

# THE HOUGHTON STAR

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

Volume 100, Issue 11

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**NEWS**  
in  
*Brief*  
by D. ELLIOTT TAIT  
Editor-in-Chief

## 58% of Iraqis vote; Shiite Muslims win most seats

Despite three suicide-bombing attacks at polling booths last Sunday, 58% of Iraq's eligible voters cast their ballot in the landmark election. Results as of Sunday heavily favored the Shiite Muslims, however, the long-oppressed group was unable to claim the majority of Assembly seats they sought in order to form their own government. The first task of the 275-member National Assembly will be to select a Prime Minister, a President, and two Vice Presidents. (From source: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20050213/D887OE200.html>).

## Howard Dean named Chair of Democratic National Committee

Last Saturday Howard Dean, former Governor of Vermont, was easily elected the chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Dean replaces Terry McAuliffe, who chaired the Democrats through two separate losses in the White House and in Congress. In his acceptance speech, Dean named himself as the cure for the demoralized Democrats. Dean later described his party to be the one concerned with national security and a

see **NEWS**, page 2

## President Chamberlain announces his retirement; Search Committee seeks replacement

by HEIDI SPRUNGER with D. ELLIOTT TAIT  
Star Staff Writer and Editor in Chief

On Monday, February 14, President Chamberlain announced that he will resign from his position in May of 2006, or as soon as a successor is elected by the Trustees, whichever may come first.

In preparation of this announcement, last Thursday the Presidential Search Committee (PSC) met for the first time to discuss their purpose as a committee – to look for potential Houghton College presidential candidates.

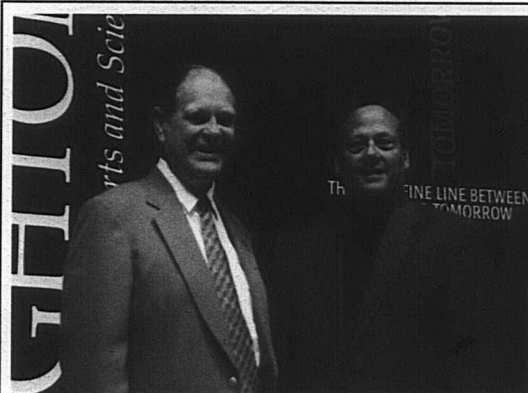
"I urge the Board to begin that process," Chamberlain stated.

The predecessor to the Presidential Search Committee was the Leadership Succession Committee (LSC), which consisted of faculty, staff, trustees, and students. This committee was started back in 2000 to deal

with the question of, "What will happen when President Chamberlain retires?"

In October of 2001 the LSC drew up two important documents that would serve to guide the future search for a new president. The first included a description of the core values of the college (the substance of Houghton College),

and the second, a job description of the college president. The Board of Trustees approved the two documents, which were then filed away until they would be of use. Now, with the President Search Committee's assemblage, the documents have been revived and will serve to aide the PSC in their search.



Dr. Daniel Chamberlain with Rev. Dr. Karl Eastlack, vice chair of the Houghton College board of trustees and chair of the presidential selection committee.

The Thursday meeting was a "pre"-search committee meeting at which three things were discussed. First, the PSC spoke of their function, second, they discussed confidentiality issues, and finally, the committee talked about website development, with the idea of making the Houghton website more marketable to the people who could be involved with

the presidential search process.

Included in the committee are faculty members Paul Young (Professor of Psychology) and Linda Mills Woolsey (Professor of English). The Dean had asked the committee members to

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balanced budget. Democrats are "fiscally responsible" while the Republicans are "fiscally reckless," Dean claimed. (From Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/02/13/politics/13dems.html?ex=1265950800&en=247489d912ba6d25&ei=5090&partner=rssuserland>).

**New super-strain of HIV alarms NYC**

New York City Health Officials last Friday announced the discovery of a new super-strain of the HIV virus. Officials said the virus merges "two unusual features: resistance to nearly all anti-retroviral drugs used to treat the infection, and stunningly swift progression from infection to full-fledged AIDS." The news alarmed many residents of New York City, where the transmission of HIV is a serious problem. (From Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/02/13/nyregion/13aids.html?ex=1108875600&en=0395ca7105690add&ei=5065&partner=MYWAY>).

**Dolly the Sheep's creator granted human cloning license**

On Feb 8 the world's creator first cloned animal, Dolly the Sheep, was granted a license from the British government to use human cloning for medical research. Ian Wilmut said he wanted to use human embryos to learn "how nerve cells go awry to cause motor neuron disease." It is the second such license the British have issued since human cloning was legalized in 2001. (From Source: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20050208/D884BRPO0.html>).

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elect two faculty members (one male and one female) as representatives. The only criterion was that, 1) they could not be from the same academic department, and 2) they could not be husband and wife (as is common in small communities like Houghton).

After Chamberlain's announcement, chair of the PSC, Dr. Karl Eastlack, expounded upon the scope of the news, stating "We haven't heard those words in over 30 years."

President Chamberlain has been at Houghton for the last 30 years—outstanding proof of his commitment to Houghton when considering that the average length of service of college presidents is only 6.6 years (<http://www.acenet.edu/programs/policy/president-study/>).

Eastlack went on to comment on the convenient timing of the announcement, alluding to the Middle States' evaluation and end of the Campaign for Liberal Arts. "This is God's season of timing," he said.

What do the members of the PSC value in a potential president candidate? Before the Thursday night meeting, Linda Mills Woolsey reflected on some of the qualities she held as important. One was good communication skills combined with leadership skills. The president needed "the ability to have a vision for the college, and the capacity to get others on board with that vision." One of the president's main jobs is raising support for the college off campus, and to present the college to the academic and alumni community. He is the "main ambassador for the college," she said, and he needs to be versatile enough able to speak to millionaires who are considering donating to the college, and then sit down with a group of parents about their children and classes.

One of the most important qualities Woolsey emphasized was that it was essential that the candidate be an authentic and committed Christian with a Christian vision for the college.

Currently the PSC is looking to hire an independent search firm to aide them in the search and selection process. The Trustees have given the PSC until next February to find no more than three qualified candidates.

