



PRESIDENT
MULLEN

5

January 31, 2007

FIND OUT HOW YOUR CAMPUS
RESPONDED WHEN ASKED:

*"How do you feel about President Bush's plan
of sending 21,500 additional troops to Iraq in
order to stabilize the country?"*

PoLaRiS

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SPORTS

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Volume 102 Issue 7

★ The Houghton Star ★

Facelift for the Campus Center

Clara Giebel, staff writer

Next October, Houghton College will not only officially welcome a new president to campus, but also celebrate the completion of the Campus Center renovation.

The Campus Center was built in 1972 and redecorated in both 1980 and 1992. According to Denise Bakerink, chair of the renovation committee, the building "needs to be brought into the 21st century." Students and staff have been interested in a renovation for a while, but a combination of funds gives the college the \$240,000 it needs to give the center a facelift.

Due to begin in April, the remodeling of the Campus Center main level is a product of student money from the Student Project Fund (SPF), outside donations, and institutional funds. The committee that Bakerink chairs also includes Greg Bish, Phyllis Gaerte, art professor Jillian Sokso, and students Kate Hamilton and Christy MacBeth.

When members of the SGA cabinet met before the fall semester, they saw that SPF money could make a big contribution to the Campus Center renovation without hindering funds for future semesters. The cabinet then met with Bakerink, Bish, and Eric Alcott to secure matching bids of \$80,000 from both the college and alumni.

Although there is not yet a set color scheme, Bakerink said to anticipate lots of natural wood to provide an atmosphere of warmth along with subtle Scottish accents indicating Houghton's Highlander heritage. A creekstone gas fireplace will provide a visible focus point for the main level.

"We want to preserve the multi-functionality of the main lounge and its use not only as a welcome center but also as a sort of living room for students," said Bakerink. Capitalizing on Houghton's natural setting and creating more cozy seating areas will also, "help convey the sense of community that is so important too Houghton."

The terms "ski lodge" and "Scottish manor house" also describe the hoped-for atmosphere, said committee member and SGA president Kate Hamilton. "We want to have more comfortable furniture and more



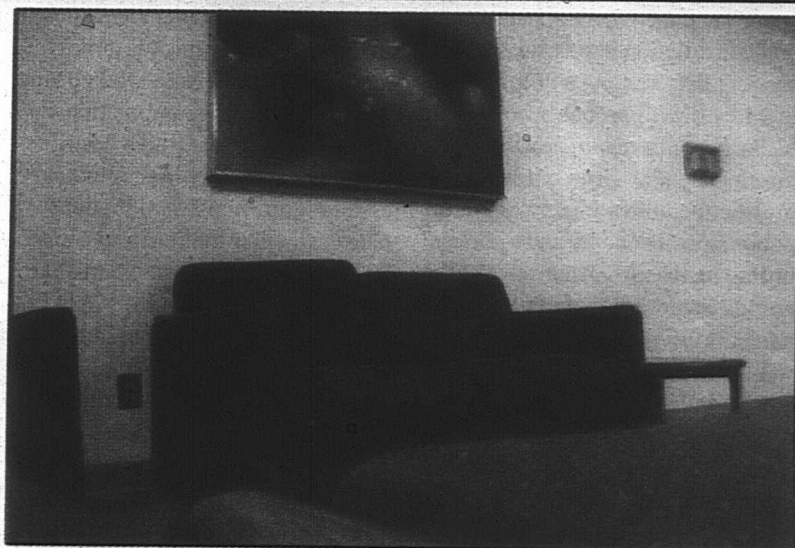
intimate spaces; right now, it's hard to sit close and talk as a group without moving couches."

The Campus Center will retain its ability to host large events like coffeehouses and to serve as a registration area for visitors. Bakerink hopes to also better organize the student activity sign-up area at the base of the cafeteria stairs.

Student money has funded many improvements to Houghton's campus. Past SPF projects include the resurfacing of the indoor track and, along with outside donations, the establishment of Java 101.

An architect and interior designer have already begun to draw up plans and hope to complete the Campus Center project by the end of September at the latest. The interior designer, based in Fairport, NY, is the same designer who worked in the Big Al's renovation about a decade ago. If there is money left over, Phase II of the renovation might begin in the Campus Center basement.

"We want to know how we can best use the Campus Center as



Above: Seating areas in the campus center sit vacant on a Sunday afternoon. These are popular areas to play cards, do homework, or chat. The furniture, however, can be difficult to move around.

a whole," said Hamilton, emphasizing that, although the funds might not be available this year to work on the basement, "we're looking for innovative ideas that will provide a complete design" for a long-term renovation. The committee encourages

student input concerning the renovation. Student Government Association will be sponsoring two or three student forums in the next few months to give students the opportunity to voice their desires for the entire Campus Center makeover. ★

Squelching Iraq's violence

Inti Martinez, staff writer

Fixing Iraq is no easy feat. It involves creating a functional state with reliable institutions. But, before doing that, it's urgent to stop the killings. The British, through King Faisal I and others, tried to govern Iraq but found an anarchy-prone population, "ready to rise against any government," as Fouad Ajami writes in his *Foreigner's Gift*. Saddam Hussein, with his brutal regime, was able to placate violence at the expense of thousands of lives. Now it's America's turn to give it a shot. In 2003, President Bush directed three words to those who planned to attack Coalition troops in Iraq: "Bring 'em on." Insurgents and other terrorists took this challenge very seriously, although eventually Mr. Bush came to regret those words. Today, Iraq is suffering from a horrendous war, 900 attacks of some sort each week—up from 400 in 2004, according to a recent Pentagon report and a death toll of at least 150,000 civilians. The Coalition troops are not doing that well either; over 3,200 dead so far.

