

the HOUGHTON STAR

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

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THE
World
OUT
there

BY BEN HUGHES
STAR STAFF WRITER

As Probe of Madrid Bombings Continues, Socialists Prepare to Take Office in Spain

Three days after train bombings killed 200 commuters and wounded 1,450 others in Madrid, the Socialists emerged as upset winners in Spain's general elections. On March 14th, Spanish voters ousted the ruling Popular Party amid controversy over how the government of Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar handled the ongoing bombing investigation. So far the probe has resulted in at least 10 arrests.

Immediately after the bombings, Aznar and government officials quickly blamed the Basque terrorist group ETA. However, evidence uncovered in the following days increasingly suggested that Islamic terrorists with possible ties to Al-Qaeda were responsible for the rush-hour attacks. Unsubstantiated statements of responsibility allegedly from a group linked to Al-Qaeda surfaced, claiming that Spain was being punished for supporting the U.S.-led war on terror, specifically its war in Iraq.

Aznar's decision to send Spanish troops to Iraq to back the U.S.-led war is highly unpopular in Spain. The Socialist candidate for prime minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, had pledged to recall Spanish troops from Iraq, which appears to have boosted him and his party in the polls.

Five suspects - three Moroccans and two Indians - were arrested the day before national elections. Four North Africans and a Spaniard were then arrested on the 18th as an additional group of suspects. On the 19th, the three Moroccans were officially charged with 190 murder counts and other crimes pertaining to alleged involvement in the bombings and association with a terrorist group. The three

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Students Pass Constitutional Amendment, Elect Thompson VP, Confirm Other Candidates

BY D. ELLIOTT TAIT
AND JOSH MILLER

STAR STAFF WRITER AND EDITOR IN CHIEF

The SGA General Elections on Thursday, March 18 produced overwhelming ratifications for the positions of President, Commissioner of Communications, Chaplain, and Star Editor-in-Chief, as there was a lone candidate for each position.

SGA President-Elect, Marissa Roach, received 239 yeas and 37 nays. In response to her ratification, Roach stated, "I was very eager to find out the results and am thrilled to be working with the cabinet that I am. I think that we all share a common goal and unified vision regarding what we'd like to accomplish in the next year."

Roach was referring to the speeches delivered by the candidates on Wednesday, March 17, in which all the candidates, with exception to SGA Chaplain candidate David Clem, emphasized the need for improved communication between the SGA and students.

To make for a smooth transition between Presidents, Roach has "already begun to sit in on administrator and committee meetings with Danielle [Luckey] and will continue to do so until the official change of powers date."

SGA Commissioner of Communica-

over an opposing 23 votes.

Star-Editor-in-Chief-Elect, Dan Perrine, earned ratification with 213 yeas and 71 nays.

In the only contested race of the election, Kevin Thompson ousted Karis Koett in a landslide victory for SGA Vice President.

Responding to Thompson's victory, Koett said "I am glad that he got it. Actually, I am kind of relieved. I would have loved [the position], but I think that it was for the best this way... I have full confidence in Kevin. I know he'll make a great VP."

Asked of her opinion as to the reasons for her loss, Koett stated, "Besides his experience, I think his campaigning skills are a level or two above my own. I wasn't as serious about the whole idea of it, and he had signs everywhere I looked... I think he wanted it more than I did."

SGA Elections Commissioner, Dan Roorda, did not know the exact number of voters, but stated that about 25% of the student body voted.

Also, on Tuesday, March 23, the

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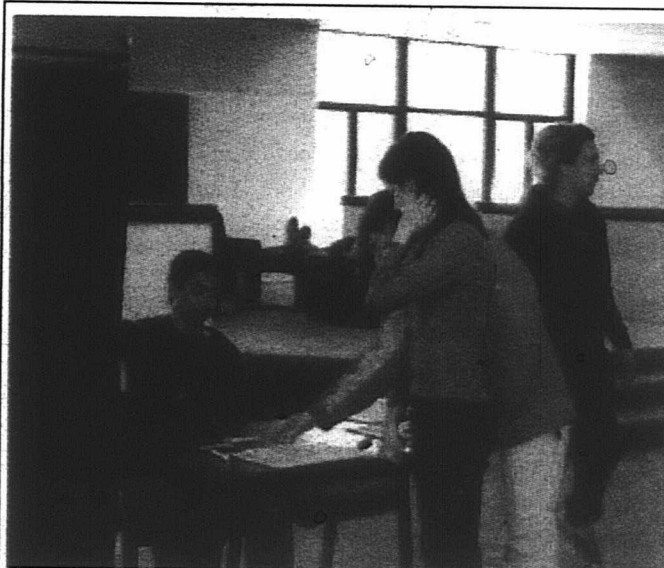