**A day in the life of a Senator...they really do work!**

by CHELSEA KINSMAN  
Star Staff Writer, Washington, D.C.

Chelsea Kinsman, a Star staff writer, is currently interning at Senator Santorum's office in Washington. This is her personal account of what the senator did on Thursday, February 3.

6:00 am Depart Home (he drives himself to work, by the way—many don't)

6:07 am Interview/KDKA re: social security (from the car)

6:20 am Interview/WPHT re: social security

6:45 am Interview/WHP with RJ Harris re: social security

6:55 am Interview/Jeff Johns, WJET re: social security Time article

7:00 am Meet John (the driver) at Delaware and Consitution Ave.

7:30 am National Prayer Breakfast Inc. (Hilton Washington)

9:20 am Greet at Table 23/Moroccan Ambassador Aziz Mekouar,

Dr. Ahmed Abaddi, Jack Rusenko (GW Academy)

9:30 am Depart Hilton

10:05 am Interview/Sue Henry, WILK re: social security (from the car)

10:20 am Record Audio Statement for Hispanic Press

10:30 am Radio Conference Call

11:00 am Interview via satellite/WNEP-TV Scranton re: social security, tort reform

11:20 am Speak in Executive Session re: Judge Gonzales (Senate Floor)

11:30 am Meeting/Jerry Knouse, Mary Ruth Rozzi re: tort reform, social security, border control (Senate Reception Room)

11:45 am Photo/NYLC (in Senate Office)

11:45 am Photo/Presidential Classroom (in Senate Office by Flag)

12:00 pm Bible Study led by Dr. Ogilvie

1:00 pm Lunch/Dr. Ogilvie, Sen. Mack, Sen. Kyl, Sen. Lott (Senate Dining Room)

1:45 pm Drop by/Thursday Lunch Group hosted by Sen. Sununu (Dirksen Senate Office Building, ground floor)

2:15 pm Meeting/Bruce Lakefield (in Senate office)

2:30 pm Great/Mary Beliveau, Kevin Bagatta; Real Alternatives re: funding (large conference room)

2:45 pm Great/Stuart John, Pervaiz Rekha, Maqsood Haq, Ivan Sampson(?); Christian League of Pakistan re: meet new officers (small conference room)

3:15 pm Interview via phone/Pete DeCoursey, Harrisburg

Patriot News re: profile, upcoming election in 2006, including Rendell's (governor's) re-election

see SENATOR, on opposite page 3



## After the Storm

by Sarah Allen  
Managing Editor

Houghton College prides itself on its involvement in other parts of the world; with programs in Tanzania, Australia, and London, the Houghton campus truly is globalized, despite comments made about the Allegany county campus's bubble-like feel.

Trying to capitalize on this sentiment, "Burst out of the Bubble" became a slogan commonly seen on buttons adorning Houghton students this semester in an effort to raise money for victims of the December 26 tsunami in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and India. Melani Fellows, a junior psychology and biology major, took the initiative to involve Houghton College in the relief efforts. After sending a few inquiries via e-mail, Fellows was put in charge of coordinating the efforts along with Bridget Mast, the Administrative Assistant to Jeff Spear, who shared the desire for Houghton to make a contribution. Together, the pair came up with the vision to make buttons, and also to extend the fund-raising to a county-wide effort.

Three coffee house events were held on February 5, 2005 under the title "After the Storm." Students and community members were encouraged to leave campus—to burst out of our Houghton bubble—and attend an event at the Fillmore Central schools, Alfred State University, or the Campus Center (for those who really like the bubble). Under the direction of Fellows, Jon Haley coordinated the performances for each

location while Rebecca Ballard, Katie Newton, and David Clem were contacts for specific sites.

Buttons were designed initially by Kristina VanDyk and Christie Gardner until senior Ian Kanski decided the pins were "too happy" and took it upon himself to design ones that were more representative of the losses that have been incurred. Over 15 hours of work were put in to assembling and designing

churches, and Houghton students—even Campus Safety and Security pitched in with their "Tsickets for Tsunami" campaign, donating \$2 for every parking ticket paid in February. Jon Haley had the privilege presenting World Hope International Chair Joann Lyons with the check this Friday in Chapel. "I am absolutely impressed with the generosity of the Houghton campus as well as the rest of the country," states Fellows, "I

didn't really know how much we could raise, but this is definitely impressive."

Inspired by the global relief work of her parents who were called to work in the disaster area only a week after the tsunami hit, Fellows' initiative proved beneficial for those in Asia who suffered

tragedy, but also

instrumental for we who are in this small part of Western New York. "The whole event...really brought the campus and community together for a united cause," Fellows summed up. "I think that has been a theme for the whole disaster response: various parts of the globe coming together to help." Now that's bursting out of the bubble.



PHOTO BY RACHEL BRASK

Assorted pins were sold to raise money towards tsunami relief efforts.

the buttons, and countless more hours were put in to marketing them. Some students walked around campus covered in buttons, while others took a more aggressive approach at meal times, basketball games, or even going door to door in the residence halls.

Just over \$4,000 has been raised in conjunction with county members, local

### SENATOR, from page 2

3:45 pm Gret/Alliance for Charitable Reform (large conference room)  
4:00 pm Great/Jim Jordan, ED National Association of the Mentally Ill of PA re: medicaid, parity (large conference room)  
4:00 pm Meeting/Leadership re: budget  
5:00 pm Interview (LIVE at 5:10 pm)/Kudlow, Kramer re: social security (Radio TV Gallery)  
5:05 pm FYI: Senate Majority Leader Frist hosts Sec. Leavitt (Members only – informal) (Senate-230)  
6:20 pm Interview (6:25)/Jim Lehrer Newshour re: social security (Radio TV Gallery)  
6:45 pm Interview/Lou Dobbs, CNN re: social security (Radio TV Gallery).

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

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

## Houghton Students Benefit from Collaborative Research Opportunities

by Virginia Whealon  
Star Staff Writer

This semester, Derek Deboer, Grace Essley, Marguerite (Indriati) Hood, and Jennifer Netkin are involved in a research project with Dr. Matthew Pelletier (Associate Professor of Biology). While providing a multiplicity of benefits to the students directly involved, this project also represents a commitment from the Biology Department and the Houghton College administration towards integrating opportunities for research collaboration between students and faculty into the context of a liberal arts curriculum.