Recently President Bush expressed the need for more troops in Iraq to squelch Baghdad's violence. Many military experts and most lawmakers—as well as about 60 percent of the US population—oppose this plan. Sending more troops to Iraq will just get more soldiers killed while wasting American taxpayer money. The plan also benefits the Bush administration's strongest supporters: the Big Gun, Big Oil, and construction industries. By sending 21,500 troops to Iraq, President Bush will probably be playing his last card to regain credibility in his country and abroad. If he fails to stifle the violence in Iraq—or the polar opposite occurs and violence in Iraq increases—America and the world (except for the uninformed, naïve, or irremediably stubborn) will be firmly convinced that the Bush administration is authentically inept in fighting this heinous "war." President Bush had better be right about his estimates, or else he will be forced to drastically reduce America's presence in Iraq—which is counterproductive with the chief purpose of the war in Iraq: to win "critical leverage" in world affairs, as Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Advisor to Jimmy Carter, puts it, by gaining control of the second largest known oil reserves in the planet. Reducing America's influence in Iraq will

be painstaking considering how much the Bush administration has invested in a permanent political and diplomatic base: over half billion dollars to build the largest US embassy in the world—the size of 80 football fields, with self-reliant water, waste, and electric systems.

Iraq and the US need to invest more on building a strong and reliable police force. As Terence Daly, a retired military intelligence officer and counterinsurgency expert, says, "[t]here is a difference between killing insurgents and fighting an insurgency...Counterinsurgency is about gaining control of the population, not killing or detaining enemy fighters." President Bush loves to boast about the success of having trained over 320,000 Iraqis for the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF)—which is about ten times larger than two years ago, according to a New York Times report—but their effectiveness has yet to be proven, considering the escalating violence in the country. A federal report from late October shows that the US government has spent about \$800 million on weapons and logistics for the ISF. Another related report shows that over half million weapons have been given to the Iraqi government, of which only about 12,000 have been properly recorded. A strong and reliable police force goes beyond being able to load a gun and shoot it. An effective police should be able to firmly enforce the law and should rid itself of militia members and corruption. This task is almost impossible to carry out when trying to protect a divisive population.

As much as Iraqis desire peace and harmony in their country, certain Shiite and Sunni factions hate each other too much to coexist. Many Middle East experts like Peter Galbraith and Leslie Gelb recommend dividing Iraq into three states or turning it into some sort of loose federation. After all, Iraq was created in a self-interested and amateurish way by Britain, led by Winston Churchill, in order to encapsulate as many oil fields as possible—but at the expense of long-term political stability. The state of Iraq, as such, has proven to be illegitimate and will probably end up partitioned along its ethnic boundaries, regardless of what America tries to do to prevent it. When this happens, present-day Iraq will enjoy relative peace and stability. ★

PoLaRiS

Inti Martinez, staff writer

1. How do you feel about President Bush's plan of sending 21,500 additional troops to Iraq in order to stabilize the country?

Strongly in favor: 14%
Moderately in favor: 37%
Moderately opposed: 22%
Strongly opposed: 23%
Don't care/Don't know: 5%

2. How do you feel about the idea of withdrawing American troops from Iraq as soon as possible?

Strongly in favor: 17%
Moderately in favor: 33%
Moderately opposed: 23%
Strongly opposed: 24%
Don't care/Don't know: 3%

3. How would you feel about having permanent US military bases in Iraq?

Strongly approve: 8%
Moderately approve: 24%
Moderately disapprove: 34%
Strongly disapprove: 30%
Don't know/Don't care: 4%

4. Some critics believe that sectarian violence in Iraq cannot be squelched unless there is some type of partitioning of the country. How do you feel about giving Shiites, Sunnis, and Kurds autonomous states (maybe even a loose federation) with an agreed-upon distribution of oil?

Strongly in favor: 8%
Moderately in favor: 35%
Moderately opposed: 17%
Strongly opposed: 7%
Unsure: 33%

5. Do you have a relative or close friend serving in Iraq?

Yes: 39%
No: 61%

6. Do you think it was right to hang Saddam Hussein?

Yes: 53%
No: 20%
Unsure: 27%

7. Optional: Share your thoughts on the Iraq War, its escalating violence, increasing/decreasing troop numbers, having permanent military bases, partitioning Iraq, elections and democracy in Iraq, the Bush administration's plans for Iraq, pretexts for war, etc.

All 23 input responses to this question will be published in the *houghtonstar.blogspot.com* and might include comments from Chris Krowka and Inti Martínez.

Note: PoLaRiS is not a professional opinion survey and its results should not be used as official statistics. Some percentages might not add up to exactly 100 percent due to rounding. Total number of responses: 153.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions for future topics or specific line items, please contact Inti Martínez. Keep playing PoLaRiS! ★

The Star staff would like to remind readers that Editorials are opinion based and therefore slanted by nature. Opinion also opens itself up for challenge, so write responses! But make sure they question the writer's stance, not our reason for publishing.

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS!

Guidelines for letters to the Editor:

Letters to the Editor must be signed, denote which articles they are in response to, and should not exceed 500 words. Send all letters to the Editor-In-Chief, Lindsay Yandon via STAR@houghton.edu. All letters are subject to editing at the discretion of both the Copy Editors and the Editor-In-Chief. Letters are due on Monday at 5pm, one week before the next issue. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Letters that exceed 500 words can be sent in the form of a response column and will be printed as an article but should not exceed 750 words.

The Marital Problems Dialogue



Jimmy Dutton, columnist

(What follows is a dialogue between Adam and Eve after just having been cast out of the Garden of Eden. It's not scriptural. Obviously.)

Adam: Well?
 Eve: Well what?
 Adam: What do you have to say for yourself?
 Eve: What do I have to say for myself? Are you trying to blame this on me again?!

Adam: Again?! I never blamed it on you before.
 Eve: Uh...yes you did. To God, remember? Remember when we were talking to God? And you were all like "the woman, the woman!"

