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Esteemed Professor Dismissed

After five years in a tenure-track position, having fulfilled all of the requirements for tenure, a beloved professor is being dismissed from the Houghton College faculty.

Dr. Bradley Beach came to Houghton College in 2000 as an interim professor, while Chris Stewart went on sabbatical. Despite a comparable offer at another institution, Dr. Beach returned to Houghton the following term on tenure-track as the "philosophy of religion and philosophical theology" professor. Beach chose to stay at Houghton because of its Christian character and because of the students, who, he says, are "some of the best I've ever worked with." Since joining the philosophy department, Beach has become "an integral part of our team," according to program coordinator Chris Stewart. As well as managing a full-time course load, Dr. Beach has worked closely with students through the Gadfly Society and the First Year Honors Program in London.

He is recognized as one of the most enthusiastic, personable, and effective professors in the classroom here at Houghton. Yet, prior to his official tenure review this year, President Chamberlain and Academic Vice President Ron Oakerson met with Dr. Beach privately to inform him that they would not support his bid, as his position at the College would be eliminated at the end of this academic year.

In 2001, the College's philosophy program was woefully understaffed. Six years before, Dr. Carlton Fisher had left the faculty to join the Academic Dean's office, and only one philosophy professor remained in the classroom. To replenish and expand the program, Beach and Dr. Ben Lipscomb were signed to tenure-track positions in 2001. Beach took over the classes that Fisher had once taught, and Lipscomb arrived in 2002 to complete the philosopher-team of three.

As College policy allows, Dr. Fisher has retained his tenure as a philosophy professor during the past 11 years he's spent in the Dean's office. College policy also allows its deans the option of returning to the classroom in the event that a new president chooses to replace them with his or her own staff. Consequently, Fisher is expected to return to teaching next fall. Given this assumption, Dr. Beach would make the fourth faculty body in the philosophy department next year, although one will be spending the spring in London with the First Year Honors Program and Professor Lipscomb will remain three-quarter time. Because the philosophy department requires only three full-time equivalents, the administration claims a fiscal obligation to dismiss one professor. As Dr. Beach, like Dr. Fisher, specializes in philosophy of religion, President Chamberlain and Dean Oakerson decided that Beach

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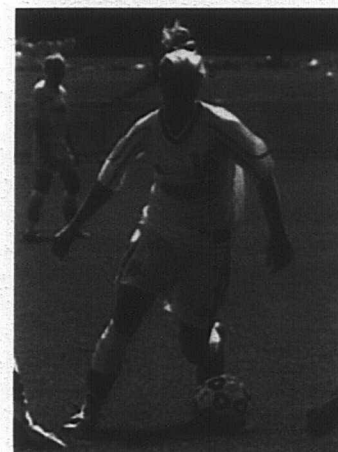
Women's Soccer Team Has Successful Season

This fall the women's soccer team posted a 20-1-1 record reaching the quarterfinals of the NAIA national tournament. Going into the post-season, the team was ranked 2nd in the nation, the highest ranking they have achieved in the national polls. It is the third year in a row that the Highlanders have made it to the national tournament and the 6th time overall under the leadership of head coach David Lewis. This is the second year in a row Houghton was undefeated in regular season play and the 4th in program history.

The team's impressive record and ranking is reflected in key

wins over some of the best teams in the nation. The Highlanders won the Virginia Intermont Tournament by defeating eventual National Champions Martin Methodist, TN which ended up to be their only loss in a 23-1-1 season. MMC was ranked 3rd in the nation at the time. Houghton also routed Robert Morris (17-7-1), who was seeded 13th for the national tournament. They tied #7 ranked Madonna University (16-2-4) and also defeated nationally ranked teams Tiffin University and Virginia Intermont College. The Highlanders overcame long-time rival Roberts Wesleyan twice during the season.

Leading the team in
(cont'd on p. 5)



Senior Heidi Toth

Hardwired

Jacob's Well: Clarifying the Vision

Chapel on Wednesday, November 2, was a bit different than usual. It focused on issues related to something that many college students, including Houghton College students, think about: sex. Presented by Jacob's Well, this chapel was used to publicly present to the campus an initiative, dedicated to the encouragement of on-campus dialogue about human sexuality, dialogue aimed at redeeming a vision for our sexuality, dialogue that models an extending of grace to our brokenness, and dialogue that increases the awareness and effectiveness of the already existing resources in our community that assist in this goal.