The research project headed by Dr. Pelletier currently focuses on finding a gene called *Transparent Testa 9 (TT9)* in the plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*, which Pelletier explains is "the fruit fly of the plant world." Mutation of *TT9* causes the plant's seeds to lack normal pigmentation in its seed coat, interferes with proper germination, and produces smaller seeds than non-mutant plants. Although the project began at Houghton College in the fall of 2002, serious DNA analysis started in April of 2003. In almost two years, the project has narrowed down the broken gene from one of approximately five-thousand to one of forty seven. The current stage of the research involves using the process of complementation (replacing a possible broken gene with a one from a non-mutant plant to learn if this corrects the mutation) to isolate the broken gene. Once the gene is isolated, it will be studied at the molecular level.

The opportunity for research has offered many benefits to students involved. Indriati Hood, a junior whose involvement began last spring, extended

to four weeks during the summer, and continues into this semester, explains, "The experience of working on a project... just pushes you beyond the theoretical knowledge you learn in the classroom" as there are "not cut-and-dry" answers; problem solving requiring rethinking, flexibility, and creativity. Pelletier concurs, commenting that "a lot of what we do in biology [undergraduate] is memorize," but remarks that "somebody did hard experiments to come up with all these facts that we memorize from a textbook." He explains that research projects such as the one on *TT9* are "more educational than any class they

biology faculty member now will have a slightly reduced teaching load, either fall or spring semester, to aid the incorporation of research into the curriculum, covering topics such as immunology (Professor Crisman), environmental studies (Professor Wolfe), and predator/prey interactions (Professor Sullivan). The Moreland Chair Endowment, which honors a former Houghton College biology professor, has benefited the Biology Department by enabling Houghton College to name two biologists as Moreland research professors (currently held by Dr. Pelletier and Dr. Wolfe).

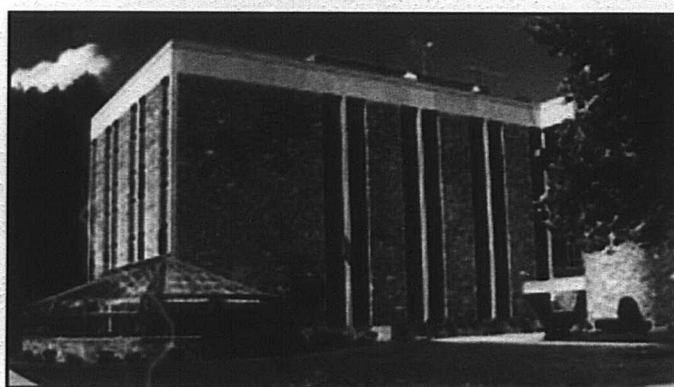


PHOTO FROM HOUGHTON COLLEGE WEBSITE

*Within the walls of the Paine Science Center students and professors are currently engaging in collaborative research.*

[students] could take," as "when you get into the lab, you develop your critical thinking skills." Students must deal with things going wrong, troubleshooting, and inconsistent data. "This," says Pelletier, "is what biology really is." Furthermore, the project's development of critical thinking skills, lab techniques, and use of advanced computer software gives students a competitive advantage when applying to top graduate and medical programs.

The benefits of research learning have resulted from the support of both from the Biology Department and from the Houghton College administration. Pelletier explains that that now every

Although efforts towards integrating research into the curriculum have begun in the sciences, they will not remain solely there. Dr. Ronald Oakerson, Academic Vice President and Dean of Houghton College states, "The college is very interested in supporting research collaboration between students and faculty." Although he notes that "that effort has really begun in the sciences," he adds that "virtually every area in the college can benefit from student involvement in research."

Citing how research as a part of instruction has benefited Houghton students, especially noting those who have gone on to graduate school, Oakerson states that school would like to expand the effort of faculty having a research program in which they can involve students. However, as Houghton College is a small liberal arts school—a teaching institution—Oakerson views research as a component of teaching, valuable to students in that "it enables them to learn a set of skills that are associated with generating new knowledge that will serve them well in whatever field they plan to go into."



## Scamming the System: Senate Discusses Scanning and Scramming

by ELAINE TOOLEY,  
*SGA Commissioner of Communications*

This past week, the student senate discussed the issue of chapel "scanning and scrambling." The Student Life Council and the Spiritual Life Committee approached the senate in an effort to gain students' opinions and input on the present situation.

In an informal count, it appears that on average 10 to 15 students scan into chapel and then leave – thus, not attending the service, but still getting credit. This issue has been one that has plagued the campus for some time. Matt Halulko, a senior senator, asked if such a small number of students made such a big deal. Would trying to provide consequences for a handful of students be making a mountain out of a mole hill? If these students obviously do not care about attending chapel, is it our duty to legislate morality?

Eryn Austin, a fellow senior, mentioned that trying to find a solution to the scanning and scrambling problem was not simply about "legislating morality," but keeping students accountable to the commitment they made when they signed the Community Living Responsibilities. Halulko also added that if consequences are to be sought for scan and scam violators, we should also focus on the students who fall asleep or do homework during chapel.

A freshman senator asked if chapels could be more interesting, thus enticing students to come and enjoy being there. With better chapels, students would not be as bored. Chaplain David Clem said, "Being bored is a decision students make." He

added that chapels are designed to touch on a wide variety of traditions and worship styles, and it is merely impossible to please everyone's stylistic desires every chapel service.

Many senators understood that students will probably always "find a way around the system." But, Clem added, "There are consequences for each decision. This is an issue of integrity. If you're lying with this, what else are you lying about?" Clem later added, "[The] concern with the issue of integrity is not to go on a witch-hunt and condemn people; it is a genuine concern for the present and future well-being of the students. If people are 'falling through the cracks' here at Houghton, we want to do everything we can to identify problems and help people. Obviously, you cannot force people to follow Christ or live lives of integrity, and that is not our goal; we simply want to assess problems and seek ways to reach out to people who are slipping."