Adam: Whatever, we never would've been in that situation if you just hadn't taken that precious bite of the precious fruit.
 Eve: I'm sorry, okay?! I just didn't think God would find out!
 Adam:...you didn't think...what? God? You didn't think God was going to find out?! Oh man, if all women are going to be like you then this world is done for.
 Eve: Oh please, you would've done it too! That serpent was very convincing!

Adam: No, no, no, no. See I don't usually accept food from talking animals!!! Normal animals don't talk! I should know... I named them all! Plus you listened to a serpent! Come on, Eve! A serpent?! Now, maybe if it was a kitten I could understand, they are very cute, but a serpent?!

Eve: Oh ok, let's talk about you naming the animals. Perhaps if you hadn't named the serpent "serpent" then we wouldn't have this problem!

Adam: What do you mean?
 Eve: Well if you knew it was such an evil animal why didn't you name it "Liar" or something? I mean I probably would've realized something was wrong if a "Don'tbelieve" started talking to me!

Adam: You're right, Eve. This is all my fault! I'm the one who ruined paradise for all mankind.
 Eve: Actually, it was your turn to go pick fruit...

Adam: Oh I'm sorry, Eve...I guess I was too busy enjoying paradise!!!!
 Eve: (Starts crying)
 Adam: ...what are you doing? What is that?!

Eve: I don't know! My eyes...they're turning to water!!
 Adam: What? Really?! Try to catch some! I mean, who knows when we'll see a river again.

Eve: No, it's not water. It's salty!
 Adam: Really? In that case, I will name it... "salty water that comes from the eye!"

Eve: Oh very creative, Adam. Look, can't we try and go back and explain things to God? Maybe he'll let us back in!
 Adam: Ok, He's God! We can't

explain anything to Him because He knows everything! Plus, that angel with the flaming sword looks pretty intimidating.

Eve: You never stand up for me!
 Adam: I never...ok! Ok, Eve! I will go fight the heavenly being! The heavenly being with the sword of fire!!! I will just throw a rock at him and hope that he either goes down with one shot or is very forgiving.

Eve: Ugh, typical...
 Adam: How am I typical?! This is my first time doing anything that didn't involve sitting around naked and eating fruit!

Eve: (Starts crying again)
 Adam: Come on, Eve. Please stop, you're going to... (starts crying)... Aw, man! You see? It's contagious! Now I'm spewing "salty water that comes from the eye!"

Eve: I'm just scared, Adam. I mean, I have to give birth! You don't have any idea what that's going to be like.
 Adam: Oh I'm sure it won't be that bad. Me? I have to plant vegetables! I'm going to get blisters!

Eve: You just wait. God said it was going to be bad, so you can trust that it's going to be bad.
 Adam: You're right. I just hope nobody finds out what we did, it's really embarrassing.

Eve: Who's going to find out? We're the only two people on the planet!!
 Are...are you afraid that that tree over there is going to find out? Hey, Mr. Tree? Guess what we did! We sinned! Yep! First people to do it!

Adam: Oh be quiet, woman.
 Eve: Now that wasn't very nice. Do

you want me to call God? Because I will! He will come down here and put such a whooping on you that you'll wish you could experience the pains of child birth!

Adam: I'm sorry...
 Eve: Yeah that's right you're sorry! Now carry me, we've got a long walk ahead of us.

Adam: Where are we going anyways?
 Eve: To a land that is slightly boring...for some reason I want to call it: Canada!

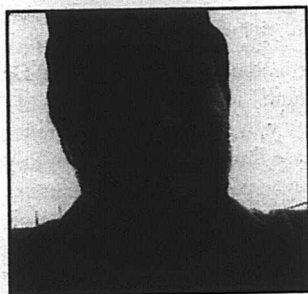
End ★

Basketball Games Now Broadcasted Live

Lindsay Yandon, Editor-in-Chief

As of January 5, Dr. Bill Swanson began a broadcast of all home varsity basketball games. The audio streams live through the Houghton College webpage. Since the termination of the local radio station, WJSL, several years ago there has been no public broadcast of Houghton sporting events. The Athletic Department started the live feed in order to create another avenue for enjoying highlander athletics other than attending games. They hope that parents of athletes will be able to listen to commentary and play by play of games online if traveling prohibits their attendance. Swanson commentates all games and is currently looking for interested students to join him in announcing games over the broadcast. Students interested in joining Swanson in this endeavor should contact Glyn Turner or Dr. Doug Gaerte with questions. "We want to paint a picture for people who can't make it to the games," said Swanson about the new program. Broadcasts will continue through to the completion of the winter sports season and may provide a new facet to the future of enjoying Houghton athletic events. Concerning the future, however, one question remains. Have we found the next Dicky V in our very own Dr. Swanson? ★

Behind the Music: CCM



Marc Smithers, columnist

I remember watching the fireworks on the fourth of July in my hometown and after a particularly stunning explosion of color into the night sky I would proclaim an age old exclamation. If you turn this word upside down it spells a shortened word for mother (i.e. wow). Other than that, in my childhood days I didn't use the word wow too often. If I saw something particularly intriguing I would say, "that's cool" or an occasional, "that's really cool." It wasn't until 1998 that wow became a more common expression in my vocabulary arsenal thanks to the release of the musical WoW of that year. The WoW CD's have actually been around since 1996, but I assure you 1998 was the year that I and the rest of the world took notice to the force to be reckoned

with; Christian music. With hits such as Jars of Clay's, "Overjoyed" or DC Talk's song that taught us all how to count to four and to admit that we are all in fact colored people that need to share the space, WoW 1998 was destined to be the album that rocked the globe. And that it did.

But here I am eight years later lacking the last five years of WoW hits and not caring in the least. Where has Christian music gone? Down the drain? Some say yes, while others say no, and still others answer the question with more than one word.