Jacob's Well is dedicated to promoting such communication among the students and faculty on this campus and has been since its inception by Samantha Lioi, the Americor Vista worker on campus from 2003-2004. What originally started as an idea for a support group to which students could

come, seeking friendship and counsel for issues related to sexuality, has evolved over two years into a catalyst and informer on campus to promote an atmosphere in which students are safe to discuss pertinent matters of their own or a loved one's sexuality.

Jacob's Well does not see itself as a direct source of healing for students affected by rape, suffering from an STD, or struggling with the lure of pornography. The initiative's goal is not to suggest that talking will simply make things better, answer all questions, or be the final stopping point before healing. Rather, this group had a greater vision surrounded by truth, discussion, and the potent healing power of God.

Debunking the myth that everything is perfect among our students is part of the vision. Houghton students can pretend that things like rape, abortion, abuse of a significant other, pre-marital

sex, STD's, pornography addictions, and more do not touch this campus. Unfortunately, they do. Dialogue is a way in which we can openly admit our struggles and sheer humanity. We are Christians, but we still have questions and doubts. We have crisis experiences which shake us to the core, and we have prolonged struggles which can internally deteriorate us over time. Talking to a fellow Christian you can trust, one whom will pray with you and guide you towards rightness with God, is truly a blessing. Confiding in a friend or counselor who will help you as you struggle with questions about a friend's pornography addiction or "why would God let my friend be gay" is certainly closer to healing than avoiding the issues. While pointing out the importance of dialogue is admittedly simple, it is crucial and inextricably bound with healing.

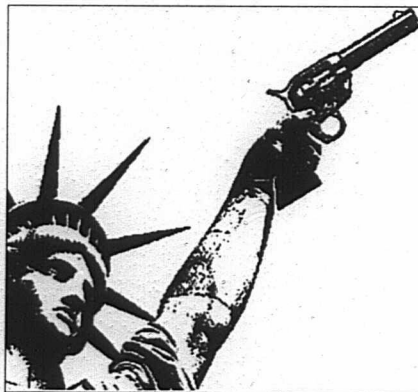
Dialogue with friends, mentors, parents, or even as a community as seen at the Hardwired to Connect Forum this past Thursday, December 1, can serve as a catalyst for spurring

(cont'd on p. 3)

Torture

The horrors of World War Two sparked a desire among many for a universal declaration of human rights. The Geneva Convention of 1949 produced a definitive assertion of the rights of prisoners of war. "Persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed forces who have laid down their arms... shall in all circumstances be treated humanely." Going on, the articles outlawed the blatant mistreatment of prisoners, forbidding "outrages upon personal dignity, in particular, humiliating and degrading treatment."

Many nations signed the document, including the United States. Today, we find ourselves wrapped in a debate concerning the ethics of torture. Recent prisoner abuse scandals at facilities in Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay, while at best isolated events not characteristic of the system as a whole, have focused the discussion on the use of torture in the interrogation of terrorism suspects.



Writing in the 18th century, Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Social Contract* postulated that "the aim of war is to subdue a hostile state, [therefore] a combatant has the right to kill the defenders of that state while they are armed; but as soon as they lay down their arms and surrender, they cease to be either enemies... they become simply men once more." As Christians, what is an appropriate response to the use of torture? Are we to agree with current American practice and deem it a necessary evil, or should we perhaps refuse to harm an enemy who can no longer pose a

threat to our "national security"?

It can be argued that torture can produce vital information that leads to the capture of dangerous men around the world. The case of Ibn Al-Shaykh al-Libi, however, poses the dangers involved with such an argument. Tortured and taunted with threats of sexual abuse against his mother, al-Libi confessed that terrorists had been going to Iraq since 2000 to obtain information on biological and chemical weapons. Used in a speech addressed to the United Nations, this information later proved to be completely false. Al-Libi had simply lied in order to put an end to the pain with which his captors tormented him.