One of the main problems with scanning and scrambling is how it will be stopped and what consequences perpetrators will be given. Student workers at the scanning stations are told to keep their eye out for chapel delinquents, but it may not be the best solution. At the meeting, it was discussed that faculty members at Messiah College stand near the doors of the chapel to monitor who is violating chapel policy. Another suggestion was having students scan into chapel and out of chapel. Random scanning – sometimes before chapel, sometimes after – could also work to crack down on scanning and scrambling. The senate will revisit more solutions next week.

In addition to the scanning and scrambling issue, the senate discussed the attendance of faculty

and staff at chapel. Many senators spoke up and said that they greatly appreciated faculty and staff who attended chapel. Seeing them in chapel increased the sense of community – an aspect on which Houghton prides itself.

Staff members are not allotted the time off of work to attend chapel. They are permitted to attend occasionally, but because of the pay schedule, staff members are not to take time off to attend chapel unless they make up for the hour that they were out of the office. The senate showed concern for this particular issue and want very much to make staff a part of the Houghton spiritual community. If there is a way to accomplish this, the senate would like to pursue it.

Faculty is not required to attend chapel, and the range of attendance among faculty is on both ends of the continuum. Some faculty members attend every chapel, some attend every now and then, and others never darken the door. However, the members of the senate repeatedly said that the faculty cannot be required to attend chapel, but students wanted to let faculty know that their attendance is greatly appreciated and welcomed.

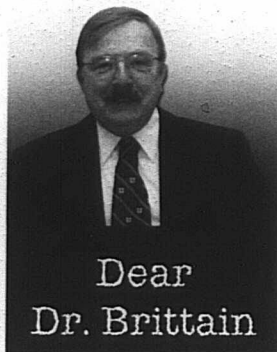
The senate moved to make a recommendation to bring it to the attention of the Student Life Committee and the Spiritual Life Committee that students are very interested in seeing faculty in chapel, and hope that they are encouraged to attend. This will ensure that the committees who asked the opinion of senate will receive their opinion. The recommendation will be sent to both committees through an e-mail from Eryn Austin on behalf of the senate and through the student representatives.

This week we have two closely related questions:

*I come from a conservative Christian background that stresses orthodox doctrine and "pure faith." At Houghton, I've frequently heard traditional Christian beliefs ridiculed as unenlightened and naïve. How do I attempt to reconcile these suddenly conflicting spheres of my life?*  
Student A

*As the daughter of faculty at an ivy-league secular university, I've grown up as a conservative Christian in a very liberal academic environment. Upon coming to Houghton, I was very surprised to find a very deep cynicism towards and ridiculing of Christianity from my professors and fellow students. I've noticed this in many of my classes, whenever Christianity comes up in relation to the subject matter; the classroom is filled with derogatory, sarcastic comments directed toward Christian culture and individuals. How is it that my very liberal, intellectual, and certainly secular hometown is more appreciative and accepting of Christian values and individuals than this reputedly Christian campus, where the viability of Christians as intellectuals is questioned so regularly?* Student B

Well, A and B, as Grandma Brittain (my mother) would say, "These are the kind of questions you hate to get!" Not, I might add, because of the issue of Christian faith vis-à-vis reason, since Christians have been always been debating that. It is because of terms like "ridiculed," "derogatory," and "sarcastic." As an intentionally Christian community,



Dear  
Dr. Brittain

we at Houghton are called to speak "the truth in love" so that we may all grow in our faith (Eph 4:15) and "spur (some older translations say 'provoke') one another on toward love and good deeds. (Heb 10:24) It is a mental stretch for me to equate the use of sarcasm or ridicule with "spurring." Maybe I just don't get it. Then again, maybe some of us need to reread James' comments about the tongue (read "big mouth") (James 1:26, 3:1, 3:6, etc.) or that perennial scriptural favorite of mine, Ecclesiastes 5:2: "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few." (AV)

Having said that, let me focus a little on A's use of the terms "unenlightened and naïve." Within recent weeks, I have, for example, had students share with me that:

- +Real Christians only read the Authorized Version of the Bible
- +Real Christians only sing hymns out of a traditional hymnbook, never praise songs
- +Real Christians only sing praise songs, never hymns out of a

traditional hymnbook

+Real Christians don't use electronic amplification in worship.

+Real Christians don't allow women to speak in worship. I have tried to communicate in each case that not all Christians everywhere would agree with these judgments. I don't think I called them "unenlightened and naïve" and hope I wasn't sarcastic or ridiculing. I stand by the observation, however, that faith in Jesus Christ is not bound by such limits.

One of the purposes of an education at a place like Houghton is to remind us that as the world's largest faith, Christianity has enormous diversity falling within the parameters of "orthodox doctrine and pure faith." Some folks find such information disconcerting, if not an outright affront. Five-point Calvinists and full-blooded Arminians really do understand a lot of life-situations very differently and, in fact, may have some heated arguments over principle while remaining within the broad limits of orthodoxy. For over 50 years, John Wesley proclaimed the expanse of orthodoxy in these words: "We break with no man for his opinion. We think and let think."

The perceptive reader will note that while I am over my word limit for this issue, I have not dealt with many of Student B's concerns. That remains for another question, perhaps.

#### Dear Dr. Brittain....

Have a problem or a question that you want answered with the wisdom, humor, and unique flavor of Dr. Brittain? Write to The Star at [star@houghton.edu](mailto:star@houghton.edu) or CPO #370. Letters should be no longer than 250 words.

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# MOVIES

with Adam & Pete

## The Top Ten Movies of 2004

By Adam Kline

In preparing for the Oscars on February 27<sup>th</sup>, I have finally compiled my list of the best movies of 2004. Though I did not get to see every film I hoped to before I put together my coveted list, I am proud to say I saw enough movies to feel very comfortable choosing the films I have chosen. This year's list is a compilation of four love stories, two bio-pics, a story of gripping realism, two fairy tales (one violent, one magical), and a philosophical romp; with no further ado, here are the ten best films of 2004.

### #10 *Lemony Snicket: A Series of Unfortunate Events*

Status: Coming soon to DVD



Director Brad Silberling brings to life this exceptional fairy tale with unique narration, great acting, awesome artwork, and magnificent cinematography. The story is so great because it is not simply a series of unfortunate events but also includes a plotline that sows them all together and provides a great twist at the end.