It's time for me to admit that I really dislike most of the Christian music that is in existence today. Other than the David Crowder Band, who I personally think rocks the house and many of the houses on my street, good Christian bands are few and far between. The reason for this is the immature optimism and lack of emotional depth in most of their lyrics. Most of the songs that are played on Christian radio stations are ones that do not even touch the feelings of loneliness or frustration that come with being a human. So, in my quest to find musical lyrics that I can relate to in all stages of life I turned from Christian music.

Blanket statements such as, "all Christian music is lovey, optimist,

crap" would be foolish to make. There are some bands that are pushing the limits of Christian music to include more emotionally deep songs such as Switchfoot, Flyleaf, and Jars of Clay. I would love to see more and more bands explore the various realms of human emotion, rather than just the exclamation that, "God is great, therefore my life is great."

Before you start throwing stuff in my direction whenever I get near you because you are angered by my opinion, understand that I am not attacking an optimistic view of life. It is good to have hope and this is what separates Christians from the world; that we have an eternal hope. I'm merely suggesting that the Christian music scene stop pretending that heartache and disappointment don't exist and automatic pick-me-ups from God are not always present. David's Psalms are filled with not only praises to God, but also pleas for God to reveal Himself. We can't pretend that God always feels close (or perhaps He does to everyone but me).

I encourage you all to explore human emotion and along with it explore the varieties that speak to these emotions. Above all, realize that we can have a hope without ignoring the present pains that we feel. ★

*"hope's reflection"*Rebecca Showvaker, *Design Editor*

I took these photos when I went on a sports-ministry trip with the HC Field Hockey Team to Thailand. The experience of a different culture, lifestyle, and belief system was a challenge and a blessing. In the two weeks we were there God made amazing changes in the hearts of the Thai players and in our hearts as well.

The pictures are just two of many taken at a butterfly garden outside of Chiang Mai. The colors of everything in Thailand seemed more vibrant than anything I had ever seen before and everything from the spiders to the flowers bore the mark of God's paintbrush. ★

NEW TO THE STAR IN 2007... STAR SHOTS

Submit your photography and title (color are preferred but if you have a black and white shot that will knock our socks off, please submit it!) along with a **100 word bio/explanation** of the photo and **camera info** (make, mega-pixel, etc) to

Star@houghton.edu

Submissions can only be accepted in a digital format, we prefer 4 megapixel or higher for quality purposes and photos must be your own work and submitted unedited (except for contrast and cropping adjustments).

*"rouge cascade"*

Ys by Joanna Newsom

Review by Eric Stevenson, *staff writer*

To be blunt: this is an amazing album. Joanna Newsom is a classically trained harpist whose creative melodies and delicate harp playing make a concoction so beautifully tasty, I can feel myself actually becoming a better person by listening to it. Though she is considered part of the "indie music scene", she doesn't really fit the stereotype at all. There are no guitars or drums found here, only harps (including jaw harps) and full orchestration. And yet, they still have a "pop song" aura around them.

The most interesting (and sweetest) thing about this album is that it's over 50 minutes long, yet only five songs are found. And out of all that time, there are no solos and hardly any musical breaks. She's sings nearly the entire time, and that's a good thing. However, her voice is the most controversial thing among critics. Some like

it, some don't. I am one who likes it. The best description I can give you is that it kind of sounds like (and I mean this is the best possible way) a sweet old grandmother singing her children to bed. She has a shaky, yet confident voice which fits the music perfectly in my opinion.

Her lyrics are another shining point for the album. Each song paints intriguing and complicated epic poems about monkeys, bears, old friends, and dolls stuffed with diamonds. Also, I am officially taking away the "Best Use of Vocabulary in Pop Lyrics" award from Colin Meloy of the Decemberists. Newsom deserves it.

Despite each song length, this is not an album you have to be patient with. It never drags, and always stays interesting within the five tracks - which is nearly impossible to pull off, yet she does it. I tip my cap to Newsom. Do yourself a favor: buy this album and experience the most gorgeous record released in the last year.

★★★★★

Listen to Joanna Newsom at <http://www.last.fm/music/Joanna+Newsom>.

+81 by Deerhoof

Review by Eric Stevenson, *staff writer*

Deerhoof is one of those rare bands that the majority of people don't know about, yet they have a fairly extensive back catalog. +81 is not an album but rather an EP sampler ploy to hype everyone up to the release of their upcoming album *Friend Opportunity*, which, by the time this is printed, will be released. Although for the fans in the know, it's been released on iTunes for the past two weeks already.

The title track starts off with what sounds like a trio of trumpets trying to mimic the music of an old Mexican film from the 70's. But when the indie guitars and drums kick in, it's obvious that it's a rock song. Deerhoof vocalist Satomi Matsuzaki sings exactly like you'd expect someone with her name to sing: comparable to the vocal styles of Puffy AmiYumi (for all you teenie bopper fans out there). Despite how you feel about her vocals, it's a good song (not great). I will admit though, I never thought I'd like a song where the chorus consisted of the lyrics "Choo choo choo choo! Beep Beep!" I know, sounds stupid, but it's catchy.

The rest of the album is four previously-unreleased tracks from their

fourth album, *Reveille*. *Friend Opportunity* is their eighth album. I don't know why they waited until now to release those four tracks from *Reveille* - maybe it's because they're crap. "+81" is actually the only song on the album that has real lyrics. On every single one of the other songs (which, remember, are b-sides from 4 albums ago), have little melody, lots of senseless noise rock, and "doo's", "sha's", and "na's" for miles.

Bottom line: don't pick this up. But if the song "+81" is any indication, their new album should be something worth looking into, unlike this senseless EP.

★★★★★

Listen to "+81" and other songs at <http://myspace.com/deerhoof>.

Sitting Down With President Mullen

Lindsay Yandon, *Editor-in-Chief*

Now that President Mullen is on campus fulltime, here is what she had to say about herself, Christian liberal arts, and Houghton College...