PHOTO BY AARON BOYNTON

Current SGA Senator Ben Hughes mans the voting booth during the Student Government elections on Thursday. Roughly a quarter of the Houghton student body cast their votes for SGA and student leadership positions.

tions-Elect, Elaine Tooley received 268 votes in favor of her ratification with 18 dissenting.

David Clem, the newly elected SGA Chaplain, was confirmed with 255 votes

Bramlett Lectures on Tolkien and Lewis

BY CHRISTINA TURNER
STAR STAFF WRITER

"When the church avoids using fantasy as a teaching tool, it hurts itself."

This statement by Rev. Perry Bramlett, last week's featured chapel speaker and lecturer, may have surprised a few people. However, Bramlett believes so much in the power of fantasy that he gave up the pastorate to begin his lecture ministry "C.S. Lewis for the Local Church," a ministry that involves traveling 40-45 weeks a year and lecturing at churches and colleges. Bramlett is also, notably, the only person in the U.S. who lectures and writes about Lewis full-time.

Rev. Bramlett gave talks in chapel on both Wednesday and Friday. On Wednesday, he spoke on J.R.R. Tolkien and *The Lord of the Rings*, which he claimed were "the author and the book of the century." Rev. Bramlett discussed

Tolkien, his scholarship and writings, and his Roman Catholic belief, which Bramlett claimed pervaded all of Tolkien's work. According to Bramlett, *The Lord of the Rings*, in addition to

being "a great adventure story," affirms that the everyday choices that we make affect who we become, either for good or evil.

On Friday, Bramlett gave his talk

"Imagination and Other Worlds in the Life and Works of C.S. Lewis," focusing mainly on Lewis's *Space Trilogy* and *The Great Divorce*, works that emphasize Christian belief without compromising intriguing stories.

On Wednesday evening, many students packed into East Hall Lounge, which was temporarily changed into The Eagle and the Child, the famed Oxford pub where Lewis, Tolkien, and their literary group "The Inklings" met. While snacking on popcorn and enjoying

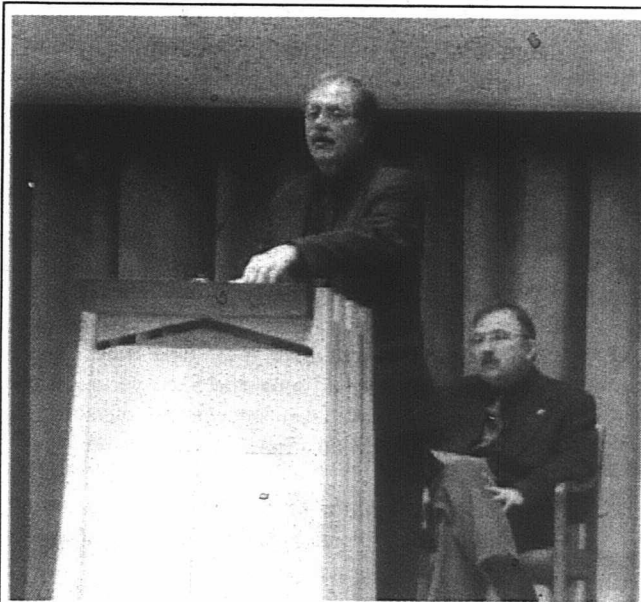


PHOTO BY AARON BOYNTON

Rev. Bramlett entertained and educated the Houghton community about the lives and works of J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis.

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accused men deny involvement in the March 11th bombings, claiming to have been asleep when the attacks occurred.

In the general elections, Zapatero led the Socialist Workers' Party in surprise victory over the Popular Party's Aznar and his chosen successor, Mariano Rajoy. Incoming Prime Minister Zapatero has reiterated his promise to withdraw the 1,300 Spanish troops from Iraq by June 30th, labeling the U.S.-led occupation a "fiasco." In response to the election results and Zapatero's criticism against President Bush's handling of Iraq, some U.S. officials and House Republicans have contended that Spain is appeasing terrorists.