### #9 *Before Sunset*

Status: DVD

Richard Linklater's sequel reunites Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy as the same characters who meet again nine years later. *Before Sunset* is simply an eighty-minute conversation between two former lovers, whose conversation, along with the beautiful scenery of Paris, captivates you in a way you would never expect it to; I could watch and listen to these two people talk for hours.

### #8 *Baadasssss!*

Status: DVD

This is an amazing biographical picture that has to be compared to *The Aviator*, because they both tell the stories of men obsessed with their own vision and passion. Though *The Aviator* is a great film, *Baadasssss!* tells a more complete and darker tale of director Melvin Van Peebles, the man who brought to life independent film and the black-exploitation genre.

### #7 *I Heart Huckabees*

Status: Coming soon to DVD

Yet another great movie from director David O. Russell, this time his characters are in search of the meaning of life. You cannot really say, however, that this is really a story or that the people in the movie are even characters; *I Heart Huckabees* is really just differing philosophies embodied by different people in a very hilarious and chaotic way. Mark Wahlberg gives the best performance as a nihilistic firefighter who wants to protect the environment.

### #6 *Kill Bill: Vol. 2*

Status: DVD

This volume is the better half of the Kill Bill movie, even though *Volume 1* was still great. Tarantino once again provides dialogue you can never forget while paying homage to spaghetti westerns and kung-fu movies in this stylized masterpiece of cold revenge. David Carradine gives the best performance by a supporting actor in 2004 while also giving life to one of the best villains in cinematic history.

### #5 *Million Dollar Baby*

Status: In Theatres

Clint Eastwood's masterpiece, *Million Dollar Baby* is a great boxing movie but it is also more than that. It develops authentic three-dimensional characters we really begin to care about, and then it allows these characters to make real-life decisions that, whether we agree with them or not, make us stop and reflect upon our own lives, our own ethics, and our own beliefs.

### #4 *The Village*

Status: DVD



M. Night Shyamalan has done it again. You expect *The Village* to be about the creatures that lurk outside this settlement when in fact it is a story of fear and love. *The Village* is a beautiful love story surrounded by the fears of our imaginations and is supported by a wonderful cast and an Oscar-worthy breakthrough performance by Bryce Dallas Howard.

### #3 *Ray*

Status: DVD

*Ray* is the unapologetic story of Ray Charles. It does not try to hide the darkness of his choices in life, and this story brings everything about this man right up in front of you. Jamie Foxx gives the best performance by an actor in 2004, and Taylor Hackford's direction is both spacious and intimate. *Ray* is the best biographical film I have ever seen.

### #2 *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*

Status: DVD

Once again Charlie Kaufman has written a screenplay so original you cannot believe what you are watching, and director Michel Gondry brings the perfect touch of imagination. Mostly taking place in the mind of Jim Carrey's character, we follow the memories of Joel and his ex-girlfriend as they are erased. After a breathtaking journey through the mind, the audience is left with one of the most authentic love stories ever filmed.

### #1 *De-Lovely*

Status: DVD

This is the best film of 2004. Although I am not a huge fan of musicals, this one has the depth of a real human story. Through his music, Cole Porter's life is re-created in way never seen before, and his lyrics are windows into his mind. Porter was a very rich, selfish man who lived in a world without limits. Despite his extravagant lifestyle, Cole Porter was never satisfied. He wanted to experience every kind of love, and yet he never really knew what love was. Or was there a true love in his life all along that inspired him but that he was too selfish to recognize? I leave you to watch it and find out.



### Honorable Mentions:

Here is a quick list, in no particular order, of other great films that just missed the top ten.

*The Clearing*  
*The Bourne Supremacy*  
*Spiderman 2*  
*Finding Neverland*  
*The Passion of the Christ*  
*Hero*  
*The Aviator*  
*Bobby Jones Stroke of Genius*  
*The Phantom of the Opera*

# WINTER WEEKEND EVENTS

by MAILE KAWAKAMI  
Star Staff Writer

## Game Night Party

On Friday the Game Night Party was held. No trace of the concert held the night before was left in the Campus Center, which was now lighted and quiet except for the Rock and Ska played on the radio as background noise. Around fifty people scattered about the room, and were divided into groups, hovering over tables, dice, and cards. Unoccupied tables held board games of different types. The object of the social fest being to grab a game and play it. The scenery was reminiscent of people playing bingo, enjoying each other's company in innocent competition.

Suddenly Nickole Crandell and Kendra Ormerod, the planners of Winter Weekend, jumped on chairs announcing, "Whoever wins their game first and yells aloud gets a prize!" People now played with a purpose, competition intensified. The prizes ranged from games to \$25.00 gift certificates to the Cranium Movie Theaters in Olean.

The first yell came from the table where a young man and woman played Yatzee. "Whoo!" he loudly yelled. He was the first win of the night, sporting a new box of Chinese checkers. "I love to play games, especially Chinese Checkers." Jonathan Crissman remarked.

## Winter Masquerade Banquet

The Masquerade was a success; the room filled with 262 attendees. Greeting people at the entrance stood masked women in Medieval-styled dresses that seemed genuinely of another era.

The cafeteria was dimly-lit and hardly recognizable. There were panels of fabric in rich colors draped around the room. A chandelier hung in the middle of the room. The tables were clothed in black, centered in the middle were fresh flowers in a glass vase. The stage faced the dining hall's back window, and long, unlit candles held in tall candelabra that were placed along the side of the stage for a finishing affect. The windows behind the stage were decorated in reds and greens in stain-glassed fashion.

Walking around and routinely through the banquet, were jesters in masks and face-paint, who juggled rings and bats up in the air, which contrasted well to the elegant chello, flute, and violin players on stage. At one point one of the jugglers got on the other's shoulders, catching his pins as he threw them high up in the air. One of the jugglers, Jonathan Schmutz, carefully threw rings up in the air. "It's a lot of fun," he commented, "and really well organized! Everyone's really enjoying

themselves."

President Chamberlain gave the public prayer before dinner was served. He was welcomed with claps and laughter, hardly recognizable in a Zoro-like get-up of a black, curly wig, dark clothing and plastic mask.