Can you give us a brief history of yourself and then your experience with Houghton College?

I'm Canadian. I grew up in eastern Canada in New Brunswick. My dad was a pastor there and I had a great childhood. In seventh grade, when I was going into junior high in 1966 we moved to Houghton when my dad came to teach here. I came here as a faculty kid and attended Fillmore Central School. In those days most of the faculty kids went to Fillmore and not as many went to Houghton Academy as I guess do now. I have always been someone who's been involved in a lot of activities. I played on sports teams in the days before real women's sports teams were created. I was on student council, I was involved student leadership, and I had a really good high school experience.

In those days we didn't do the thing which most college students do now, which is apply to a lot of colleges. I went to Houghton and I never really thought of going anywhere else. I applied here and came here in the fall of 1972. When I came to college I had no idea what I wanted to major in. I loved learning, I was very curious, and enjoyed everything. I did know that I wanted to come and get a liberal arts education because I knew it would be useful for whatever I did. It was the fall of my freshman year that I took Western Civ. and loved it. It was then that I decided to major in History. I say all of that because I always want to encourage undeclared students not to feel like they need to worry. In some ways I think it's better to come and be open to a lot of different things.

I attended Houghton all four years and in those days, off-campus study programs weren't as big a deal but I did spend a summer in Belgium as a summer missionary and a January term in Israel and the lands of the Bible. Both of those experiences were very important to me in terms of experiencing a larger world. Again, I was very involved in college as I was in high school. I lived in East Hall all four years and my last year I was an RA on fourth floor. I loved east Hall. I wrote for the Star I edited the Boulder. I was very involved in Missions Fellowship and Alleghany County Outreach.

I was here at a turbulent time in the college's history. I like to say it was when Houghton was going through the sixties. It was the mid seventies and it was a time when Houghton was experiencing the sixties, so there were all these questions about how you balance tradition and new



Above: President Mullen sits at her desk in her newly renovated office in the Luckey Building.

things and the aftermath of the Vietnam war was pretty critical. It was a time when there was a lot of activism about the world. The Star and the Boulder and all of us in the circles I moved in were very active.

I ended up going to graduate school and getting a Masters in History at the University of Toronto right after college. That was probably one of the most difficult years of my life, which has led me to think that for most people the period right after college is a very difficult time. When I went through it I thought I was the only person who had ever gone through it. I've told so many seniors that expect what your doing is going to be hard and if it isn't, be relieved to know that you're not losing your mind.

At the end of that year I did not expect to go back to graduate school and I went through what a lot of seniors go through and I thought, "Ok, what am I going to do. I'll knock on lots of doors." That's when I ended up at Bethel College in St. Paul as Director of Residence Life. I spent two years in student life there, which was where I developed an appreciation for the role that I would call the co-curricular part of college plays.

At the end of those two years I decided I either needed to go back and get a degree in Student Life or go back into History. All the things I loved in Student Life I could have in teaching and my RAs didn't like hearing about the French Revolution, so I decided that I could have the best of both worlds in teaching. I went back to school at the University of Minnesota, got a PhD, and started at Westmont in 1984. I taught there for

17 years. Probably the hardest thing about moving to administration when I did that five years ago at Westmont was missing the classroom, because for me the classroom is really the heart of a college. I'm at heart a teacher and it's that love for the student and the institution that got me into administration, because it's at that level that you ask those larger question and you try to think about how to improve the institution.

Last year was a time where I considered where the best place for me was at that time. It was difficult because whenever Houghton would make an overture to me, something would happen at Westmont that would not allow me to leave. Eventually, in the spring, when Houghton came back to me I felt that I was released from Westmont. There was a coming together of the stories of the two institutions in a way that I felt it was right for me to be here. Everything that has happened to me in the thirty years since I was at Houghton has prepared me to be back here.

What do you think is the value of a Christian Liberal Arts Education?

I certainly went to Houghton at a time when it was very clear that getting a liberal arts education was something that gave you an obligation to make a difference in the world. That's really what shaped my view of Christian liberal arts education ever since. I didn't know what I was going to do after I graduated, but I always figured I would find out at some point. I'm very much someone who has decided in each point of my life to do what seemed to be the right thing at

that point. I used to wring my hands and think, "this is terrible, we need to somehow fix this so it doesn't happen."

I try to stay in touch with people after they graduate because that's part of the commitment of a Christian liberal arts college to its students; to make them part of this story for the long haul. It's out of those conversations that I've come to see that there's a kind of season of appropriation of this educational and I think it's a product of the fact that it stretches you in so many different ways and then when you get out you have to figure out how you want to apply it. No one can exactly tell you how to do it but the good part is that it's a season and you can come out of it.

My life in Christian liberal arts and the students I've walked with are all one piece and I really believe in this kind of education for the people that God calls to it. I add that last phrase because I don't want to imply that every Christian needs to get this kind of education but I do believe that the church and the world need some Christians who have been educated broadly. Christian liberal arts prepares you to think about your Christian faith in connection with your studies and to pose the questions that come out of your studies to your faith. I think that the church and the world desperately need some Christians to come this way and my life has been about that and it started when I was a child growing up in a youth group very impacted by Houghton college students.

As I see this kind of education work out in the lives of thousands of
-MULLEN, *continued on pg 6*

-MULLEN, continued from pg 5

students, I have a lot of confidence that this is one of the instruments that goes into preparing a certain kind of people for the world and for the church."

What do you see as the difference between Houghton and Westmont?

There are some particular things about Houghton that Westmont doesn't have. Certainly, Houghton's story and Houghton's history is so rich and in many ways I feel more at home in the tradition out of which Houghton has come. Especially, linking learning to social change, which I think is an aspect that is coming to Westmont much later. There is a huge difference between the historical moment that shaped the founding of Houghton and the historical moment that shaped the founding of Westmont. They are very different periods in American religious history. The roots of Houghton lend themselves to the linkage between learning a social service and are grounded in the journey that Houghton has come. Part of the challenge is liberating this history for the present moment and liberating the liberal arts tradition for this time. What the world needs right now is what Houghton College is in the best position to provide; a commitment to the local context with a global vision. That's what it means to be people of the gospel.