Senator John McCain (R- AZ) offers a similar story. While serving in Vietnam, McCain suffered a broken arm "and worse" at the hands of his captors. As found in the November 21st edition of Newsweek, McCain reveals that under duress to reveal the names of his comrades, he instead offered the names of the Green Bay Packers' offensive line. He writes

(cont'd to p. 3)

Wayne Macbeth's New Position

In the light of his impending resignation, President Chamberlain has instituted some changes in the current administration in an attempt to ease the college's transition to a new president. One of these changes includes the shifting of responsibilities for current Vice President of Student Life, Wayne Macbeth.

Macbeth's new job, Vice President for Marketing and Administration, will replace Jeff Spear, the Vice President for Finance for at least one semester. The new job will entail two main focuses: the marketing side, which Macbeth describes as "relating to the external publics," and the aspect of finance, or the "internal affairs" of the college.

In the marketing aspect of Macbeth's new job, Dr. Chamberlain's hope is to take H2G, a marketing team, to the "next level," says Macbeth. His new job will entail "coordinating the marketing work of our offices that relate to the public" which include fundraising efforts, relations with churches, and literature sent out. Already in place is a new look for the main page on

Houghton's website, which was published over Thanksgiving break. In finance, Macbeth will be working in administration with people such as Dale Wright, the head of the Human Resources area, as well as others in internal affairs.

Since coming to Houghton, one of Macbeth's goals as Vice President of Student Life has been to incorporate students into the community. Macbeth's hopes have been to use small groups such as the Alpha course, Lifeline Bible Studies, and intramural sports to help students build relationships. As overseer of the Spiritual Life committee, Macbeth has also been responsible for such highly controversial decisions as the implementation of double-scanning for chapel, as well as the re-issuing of the Student Responsibilities form, which some students refused to sign again, having done so as freshmen.

Some students have expressed concern for the student body over the implications of Macbeth's new position. MacBeth noted several projects being put into effect that

would affect students. The second floor of Shenawana Hall is in need of upgrade and possibly a new entrance will be installed. He also noted the renovation of the Wesley Chapel for next fall, as well as an additional third floor of the library which would be completed next year.

In view of some students' discontent at his having made decisions in the past without seeking input from students and faculty, Macbeth assured the *Star* that he would seek the views of many others on almost any decision. He cited the committee for chapel renovation as an example of how he would go about seeking opinions of others before implementing a decision. Nonetheless, he observed, it is certainly not possible to please everyone and yet still do your job. Still, Macbeth feels that it is his responsibility to show respect for those affected by his administrative authority by listening to their concerns, even if he does not agree with them.

-Ryan Musser
Guest Writer

(Hardwired, cont'd from p. 2)

a sister or brother to a potentially more sensitive and caring approach in encounters with the struggles of others, not just their own.

Events like the Hardwired Forum are ways to foster an atmosphere of trust and understanding among the members of the Houghton College community. When it comes to matters of sexuality, trust can be difficult to come by. The healing experienced by the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well tells of the truly life-altering nature an encounter with Christ can have. Houghton has a chance to model Jesus' example in John 4 by offering something deeper than sneers or an accusing finger. We can embrace each other where we are and through safe dialogue can guide one another in love towards the tangible healing touch of Christ.

-Kendra Ormerod
Guest Writer

(Torture, cont'd from p. 2)

that "providing them false information was sufficient to suspend the abuse. It seems probable to me that the terrorists we interrogate under less than humane standards of treatment are also likely to resort to deceptive answers."

McCain recently pushed a bill through Senate that banned the use of "cruel, inhuman or degrading" interrogation techniques. The bill passed with a resounding majority of 90 to 9, but it is facing a threat of becoming the first bill vetoed by the current administration, as lobbied for and advised by the Vice-President. The bill seeks to ban such practices as the removal of detainees clothing, sensory deprivation and the use of vicious dogs in interrogation.