"We didn't know what to go as, but the Paper Factory in Olean inspired us," remarked Adam Potter and Rachel Vogt. "We found this great hat and we just went with it." His hat, a red-jester styled creation with 4 pegged, arms that bobbed as he walked, only completed his orange leis and pointed shoes. His bright colored get-up made Rachel, in her lavender damsel hat, seem conservative.

Nickole and Kendra announced the beginning of the costume contest and instructed everyone to line-up in front of the stage. A line of costume dresses, men in fedoras, the court from Alice and Wonderland, Christopher Columbus, and even the Grimm Reaper were in front of the stage. The jesters picked the top five, among them being the Mad Hatter, the Queen of hearts, and Christopher Columbus.

Among the laughing, dress-up, and picture taking, the only thing that seemed to be missing was Alice; the wonderland was here in the cafeteria.

## CAB Coffeehouse with Mike Zale

Mark Zale's concert was the first official CAB (Campus Activities Board)-sponsored activity to launch Winter-weekend. Thursday night, the Campus Center was dark and of exciting set-up, with a snack table in the back, and a stage near the quad-facing windows. All the tools needed for a great-jam session seemed in-check: Drums, speakers, guitars, a crowd (for Houghton) of about a hundred, neon-lighting illuminating a mini-stage, and of course the entertainment themselves.

Starting the night was the talented Jessie Sprinkle. His songs started mellow, being borderline rock and alternative, his lyrics original, and vocals ear-catching. Jessie plays his guitar as one might play the drums, gradually intensifying with each strum until the song itself had total control of him and his vocals. People tapped their feet and swayed in agreement - he was good.

After a brief intermission of Winter-weekend announcements, Mike Zale finished

## Spot

Despite all the great activities of Winter Weekend, nothing else drew a crowd quite like Spot. Saturday night the Wesley Chapel was packed, loud music blared from the speaker in tune with the excited crowd. Strobe lights were put up to light the stage. And then everything went black. The music stopped. Everyone cheered in anticipation.

Opening was a band of guys with frizzy hair and costumes Cher couldn't beat, they were singing high-pitched songs of the seventies while dancing in beat with the music and blaring on their guitars and drums. No small feat. The crowd yelled and whistled, and so Spot officially began.

Spot was an eclectic mix of skits, musical performances, and videos made by the Houghton Students. It seems the success and theme of Spot was its randomness. What the next skit would be was the constant question of the night.

Among the highlights was a stand-up comedian, a choreographed dance routine, moving vocals, and band performances. Early in the evening the four men responsible for planning Spot this year put on a spoof of SNL's Celebrity Jeopardy called "Houghton Jeopardy." And of course who could forget, "Dan Dan Revolution," based on the popular game, "Dance, Dance Revolution", which pitted senior Dan Perrine as the star of a video in which, through being a Dance Dance Revolution champ, he acquires the hearts of the Houghton girls, who tirelessly chase him.

The night was topped off with a performance by the Rainbow ballerinas, in which a video clip of 3 young children did the ballet, followed by a live performance of college students dancing in similar motion. The grand finale was a guitar and singing performance by John Haley singing, "What a Wonderful World" with the talents of Spot singing behind him.

the night with an incredible performance of songs off his new album, "All the Words You Wished You Said". His demeanor much mellower than Sprinkle's, having complete control over his vocals and guitar.

"He's amazing," Houghton student Sandra Hodgins remarked. His voice was strong and clear and his songs catchy, definitely record-worthy material. Yes, an amazing way to begin Winter Weekend.



# WINTER WEEKEND ALBUM



PHOTO BY ROBYN BAKER  
Cheech & the Chimichangas kicks off SPOT with an energetic "Eye of the Tiger".

"This just might have been the best Spot of my entire 4 years here." Jon Davidson

Dancing...? At Houghton...?



PHOTO BY MARISSA ALBRECHT  
Jon Haley closed SPOT with "What a Wonderful World."

The short Snake Song by Matthias Hess



PHOTO BY MARISSA ALBRECHT

PHOTO BY MARISSA ALBRECHT  
The "Rainbow Ballerinas."

A scene from SPOT's very own Rock Opera



PHOTO BY ROBYN BAKER  
Elliott Tait as Dr. Lipscomb, Larry Petry as Rev. Don O'Gowrie, Adam Kline as Dr. King, and Peter Pesci (not shown) as Dr. Brennenman, play a game of "Houghton Jeopardy." The four also organized this semester's SPOT.

Rachel Vogt and Adam Potter with their very tall hats.



PHOTO BY JAMIE KULICK

PHOTO BY JAMIE KULICK

James Burleigh and Amanda Weldan won second place as Mad Hatter and Queen of Hearts.



PHOTO BY JAMIE KULICK

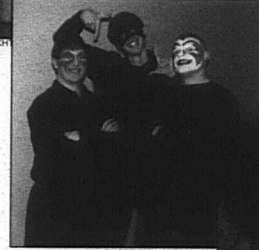


PHOTO BY JAMIE KULICK

PHOTO BY JAMIE KULICK  
Andrew Gaerte won first place in costume contest (as Colonial man or Benjamin Franklin).



PHOTO BY JAMIE KULICK

"I think they did wonderful. This is my senior year and this was the most beautiful banquet." - Danielle Luckey

## FACULTY PROFILE: Michelle Russell, East Hall RD

**What's your position on campus? Give us a brief job description.**

I am a Resident Director in East Hall. As RD I supervise 12 RA's and the ARD. I work with my staff to provide programming for the students who live here, as well as counsel and encourage students when needed.

**How'd you come to Houghton? How long have you been here?**

When I was an undergraduate student I remember saying to my friends, "nobody could pay me enough money to be an RD." In 1998 I was finishing my Master's Degree in Counseling up at Alfred University and did a full year internship at the Houghton College Counseling Center with Mike Lastoria. Two years later, lo and behold I became a Resident Director at SUNY Brockport. One year later I had a friend who was a former student at Houghton tell me the RD position in East had opened up, and she suggested I apply. I didn't give much thought to it at first. Then a few weeks later Mike Lastoria mentioned the position to me as well. After talking with him I decided to apply and I have really enjoyed being an RD here for the past 5 years.