What would you say is the greatest strength and the greatest weakness of Houghton College?

There are obviously a lot of things that I could say here. But, one of the greatest strengths is what I call the "Houghton story," which

includes all the people who've been in this place and are in this place. I think that Houghton's greatest aspect is this concentration of people who have been called here for the purpose of being shaped by a community of Christian learners. This includes all of the people who have come before, the faculty who were here, and the students who are here. I think that's part of what is so special in that the core of Christian liberal arts is the notion of community learning that you can't get in any other form. We learn from each other through dialogue and through living together. Therefore, I would say the greatest aspect is the concentrated community. This is a place where the story is so grounded in a set of people who've come because they want what this place has to offer. That doesn't mean that all these people are perfect, they're certainly not. But it does mean that this is a place that has a call and attracts people who know that. People are always fraught by the frailty of our humanness, but part of what makes a college is a developmental aspect. Houghton is not a random collection of people, it's a community that shares a call, a hope, and a commitment.

We do face a lot of challenges and I'm not at all naive of the challenges we face, but I would say the greatest challenge would be a risk of not adequately cherishing this place and not adequately realizing the treasure that we have here. I'm not a Pollyanna person in the least but I think that our biggest challenge is the risk that we are not treasuring what we have in a way that enables us to look honestly, hopefully, and courageously at the things that we need to do to become the best Houghton that we

need to be. The core issue is linked to what I would call cherishing the treasure of the place and the courage to face together the challenges that we have as we seek to describe the gift of this place and the gift of Christian liberal arts to a culture that doesn't really understand that language. My job as the President of this college is to invite us to see the treasure of this place and to have the courage to look honestly and hopefully because without hope you become a cynic or just get crushed under the burden of the world and without honesty you become an unrealistic Christian. We also need huge resources, to reexamine some of our structures, and a need for rebuilding some communication and trust. Those are all real needs right now, but the core need which will enable us to do all of these other things is a commitment to being Houghton for one another and then a call to be the best for one another.

Since you mention communication as one of the needs of Houghton, how do plan on fostering good communication within all avenues of the campus?

The president's office right now is working on some open house programs. I want to do whatever I can and to find avenues. I want to talk to the people who want to come because I'm not the type of person who evaluates success in terms of numbers. I certainly plan to speak once a month at chapel. The reason for that being that I want to be a very visible President. I want to be someone that the students see as approachable. I certainly respond to students through e-mail and encourage anyone to come

straight to the President's office with questions and especially rumors. I include rumors because the best way to combat rumors is to come straight here and ask me about it. I still think that core of everything is an agreement to walk through this season of time together and that's what gives us the courage to tackle all of these other things together.

Now that President Mullen is permanently on campus, the whole community is in the midst of an "inaugural season." Mullen wishes to remind us that this season is not about her but this is a season of recommitment of our community to the past. It is about the institution and about us. Mullen marks the beginning of a new era at Houghton College; an era of commitment to the past and renewal for the future. ★

Get a Clew

Ericka Foreland, staff writer

Where was this year's Christian Life Emphasis Week (CLEW) speaker? It was obvious to many that he was either missing in action, or he has an uncanny resemblance to Dr. Brittain. To set the record straight, Rev. Patterson was forced to cancel because of serious back problems. The California native has a chronic back condition, which flared up so badly that he was unable to walk. He expressed deep regret that he could not attend but was happy that CLEW could continue without him. Thankfully, despite the last minute notification, Houghton's own Dr. John Brittain graciously took it upon himself to speak for the full six sessions. Although, he made a few friendly jokes regarding Rev. Patterson as, "Mr. Back-Out," he was empathetic since Dr. Brittain himself suffers from chronic arthritis.

CLEW is sponsored by Houghton College and Houghton Wesleyan Church as a collaboration between students and community members to come together as a residential body and worship God. It is a way for students to start off the semester fresh and for all to gain spiritual renewal.

It is intended to challenge believers in their faith and help them grow along side their peers. The services took place from the night of January 14th until the morning of January 17th and generally consisted of praise and worship, prayer and a message. Dr. Brittain spoke from the first four chapters of Corinthians. The theme appropriately emphasized our need for strong community and warned against the pitfalls that St. Paul outlined in the chapters. He spoke about becoming mature Christians and to abandon things that would hinder us spiritually, mentioning that we should not, "think that we won't get dirty playing in the dirt."

Although there were several interferences that almost kept CLEW from happening, everything worked out for the Glory of God. It probably would have made a much more interesting story if Rev. Patterson had an emergency call by President Bush to stop global warming. Nevertheless I believe that Dr. Brittain played his role well. But for all you, like me, that like a twisted story don't fret. According to inside sources Houghton College is hoping to schedule Rev. Ben Patterson for next fall's CLEW. Take two anyone? Start praying and stay classy Houghton College. ★

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Houghton Women's Basketball: Mid-Season Report

Ben Tsujimoto, sports writer

Entering the 2006-2007 season, the Houghton College women's basketball team faced a daunting task. Battling tough conference opponents like Daemen, Geneva, and Notre Dame with a roster loaded with inexperienced underclassmen, a rebuilding year appeared likely. With over half of the season complete, however, the Highlanders remain in the thick of the AMC North Division playoff race. Facing a critical stretch of games in early February, Houghton must find consistency at both ends of the floor; a loss to Point Park, Carlow, or Seton Hill would strike a blow to the Highlanders' hopes, while a victory over Geneva would prove that Houghton can compete with the conference elite.