Michael David-Fox, associate professor at the University of Maryland, writes, "When others abuse, it is intolerable; when we torture, it is a necessary imperative of the war on terrorism." How can we criticize the

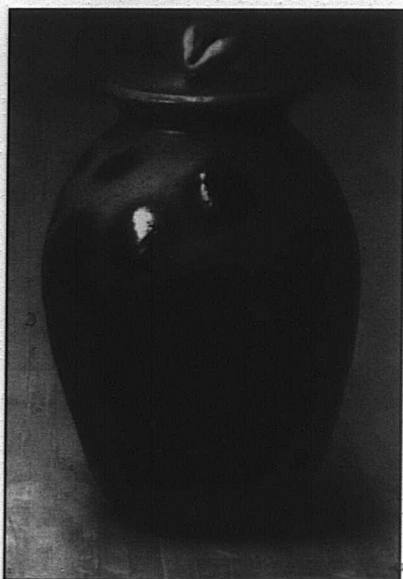
inhumane treatment that our enemies inflict upon our captured soldiers, when we do not even reveal the full extent of the horrors we inflict on thousands of prisoners every day? Perhaps we should examine the moral cost of torture as we debate what price we are willing to pay to chase the shadows of our enemies abroad.

-Will Airhart
Guest Writer

In this edition of the *Star*,
We've included far more opinion than usual. This decision was made to allow students to have their opinions published within a reasonable amount of time of the issue that they are responding to.

-Editor in Chief

Featured Artist: *Paul Christensen*



Woodfired stoneware vessel by senior Paul Christensen.

Christensen has spent the last several years learning the traditional skill of throwing on a pottery wheel. The process requires delicate precision and an incredible amount of persistence. Pieces are lost at every stage of the process. Wet clay can collapse, dry clay shatters, and greenware explodes in the firings. Large pieces are particularly susceptible. Christensen estimates that less than 30% of his pieces have survived from the beginning of the semester. "I'm losing less now, but it's depressing to think about all the stuff I've lost," he says.

Glaze chemistry is also a matter of delicate balance. The finish on this piece was made by a combination of copper oxide and a sprayed glossy black glaze. When the temperature in the wood kiln reached a certain level,

the ash melted on the pots and reacted with the silica in the clay to become a glass. At the very end of the firing blocks of hose-soaked salt were added. They vaporized in clouds of green smoke and hydrochloric acid to form a final layer of sodium glaze.

The element of inherent vulnerability is particularly appropriate for the themes Christensen explores in these pieces. They deal with issues from the Spice Islands, where Christensen grew up, the son of two Bible translators. In January of 1999, while the Christensens were on furlough in the States, violence broke out between Christians and Muslim extremists in the area where they had been living, and ten thousand people were murdered there in the next few years. Christensen was trying to capture a sense of the region's disintegration in the second of the set of three vessels. "One minute it's sort of harmony and all the elements are working together, and then the next minute, everything is in complete disarray and chaos," he explains. "Even in the aftermath, when things are holding together, it's reserved and protected. It seems like a shaky kind of deal. It's a culture where people don't ever forget."

In Indonesian culture, the cowrie shell has been used to signify everything from black magic to female genitalia, but Christensen sees the motif of the cowrie in the knobs of the lids and the vessels' overall shape as a symbol of the intense beauty that can sometimes be found in the midst of fragility. "In general, they're contemplative," he says. "The stories are about islands and the ocean. It's a kind of celebration of the beauty of that place."

-Kelsey Harro
Arts Editor



Dear Editor,

In her column "A Mothering God" (in issue 6), Kelsey Harro reminded us that "attempts to capture God in language are inherently limited." I have recently been thinking about how attempts to capture God in any way at all are inherently limited. When I find myself picturing God in my mind, he is male about half the time, she is female about a quarter of the time, and yet hardly ever does the God in my mind's eye have a human body at all. God is like birds to me; birds are always nearby, within a quarter mile, but not right in the same room. They go about their business, even when I am thinking about them. I would love to read a book about the ways people around the world imagine God, but I don't know of such a book. In any case, I echo Kelsey's desire to "expand our metaphors" for God and thank her for her column.

Dave Perkins

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(Soccer, cont'd from p. 1)

goals, sophomore Bethany Kowalczyk netted 29 goals this fall, giving her 58 goals so far in her two-year career at Houghton. This season, she was voted the American Midwest Conference Offensive Player of the Week twice, National Player of the Week once, and was named Region IX and AMC North Player of the Year for the second consecutive year. On the other end of the field, junior goalkeeper Meghan Radimer was named the AMC Defensive Player of the Week. Houghton outscored their opponents 85-9 behind Radimer's strong play between the posts. Freshman Hannah Swift had a profitable first year as a Highlander scoring 10 goals and notching 6 assists and was named AMC North Freshman of the Year. Junior Krista Folwkes, who was named to the 1st Team All-Conference and 2nd Team All-Region, put in 9 goals and handed out a team-leading 15 assists. Senior midfielder Heidi Toth

earned 1st Team All-Conference and 2nd Team All-Region honors and was a major factor in Houghton's winning season. She scored 9 goals and doled out 7 assists. Toth scored two goals in the national tournament, one of which was the game-winner against Robert Morris.