Latest headlines from Spain: <http://story.news.yahoo.com/fc?cid=34&tmpl=fc&in=World&cat=Spain>.

Taiwan President and VP Survive Shooting

During 11th hour campaigning for re-election, Taiwan's President and Vice President were wounded in a failed assassination attempt on March 19th. Following President Chen Shui-bian's assurances of his health and his nation's security, elections commenced the following day as scheduled.

Chen narrowly won the close race for president, but controversy has engulfed the election results. His chief opponent, Lien Chan, called the more than 330,000 invalid ballots "spoiled" and criticized the electoral impact of the shooting. Lien and protestors across Taiwan have demanded a recount.

On the eve of the elections, as he stood waving in an open jeep in Tainan, President Chen was suddenly shot in the stomach. His Vice President Annette Lu emerged from the attempted assassination with a slightly hurt leg. The two were rushed to a nearby hospital. They were not seriously injured and returned to the capital, Taipei.

Chen soon addressed the nation, assuring the Taiwanese that they could "put [their] hearts at ease." The gunmen, however, are still at large and the assassination attempt remains shrouded in mystery.

The elections occurred at a time of increased tension between the democratic island nation and its monolithic neighbor ruled by Communist

Beijing. Chen boldly promotes Taiwanese independence from China. His challenger Lien Chan supports more conciliatory relations with the mainland.

Also, in the elections, Chen lost a controversial referendum to strengthen the military.

Further news on Taiwan and its recent elections: <http://story.news.yahoo.com/fc?cid=34&tmpl=fc&in=World&cat=Taiwan>.

Once Year Since Iraq War Began

March 20th marked the first anniversary of the U.S.-led war against Saddam Hussein's Iraq. Across the U.S. and the world, hundreds of thousands demonstrated against the war and ongoing occupation.

Supporters of the Bush administration also gathered to mark the anniversary, though generally in much smaller numbers. In a White House speech, President Bush defended his Iraq policies, attempting to contextualize the Iraq war within the global war on terror. He also reiterated his request for international cooperation towards rebuilding Iraq. The President told the 83 foreign diplomats present, "Whatever their past views, every nation now has an interest in a free, successful, stable Iraq."

In the past year, 568 U.S. soldiers have died in military operations in Iraq. 385 of those deaths stemmed from direct hostile action. According to the Associated Press, the year-long wave of suicide bombings has killed over 660 people, mostly Iraqis.

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

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root beer, students listened to Rev. Bramlett discuss Tolkien's role in C.S. Lewis's conversion from atheism to a belief in God and finally to Christianity. Bramlett also showed a personal videotape of several important Lewis sites, such as his home, the actual Eagle and the Child Pub, and Oxford University.

Rev. Bramlett also gave guest lectures in different classes and functions, including Professor Leax's Writing of Poetry class, where he spoke on the little-known and, he claimed, critically underrated poetry of C.S. Lewis, both from Lewis's years as an atheist and as a Christian. In addition, he also conducted an SGA luncheon on Tolkien and Lewis and made himself available to both sign books and discuss Tolkien's and Lewis's work.

Bramlett's first experience with Lewis came from a radio sermon, where the pastor was discussing The Screwtape Letters. He decided to look into the book immediately, but he admits, "It was a

gradual thing. It took three or four years, but I got hooked." His interest in Tolkien came mainly from Tolkien's association with Lewis. Bramlett has since written three books on the two authors: *C.S. Lewis: Life at the Center*, *Touring C.S. Lewis' Ireland & England*, and *I Am in Fact a Hobbit: An Introduction to the Life and Works of J. R. R. Tolkien*.

In his visit, Bramlett stressed the need for Christian writers who, like Lewis and Tolkien, will not only write about Christianity but who will allow their Christian belief to lie under the surface in other works. However, his larger vision is for Christians everywhere to become familiar with the works of Lewis and Tolkien, which will both enrich and entertain. As Bramlett stressed frequently in his lectures, "I simply want to whet your appetite."

GETTING TO KNOW ...
Dr. Harold Kingdon

by KYLE NAGY
STAR STAFF WRITER

Title: Chair, Department of Religion and Philosophy, & Professor of Christian Ministries

Current Courses: Bib Lit, OT Prophets, OT Historical Books, General Epistles.