As expected, the young Highlanders have been unpredictable; promising wins against Point Park and

Ursuline were followed by frustrating losses to Seton Hill and the same Ursuline squad. "We have seen good strides in the area of consistency," Coach Lord states, "although we are still at a level where we can be very bad or very good depending on the day and the opponent." This concern is common among teams that start multiple freshmen; it may take over a year for a young squad to gel and become comfortable with each other on the court.

In light of the steep learning curve confronting the Houghton freshmen, the Highlanders three junior captains, Ashley Scudder, Cassie Merrill, and Becky Kallal, have emerged as vocal leaders and provided a steady presence throughout the emotional highs and lows. "All three of them are great examples of what it means to be an athlete at Houghton College," Coach Lord comments. "They display

a strong commitment to Christ, excel in the classroom, and demonstrate the necessary athletic talent and hard work to inspire a young team." Houghton's nine point victory over Point Park proved the coach's point; Kallal was unconscious from beyond the arc, finishing with a team-high 20 points, Scudder posted a balanced line of 13 points, 7 rebounds, and 3 assists, while Merrill unselfishly registered five assists. The leadership of these three juniors is vital to a successful playoff run.

While the captains' example has forced the team to remain focused, three blue-chip freshmen have matured throughout the year. Averaging just over 14 points per game, freshman Leah French has found her three point stroke while keeping defenders honest with her penetration. Despite struggling with her shot, Erika Forland has excelled on the defensive end, leading

the team in both rebounds and blocked shots. The most improved player thus far has been freshman point guard Lisa Skrypnik; she has limited her turnovers and has become a more confident shooter. Off the bench, Jessica Smith has battled through chronic ankle injuries to provide inside scoring, while Jody Tripler delivers intense defense and pushes the offensive tempo.

Dealing with the emotions following dominant victories and humbling defeats has been a challenge to the Highlanders; Coach Lord emphasizes that the "joy of the Lord is our strength," encouraging the team to become more emotionally mature while enjoying each game. With four home games in early February, the Highlanders will have an enthusiastic crowd behind them throughout their playoff push. ★

Houghton Men's Basketball: Mid-Season Report

Ben Tsujimoto, sports writer

After the first half of the 2006-2007 season, the Houghton College Men's Basketball team stands at a crossroads. On the side of optimism, the Highlanders have already doubled last year's win total while playing high-scoring, fast-paced basketball that has Houghton students flocking to each game. Also, the Highlanders have competed evenly with the nation's top NAIA colleges, nearly upsetting #3 ranked Point Park in a thriller away from the Nielsen Center. At the same time, however, the team holds a miserable conference record, hindering the squad's postseason hopes. Furthermore, despite scaring heavily-favored teams, the Highlanders have struggled to put together forty minutes of consistent basketball. As they prepare for the stretch run, the team needs to build off early-season positives and continue

to grow as a team.

With only one scorer averaging double figures, the offense has come from a variety of sources; Coach Zarges has taken advantage of a deep squad, awarding significant minutes to ten players. Recently, the team has knocked down three point shots consistently, particularly sharp-shooting forward Rimgaudas Valaitis, who broke the Houghton single-game record of three-point field goals made with eight. "Our shooting has improved greatly," Coach Zarges explains, "confirmed by our national rankings in three-point shooting percentages and number of threes made per game."

As expected, Luke Mortenson leads the team in scoring with 15 points per game, while emerging freshman Yannick Anzuluni has recorded the most rebounds and blocked shots. A particular first half highlight

was Anzuluni's thunderous alley-oop dunk from Jon Van Skiver, sending hordes of Houghton students into shock and disbelief. Center Ahmed Abdelhamid exhibits the potential to be a double-double machine; his ferocious rebounding and soft hands leave Houghton fans eagerly anticipating his next three years. Finally, freshman guard Ben Kopp has earned increased minutes due to his improved defense and sweet three-point shooting stroke. The encouraging development of these freshmen has given Highlander fans a glimpse of the future of Houghton basketball.

It is difficult to acknowledge the development of the underclassmen without recognizing the influence of the seniors. Forward Allen Goodman has provided veteran leadership and efficiency, shooting high percentages from the floor, behind the arc, and at the charity stripe. Guard Corky Mc-

Mullen, whose first half highlight was his clutch three against Point Park, will look to finish his Houghton career on a positive note. Battling through injuries, defensive pest and capable ball-handler Anthony Haughton has been sorely missed; his return to full health will immediately help the team defensively. Lastly, it is impossible to dismiss the accomplishments of Mortenson, whose electric scoring has kept the Highlanders close throughout the season.

As the team prepares for critical late-season games against Point Park, Daemen, and Roberts Wesleyan, Coach Zarges has recently implemented a team devotional focused on "Finishing Strong." Regardless if the team reaches the playoffs, the promise of the freshman and the outstanding careers of the seniors will leave ardent Houghton fans satisfied. ★

Super Bowl XLI Preview:

Is this finally Peyton's year, or will the Bears smother his dream?

Ben Tsujimoto, sports writer

It is difficult to envision a more enticing match-up than Indianapolis against Chicago in Super Bowl XLI. On February 4th in South Florida, the potent Colts offense faces a stiff test: a Bears defense reminiscent of the '46 zone' that dominated Super Bowl XX. Does quarterback Peyton Manning have the guile to prove his playoff doubters wrong and claim his first ring, or will he fold under the constant pressure of Brian Urlacher, Lance Briggs, and Mark Anderson?

Here is a detailed breakdown:

Offense: Indianapolis boasts the NFL's most prolific passer in future Hall-of-Fame quarterback Peyton Manning. Few can dispute his regular season production; he has led the

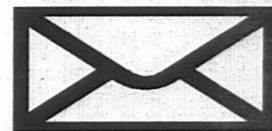
National Football League in passer rating the last three seasons, tossing 108 touchdowns in that span. It is surprising, however, that this is Manning's first Super Bowl appearance, having only advanced to the AFC Championship Game in 2003. The renowned quarterback is not the only key component to the 'no-huddle' passing game; wide receivers Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne are dangerous deep threats, while Dallas Clark, Ben Utecht, and Joseph Addai provide Manning with consistent short options. The Colts aerial attack is their strongest asset; look for them to attack Chicago's secondary.