Coach Lewis praised the team and the way they pursued their team goals, saying, "The players worked hard and played well as a team. I appreciated their team focus and willingness to consistently work towards the objectives we set as a team."

Coach Lewis achieved a significant honor this past season, leading the team to his 236th win as a head coach. This made him the all-time wins leader in NAIA women's soccer history. Lewis has had an outstanding career as a head soccer coach, he has been named the AMC Coach of the Year 6 times, Regional

Coach of the Year 7 times, and has led the team to 13 straight regional final four appearances.

Amidst all this success, Lewis is optimistic about the future of Houghton women's soccer. He remarked, "[On paper] the team should be very competitive next season, returning 10 starters and experienced depth-players who will vie for added time. Overall, 22 players return from this squad. It looks very promising."

-Benjamin Loos
Guest Writer

*The Star is looking for short
essays written by Houghton
students, staff, or faculty
on their various Christmas
traditions for the final edition*

— A Film From The Library —

Kramer vs Kramer

In 1979, a film with no orcs, icebergs, or explosions won five Academy Awards. It is a film of interiors: bedrooms and kitchens in apartment buildings, boardrooms and offices in skyscrapers, and the places in people where the awful realities of the modern emotional bureaucracy of divorce take shape. It is a tender film, of husbands missing the mark with their wives, of fathers missing the mark with their sons, of people missing the mark altogether. It is beautifully acted, simplistically shot, and impeccably written. And it outrages people to this day, because the film that it beat to win those five Oscars was none other than *Apocalypse Now*. The film which was the David to Francis Ford Copolla's cinematic Goliath is the fine film, *Kramer vs. Kramer*.

Now, there are solid and noteworthy arguments on either side of the *Apocalypse v. Kramer* case (although there are probably a lot more favoring *Apocalypse*, which

testifies to how western civilization has truly never left the Coliseum). Ted Murphy would be the one to talk to about the savage complexities of the Academy Awards, since he's on the board. But I'd like to focus on some of the gems of what is called the "Interior" film: a film whose narrative is very cognoscente of theatre and whose characters mirror our own lives. Such films include *American Beauty*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*, and *The Ice Storm*. One association I'd particularly like to make is that of divorce and the painting by Piero della Francesca, "The Flagellation." The reason I choose this painting is that the director of *Kramer vs. Kramer*, Robert Benton, told cinematographer Nestor Almendros to base his use of color and composition on the paintings of this Renaissance artist. (Almendros also consulted the paintings of David Hockney, who is, in a way, a contemporary of Francesco.)

In "The Flagellation,"

three men stand in the foreground, on the right side of the painting, discussing something, not appearing to be entirely interested in each other or their discussion. They are bored; one looks into the sky, one to his left, and the other dead ahead at nothing in particular. Behind them, in an open cella, soldiers are flogging Christ with whips. Here is a scene more poignant than any in Mel Gibson's *Passion*, showing that human beings can be nonchalant and carry on mundane business in the face of brutal, human agony. Films like *Kramer vs. Kramer* peel back the lid on our modern mechanization of the human soul in conflict: if you are a divorcee, unemployed, disenfranchised, or otherwise down on your luck, take a number and queue up. Welcome to the machine. What this film does is remind us that it is okay to stay human under the business of being alive.

-Stephen Sorensen
Columnist



Students And Their Say

I have a question for this community. How much say should the students of the college have in decisions that affect them? Should our voices count, or should we just trust those who have been hired to make these decisions? It seems this is what has really been debated this semester, from the notorious chapel scanning to the closing of the campus center to the location of graduation.

There is no denying that the specifics of each issue played an important role in motivating students to be upset, but ultimately, the larger question has been the above stated query. In the case of double-scanning, it seemed that there was little student input given or considered in the idea. Similar complaints were lodged against the decision to close the campus center. For graduation, the complaints grew as seniors believed their questions were not being given straight answers, and it seemed that their opinions meant little to the decision makers.

