway. Perhaps if the pre-game announcement was put into other words, it would have more of an impact. Try this: *"Let not unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear."* (Ephesians 4:29)

So, the next time the ref makes a bad call or you feel like taking a verbal jab at an opposing player or coach, take a moment to reflect on what you are going to accomplish by your words. Then be a Champion of Character for the next generation of fans who are seated around you.

For more information on the Champions of Character Initiative, go to the following website: <http://www.naia.org/character/index.html>



truly believe, so this is what you will see." The NAIA coaches, athletes and fans will walk their talk, and then pass the torch to the next generation of athletes by demonstrating and teaching this level of dedication, character and cooperation to the youth in our

HIGHLANDER athlete of the week

Jason Lee / men's basketball



Lee, a 6-2 guard from Buffalo, N.Y., averaged 21 points and four assists to help lead the Highlanders to a 1-1 record to start the season. He scored 19 points on 8-of-17 shooting in a loss at Mt. Vernon Nazarene, then tallied 23 points on 7-of-16 shooting in a 96-75 win over Ohio State-Newark. He also dished out five assists in the win. On the week, he hit 50 percent of his field goal attempts and was 5-of-9 from three-point range.

HIGHLANDER SCORES

MEN'S SOCCER			
Sat. 15	TIFFIN	L	1-2 (OT)
WOMEN'S SOCCER			
Fri. 14	TIFFIN	T	2-2
VOLLEYBALL			
Fri. 14	MALONE	L	0-3
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL			
Fri. 14	RIO GRANDE	L	44-64
Sat. 15	CUMBERLAND	L	28-85
MEN'S BASKETBALL			
Fri. 14	MOUNT VERNON NAZARENE	L	73-79
Sat. 15	OHIO STATE (NEWARK)	W	94-77