Rookie running back Joseph Addai has emerged as a legitimate number one back in place of Edgerrin James, torching the Eagles in week 12 for four touchdowns. His elusiveness

and receiving ability out of the backfield create mismatches; Addai should not be covered by a linebacker. Bruising running back Dominic Rhodes pounds the ball inside the opposition's red zone, excelling in short yardage situations. If the Colts establish the running game early, Manning's audibles and play-action passing can humble even a prestigious defense like the Bears.

The Bears, however, often hesitate to test opponents through the air, particularly due to the inconsistent play of fourth year signal-caller Rex Grossman. While the Florida product will likely have the crowd behind him, he still tends to turn the ball over at inopportune times; his 20 interceptions rank third worst in the NFL. The Bears' success clearly hinges on -continued on pg 8, SUPERBOWL

Sooj's Mailbag



In an attempt to address the professional sports interests of the Houghton audience, you are encouraged to either pose a question or suggest a topic for me to write about. If your topic/question is chosen, your name will be included in the article. There's your incentive. Send all ideas to:

**Benjamin.tsujimoto
@houghton.edu**

-SUPERBOWL continued from pg 7 the accuracy and decision-making of Grossman; if he makes costly blunders, expect Manning to take advantage. Rex's targets include breakout wide receiver Bernard Berrian, seasoned veteran Muhsin Muhammad, and underrated tight end Desmond Clark. Mark Bradley and Rashied Davis enter the game in obvious passing situations. With shifty Thomas Jones and rugged Cedric Benson, the Bears feature a balanced 'thunder and lightning attack.' They will pound the ball on the ground early to keep Peyton on the sidelines; expect Jones to carry the heavier load with Benson handling the short yardage situations. Controlling the time of possession is critical, as the Bears would prefer a low-scoring affair.

Defense/Special teams: On the other

side of the ball, the Bears possess the league's fifth ranked defense, a relentless, aggressive group that forces turnovers with ease. Led by Lance Briggs and Brian Urlacher, who is the 2006-2007 version of Super Bowl XX star Mike Singletary, Chicago's athletic linebackers will try to deny Manning's short passes, forcing him to hold the ball and face the pressure of the Bears' defensive line. Underrated players like Mark Anderson, Hunter Hillenmeyer, and Danieal Manning have elevated their play since replacing injured standouts Tommie Harris and Mike Brown. Finally, two of Chicago's special teams players were voted to the Pro Bowl; kicker Robbie Gould missed only 4 of his 36 field goal attempts, while kick return specialist Devin Hester is a finalist for Rookie of the Year after returning five kicks for scores.

For the Colts, the run defense

has been startlingly weak, surrendering huge games by mediocre runners like Ron Dayne and Fred Taylor. With the return of hard-hitting safety Bob Sanders and the consistency of linebacker Cato June, however, the Indy defense may slow the Chicago rushing attack enough to force Grossman into mistakes. The speed of defensive ends Robert Mathis and Dwight Freeney will frustrate the Bears' offensive line, while rookies Marlin Jackson and Antoine Bethea have developed rapidly in the secondary. If the Indianapolis defense outperforms the Chicago offense, the Colts will bring the Vince Lombardi Trophy home to Indiana.

Coaching: Both coaches, Tony Dungy of the Indianapolis Colts and Lovie Smith of the Chicago Bears, are close friends and devout Christians who openly profess their religious beliefs. The two met when Lovie Smith

served under Dungy as linebacker coach for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. After five years together, the coaches developed a close bond, united by their faith in God. Following the death of Dungy's son, Smith was one of the first to offer his support. An article from ESPN.com extols the character of Smith and Dungy, stating, "Their priorities are, in order: faith, their families and football. The outcome of the Super Bowl or any game does not define them. They personify words such as class, grace, dignity, honor and integrity. We all can draw inspiration from men such as these." As the teams take the field on February 4th, it will be difficult to choose between these evenly matched sides.

Sooj's Fearless Prediction: Lovie Smith leads the Bears to their first Super Bowl win in over twenty years, 21-17. ★

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THE HOUGHTON ENQUIRER

Jihad unleashed!

Gearbox's new game Jihad unleashed! is gaining controversy as it nears its release date, April 1st. Christians and Muslims alike are outraged by the violence that the game encourages. Newsweek is calling it, "a game to train terrorists." Islam Today quoted part of Islamic leader Omar Bakri's response, "Jihad unleashed! is an attempt to make money by turning our faith into something it is not. This game is falsely influencing our youth and our Christian neighbors."

Lance Metzler, a programmer

who worked on the game explained what we can expect to see. He stated, "Jihad is much like Halo, kill people and score points. We actually built it using many of the same platforms."

The Houghton Inquirer obtained a demo version and gave it a shot. The game's objective is to score 72 virgins by out-killing the other players. A small box in the corner tracks the player's standings. All players begin in Somalia with a set amount of cash. They spend their money traveling, obtaining weapons, recruiting, and networking with other terrorists. Unlike Halo, Jihad unleashed! allows players to travel between different maps within the same game. Our

demo version limited us to New York City, London, and Iraq. The weaponry was predictable with various types of improvise explosive devices and a wide variety of outdated firearms. The graphics were smooth and realistic even in situations such as blowing sand or fast action in urban areas. The game ends when you die. The screen goes black and a voice says "you have X number of virgins waiting for you."

While the game is fun to play, one can't help but feel like a twisted scum bag causing death and destruction. If the full version is anything like the demo, the controversy will only get stronger.

**This is satire... sarcasm... not true... it's ok to laugh!*

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