So you may be asking, what's the point? Although you might not have cared about any of these issues, I believe you should care about whether or not you are represented. The central issue, which lies beneath the specifics of each argument, must be recognized because one day there might be an issue that does affect you. Still, you say you have no reason to care about any of these decisions. But what happens when some change or decision is made that upsets you? By the time this happens there may no longer be a way for you to effectively voice your opinion. We need to prepare ourselves now for the day when something does affect us.

There are, however, multiple ways of looking at the issue of representation. Some would argue that people are hired to use their best judgment when making decisions for Houghton. These people have the students' best interests in mind. After all, one of the goals of this institution is to serve the students. Unfortunately, there are sometimes other factors in decision-making that must outweigh the stated desires of the student body. Another argument states there are channels in place for students to express their opinions already. The

idea of double scanning, for example, was addressed in a Senate meeting last semester. Students sit on committees which deal with many pertinent issues to the community. Shouldn't these measures be enough? Besides, most students just don't care enough about the school to have a valid opinion, right? How can one effectively run a college if you are trying to please the whims of random student interest groups who are just making a stink? Perhaps we should just trust those who have the authority to make these decisions and not worry about this issue at all.

Regardless of these arguments, there is currently a lack of efficient and meaningful channels for students to have a say in the running of the school. That is not to say that a system isn't in place for voicing opinions; it simply means that student opinion is no longer being given the proper attention by those who make decisions. Clearly, if the goal is to serve students, then ensuring that the student body is given a fair say before decisions are made should be normal protocol. And if a decision makes students upset then that concern should be treated respectfully.

Of course, students need to step up to the plate if we want our opinions heard. We should be willing to hear both sides and fully research the details of the issues, as quite often, there are valid reasons behind controversial decisions. We also need to let others know that we care. It is definitely a problem that the people I interviewed regarding various controversial decisions had no idea that students were upset until I asked to interview them about it. We must talk more openly about what upsets us and why within the systems set up (i.e. by letting your senators know). Finally, we need to be willing to get involved.

All I ask is that you, the student, remain informed and be willing to voice your opinion. Come and talk to anyone involved with the SGA. If you want your opinion to count, then the first step is to make it known.

*Kate Hamilton
Staff Writer*

Dear Mr. Perrine,

I am Army ROTC cadet, and son of an Army Chaplain who is currently stationed in Iraq. Coming from a family where all were in the service, November 11th is a very special day to me. I want to address your opinion on the yellow ribbon that "ring(s) strangely hollow" in your words.

You make it sound as if it's hypocritical to support our Army. Soldiers are Americans too, and need support. Without the support of those at home, soldiers would have no motivation to drive on with the mission whether they agree with the President or not. Do they have a choice to be there? Technically not, because they have to follow orders. If they don't obey, they get court-martialed for their refusal to do so. Orders must be followed, or peoples lives are put at risk. You make it a punch line the way you constantly mock the loyalty that soldiers show to this country, irregardless if they agree with the administration. Mr. Perrine, they do have to follow orders, or risk a stamp of "dishonorable discharge" for the rest of their lives. The soldiers in Iraq are not war criminals, and it is disrespectful to speak of them as if they were.

One can support the troops, and not support the war. Why? In the words of George Orwell, "People can sleep safely in their beds at night because of Rough men ready to do violence on their behalf." We honor those who risk all for our sake. Even in the face of 2,050 casualties, those soldiers stand strong and do their duty. We do honor those who sacrifice their lives in a war, and even if you don't, that doesn't excuse you from saying a kind word to soldiers; sending a care package, card, or letter to a random soldier, with the words, "Come home safe, and fight bravely. We love you. The people of the United States of America." Are we going to spit on those who fight based on our political bias? I certainly hope not.

*Thomas Bowers,
Pro deo et Patria*

(Beach, cont'd from p. 1)

would be released.