**What's your favorite part of your job?**

My favorite part of the job is the relationships with the girls and seeing those who are struggling overcome their mountains.

**Favorite way to entertain yourself:**

Hanging out with my husband and friends and laughing a lot!!

**What's your biggest dream in life?**

I have a lot of dreams! I would like to have children, get my doctorate in counseling, retire early, travel, and my secret dream is to sneak onto a farm, jump on a horse and ride away.

**Why should any sensible person be dying to know you?**

"Because I am going to be the next American Idol."

**What's the funniest/strangest problem you've ever had in the dorm?**

People walking in on Erv (my husband) and I in our apartment without knocking.

**What makes East Hall awesome?**

My RA staff, ARD and the Dorm Council members.

**I hear you once caught your husband publicly complaining about your bad cooking.**

When Erv and I first got married I wasn't much of a cook. I basically cooked the same thing every night. It was either

vegetable fajitas or quesadillas. Anyway, Erv was working for the Maintenance Department and one day he was in the boiler room of the campus center, which has a grate in it right next to an entrance door to the campus center. I happened to come out of the campus center near this grate and heard my husband say to his partner, "my wife cooks the same thing for dinner every night" I yelled down to him, "hey, I heard that!" He was surprised!!!!

**Rumor has it that your ARD had to investigate a strong smell of cigar smoke coming out of your apartment last semester. Tell us about that.**

Erv's long time friend John, a missionary in Guatemala, was up visiting us for a couple of days. I had left for class at UB and Erv was in our living room taking a nap. John went to the back bedroom and lit up a Cuban cigar. From what I hear he was sticking his head out the window smoking and the smoke was coming back into the building. Rachel Moran, the ARD, knocked on the door and told Erv that cigar smoke was pouring into the hallway of the dorm and people were asking questions like, "um, is *everyone* on campus not allowed to smoke??" Erv jumped up, ran to the back of the apartment and busted his friend.



PHOTO BY KATRIN WILSON

## Christian Schools for Dummies

by MICHAEL MÖRDENGA

*Humor Columnist*

I had a conversation with my good Christian friend Emily, a few weeks ago. The topic of Christian and Secular colleges came up in our conversation. It seems that Emily's mother thought that Houghton was a really challenging school in which she replied, "How challenging can it be, it's Christian?" Now, before you sharpen your pitchforks and battle axes, you must understand where

Emily is coming from- a secular college with great prestige. The idea that Christianity is an easy shortcut to knowledge for unwitting bumpkins that want to be spoon fed happy religious vibes is a very popular one.

Is it true? Are Christian schools more merciful on the human brain to a point where secular schools have the uncensored, unbiased advantage? Well, judge for yourself. The paragraphs below are an interpretation of how Christian schools are viewed.

(caution: sarcasm)

Being an Education Ministry major (EDMIN to the lazy tongued), I am toe deep in the work of the church and the doctrines of God. Now a secular Philosophy major would have to learn about all these hard doctrines from weird German guys, while learning difficult Greek words. Not the Christian EDMIN major! In fact, my assignments involve reading

*continued on opposite page*



## GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

*Readers are encouraged to write responses to any portion of The Star in the form of a letter to the Editor. Letters should be no more than 500 words in length and should be sent to david.tait@houghton.edu. All letters are subject to editing or dismissal at the Editor-in-Chief's discretion depending on their content and relevance. Letters should be sent to the Editor by noon on the Sunday before the next issue. Anonymous letters will not be printed.*

## Letters To the Editor

Dear Editor,

My response to the editorial written by Peter Pasieka, *Christians and Foul Language in Film*, was not a positive one. I wish to offer a rebuttal to the propositions made by the author by pointing out some of his inconsistencies as well as some of the ways that I view Christianity as it pertains to this topic.

The writer's first argument for such highly rated films is that Christians can "learn something about the world we live in." Films offer the context and mindset of our secular neighbors. However, Mr. Pasieka later goes on to discuss the realism of films, indicating to me that he is discussing the entertainment value of these films, thus the inconsistency.

It is not Christian to entertain one's self with sin. Swearing is sin, and so when we allow ourselves to enjoy it in the context of the film, we are compromising our Christ-like standard. Whether one views watching or not watching a film with foul language as acceptable for them, I am not here to argue. However, I will assert that such action is deviant from a Christ-like example. This I believe is biblical.

Second, the author takes his biblical use of the word "worldly" out of context. Severely out of context! Perhaps the most common of these "worldly" passages will illustrate this: Romans 12:2. "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will." I read no where in Romans, particularly this section on Living Sacrifices where the text encourages us to expose ourselves to the world's dirt. It says the opposite, "Avoid it!"

Third, the issue is larger than foul language. PG-13 and R rated films are not usually given that category just for their language. Violence, sexual content, and nudity are other criteria that earn a film such a rating.

Fourth, be careful how much realism you want in a film. By realism, we mean the world as it is, and it is pretty clear that the world is not always a holy place. It is often quite sinful.

Fifth, in response to *The Shawshank Redemption* redeeming itself because of its theme, one should not compromise Christian virtue for a good or moral theme. Incidentally, the edited version of this film offers the same theme without the vulgarities.

In conclusion, I worked for a construction company one summer. From my co-workers, I heard how to use profanity in ways that were so outrageously disgusting and creative and with such constancy that I realized I was starting to think their language. It took a long time to refuse such profanity entrance into my mind, once it was etched there. I encourage everyone to consider what is becoming of the image of Christ, for that is that for which you and I should strive.

Sincerely,

Jason Shambach

pretty poems about how great Jesus is. For example:

Jesus is good

Jesus is great

Jesus is nice

Let's pray

If that's not theology, than I don't know what is. These poems range from "Jesus makes me smile" to "God is a happy". As for the deep theology, Emily's school goes over every deep theologian, ranging from the liberal to the extreme-out-in-left-field theologian. But I don't have to conduct hard secular research like that. Instead, I learn from Max Lucado and Tim Lahaye. Lucado gives me all the happy sunshine theology I need to be a nice, lovely person, while Lahaye paves my understanding of Eschatology (oops...that word was too big). I

don't need ancient patriarchs or counter Biblical views, I have happy vibes and sunshine.