"My understanding," said Dr. Beach, "is that all this was about fiscal concerns. If I had known that they would change their minds about the tenure piece," he continues, "I would have taken a very different course." Beach was not the only member of the Houghton community to be surprised by his dismissal. Neither Dr. Stewart, philosophy program coordinator, nor Dr. Walters, Religion & Theology department chair, were consulted. Not even Carlton Fisher, who is expected to take Beach's place in the classroom next year, was aware of the decision before it became a concern for the faculty body. While the Board of Trustees holds the power to grant or refuse tenure, the endorsement of the Academic Vice President and College President is essential to its decision. Therefore, when Dr. Beach was informed that Chamberlain and

Oakerson would not support the bid, he was obliged to withdraw his application. The President and Academic Dean's refusal to endorse Dr. Beach's bid for tenure effectively amounts to his being laid off.

Dr. Stewart commented, "our interest is in preserving the integrity of our program." This is difficult when the administration fails to consult anyone in the department on its faculty needs. In their investigation of the matter, the Faculty Affairs Committee has investigated what was widely questioned among faculty: how was this decision made? Committee chairman Dr. Thom Kettelkamp, who has held tenure in the department of Recreation and Leisure Studies for the past twenty years, says that "it was the President's decision, and he said he'd get back to us regarding the process; he didn't say when." According to Professor Kettelkamp, in matters of tenure, "You don't ask who said what,

when it was said, and what did it say... That is what the President and the Dean said. This is a black box. The only question you can ask is: "what was the decision, yes or no." "

While the tenure "black box" is recognized Houghton policy, some faculty members, not to mention students, feel that it is unwise of administrators to dismiss effective, popular professors without consulting any of their colleagues. While one might claim that this was an isolated incident wherein a tough decision was necessitated by College finances, a look into Houghton's recent history shows that this is not the case. "Since I've been here," says one tenured professor who has taught here for 29 years, "a lot of people have left, been asked to leave." Given the explanation of fiscal necessity for Beach's dismissal, Dr. Stewart is not the only faculty member to say, "We might have had some ideas that might have been relevant, that might have helped." Dr. Mark Hijleh, interim associate dean of the Greatbatch School of Music, warns, "Any dismissal is going to have an effect on faculty morale." According to Dr. Stephen Woolsey, "It... contributes to a feeling of uncertainty."

The Faculty Affairs Committee has met several times to research the elimination of a tenure-track position so vital to the student body and faculty community and concludes its inquiries with the President. Dr. Kettelkamp states, "It's our role to flush out the process of how the decision was made... Did the administration break any rules of Houghton College policy, or did they follow appropriate legal considerations? As of November 28, we are still trying to get accurate information... That's where our role ends." However, according to Dr. Stewart, "When people have their positions cut, it requires a little more justification than "things are tight financially." Dr. Kristina LaCelle-Peterson concurs, "When people are demoralized by the process, when assurances were made all over the place that this wouldn't happen, trust is broken."

-Elizabeth Overhauser
Guest Writer
& Rosaline Kelada-Sedra,
Copy-Editor

Dear Mr. Perrine,

Please be informed that Veterans (no apostrophe) Day is not "[t]he day officially hailed as the time to remember those men and women who fought and died defending this country and [its] values" Memorial Day honors those who died in the line of duty in our military. Veterans Day honors those who served (past tense) in our military. Armed Forces Day honors those who currently serve in our military. I'm not sure that we have a general day honoring those who are combat veterans of our military. Yellow ribbons are commonly displayed for the wishful return of those currently serving in overseas combat operations.

That being said, I'm not sure that I felt honored by your use of my holiday basically only as a segue. Like all those serving currently in Iraq, I once volunteered to serve Uncle Sam as he saw fit, and whether I deluded myself into ignoring it or not, that included the possibility of risking my life going to war. As it turned out, I was indeed sent to serve in Operations Desert Shield/Storm, and also, like all those serving currently in Iraq, if at any time I felt I was participating in an immoral campaign, there was always the option to get out. So, please keep in mind that those men and women of our military who are currently in Iraq are there only by their own choice!

Well, this letter wasn't intended to be about that. For that matter, the war in Iraq really disturbs me. It's like "Another day, another car bomb."

Well, I guess in the end (despite my feelings about your misuse of Veterans Day), my service preserved your freedom of speech, so "You're welcome."

Dan Klebes, HC '95

Comics

The Camp Wrath Songbook



Stroke of Thursday

by Andrew Davis



Joe and Ducko

by Joseph Freeman