They say that Christian schools are emulated Heavens that blind the believer from the real world. Christian schools are viewed as false securities in life's harshest realities. In Emily's school, she must fight tooth-and-nail to receive a bread crumb of faith amongst all the negative views on Christianity. But in Houghton, Christianity is confirmed daily. In fact, an angel visits me everyday and gives me a slip of paper that says:

Current Status:

God is real

Jesus is real

You're saved

Everything will be ok!

-Your buddy, Yahweh

It's pretty reassuring. And since I go to a Christian school, my prayers are answered much faster. When I asked God for a revelation about a courtship with a girl, that same angel visits me with this:

Courtship will commence in:

4 Days, 3 Hours and 25 Minutes

Are Christian schools dumber?

I don't think so. Even in this assembly of believers and faculty of well-equipped Christians there are difficulties. Faith, Christian history and education are all challenging in their own right in Houghton. Even the greatest liberal arts major will have challenges in this faith-based school. I don't think it's right to judge any school for their intelligence based on faith. Now if you'll excuse me, I need to do my homework, "Think a happy thought about God".

## Highlanders Fall Short to Rival Roberts

FEBRUARY 8  
MEN'S BASKETBALL  
HOUGHTON 64,  
ROBERTS WESLEYAN 76

By: Kristen Niemi, sportswriter

HOUGHTON, N.Y.—It was a packed house this past Tuesday, with the Nielsen rocking and fans watching the Highlanders fight a hard battle against the Raiders. Despite a 10 point scoring run in the second half that brought the Highlanders within one point of their opponents (39-40), the Raiders came back to end the game in their favor with a score of 76-64.

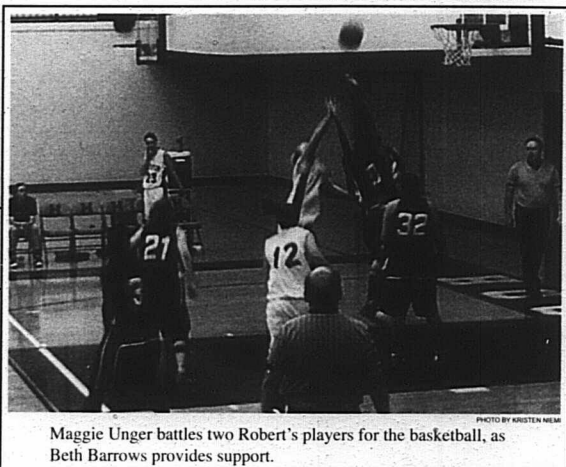
The Raiders shot 59 percent from the field while the Highlanders had 45 percent. Lead scorer for the Highlanders was Adam Griggs with 16 points and four rebounds, followed closely by Corky McMullen and Kenny Gethers who each had 14 points.

It did not take long for the Highlanders to put points up on the board in the first period to take the lead with a score of 2-0, as Griggs made a layup just 19 seconds in. This lead, however, was the first and last of the game for the Highlanders. Throughout the first three minutes, the two teams were either tied or the Raiders led by a narrow margin; the remaining part of the first period Roberts continued to increase this lead which at its climax

was 13 points with only 1:19 left. It was in these remaining minutes that Gethers made a smooth rebound off of the near left of the hoop—Gethers jumped up to grab the rebound and put the basketball in for two points.

The second period was marked by Houghton showing its ability to close the gap. As Head Coach Brad Zarges noted, the players demonstrated a level of intensity in response to their opponents that was evident in their execution of offensive and defensive play. It was in these beginning four minutes that a series of breakaways resulting from Raider turnovers occurred. The first of these was a breakaway for Harry Aldrich as he bounded down the court with Raider defense on his tail, making a layup bringing the Highlanders within three points of their opponents with a score of 37-40 and 16:26 to go. Gethers followed this up with a similar breakaway, once again resulting from a Raider turnover, and brought the score to 39-40 with a dunk. However, the lead for these

Highlanders was just out of their reach as one three-pointer with 15:02 left in the period from Roberts Vladimir Drobac ended the Raider scoring drought, letting Roberts regain control and slowly increased the scoring margin. The



Maggie Unger battles two Robert's players for the basketball, as Beth Barrows provides support.

last two points came from the hosts as the Highlanders were passing the basketball back and forth around the three-point line when John VanSkiver shot the ball from the left side just within the line, for a basket ending the game with a score of 64-76.

## Men's and Women's Basketball Pick Up Two Losses

FEBRUARY 8  
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL  
HOUGHTON 51,  
ROBERTS WESLEYAN 76

By: Kristen Niemi, Sportswriter

HOUGHTON, N.Y.—The Highlanders fought a hard battle against rival Roberts Wesleyan, going into the game as Head Coach Skip Lord explained hoping to give the Raiders a run for their money. Houghton worked and fought hard throughout the game, but as Coach Lord noted, the Highlander's struggled at times which enabled their opponents to take the advantage. The Raiders' 'man-on-man' defense was on the Highlander players like black flies to water on a hot summer day.

The Raiders shot 50 percent from the field, whereas the Highlander's had 35 percent. Sarah Bishop was the leader in scoring for the hosts, bringing in 24 points and 14 rebounds.

It was in the opening 20 seconds of the first period that the Raiders scored a lay-up, taking the lead and slowly increasing the margin of victory. About three minutes later, the Highlanders responded with a jumper by Beth Barrows

making the score 2-4. This half of the game ended with a score of 19-30 with two free throws made by Ashley Scudder, the first of which rolled around the rim, threatening to fall off before it swished through the net.

The second period can be characterized like the first with the Raiders continually increasing the gap between host and opponent—and the Highlanders fighting hard to make a comeback. It was in the remaining seconds that Bishop grabbed a rebound and rapidly dribbled the ball down to half-court where she passed it to Scudder who took the ball to the hoop. Scudder outwitted the opponent as she waited underneath the right side of the hoop for the approaching defense to try to block her shot, after which Scudder put the ball in for two to end the game with a score of 51-76.



Kenny Gethers shoots the second of two successful freethrows earning two points for the Highlanders.