How long have you been at Houghton? 37 years. I turned down the teaching job here the first time it was offered, but in fact, I couldn't have planned my life better.

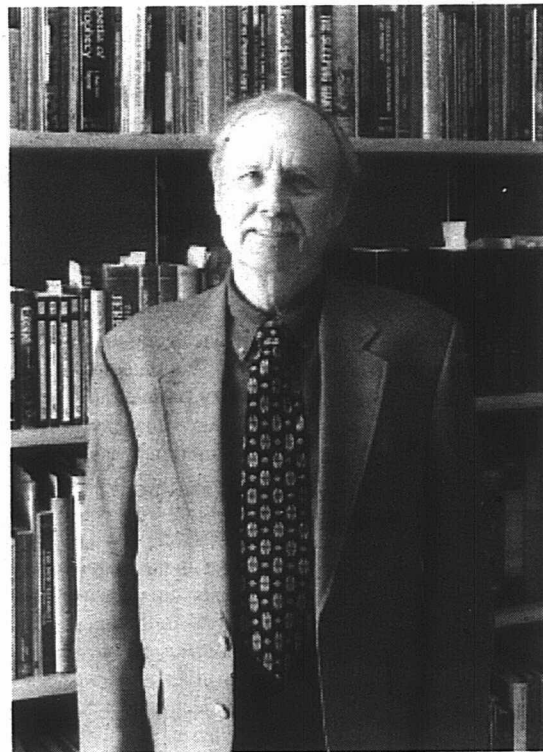
Where are you from? I was born in Toronto, Canada, and raised in the North Bay area.

What do you like about Houghton? The students.

What do you like to do in your spare time? Travel places. I've been all across the U.S., various parts of Canada, and have taken students on several trips to Israel and the Middle East.

Favorite Book of the Bible: Habakkuk, because although he questions God about certain situations, Habakkuk still resolves to praise God no matter what happens.

Paper or Plastic? Paper is better for the environment, but plastic is much easier to carry. I usually use the old plastic as trash bags.



world news continues
in next column

EDITORIAL

The World Outside Houghton? Who Cares.

by *Melanie Marciano*

Gay marriage, unjust wars, bloody revolts, economic security, mass terrorism and government funded tuition. Who cares? Gay people can do what they want. I'm not gonna join the army. I'm also fine financially: I'm in college, on the right track, and even if I do fail I could always move back in with Mom and Dad. Terrorism? Eh, other countries get hit daily, ours is pretty lucky and plus, it happens, so if God takes me he takes me. Free tuition would be nice, but that will never happen.

Living in the sheltered enclave of Houghton, we're lucky if we hear about recent news. I remember during September 11th, as a Freshman, I had no idea who Osama Bin Laden was until I watched Saturday Night Live about a month after the planes hit. After that I became outraged that such an incredible and historically tragic incident could occur in America and as a college student, fully dependent on society, I could have no idea about why it happened or how it affected my life.

As students with endless opportunities to do almost whatever we want, we have the power to be informed and to have an impact on future government actions that will shape the way we live. There are 23.9 million of us aged 18 to 24 in the United States (according to the US Census for 2000). As a group we could have a pretty big effect on this upcoming election, especially if we have another close election like the last presidential race (50,460,110 voted Bush, 51,003,835 voted Gore). As individuals, we also have a chance to revolutionize popular thoughts and actions. Our freedom to be educated about politics and our freedom to vote has a huge impact on local and national politics. There are many ways to get involved, but voting is the easiest way to have a say in our future. Our attitudes affect those around us and our interest will inspire the interest of others.

We could remain uneducated and go with the flow, blindly herded by others to hold strong opinions on issues we know nothing about. Or we can decide for ourselves and refuse to be part of a mindless mass that could be responsible for a spirit of apathy in the most powerful country in the world. If the superpower that we live in is one day run by a generation of indifference to government actions, it can only result in chaos.

But we can be responsible for making a difference now in issues that are important to us. Right now kids under the legal drinking age are dying in Iraq; the unemployment rate hit a nine-year high in 2003; more college graduates are moving back in with their parents because they can't find jobs; every state has budget deficits and is actively passing these burdens on to future generations - that includes you. Why are these things happening? How can they be changed and what action can we take to see that change happen? Which presidential candidate running for the November election will best solve these problems? Don't leave these decisions up to other people, some of whom are voting out of ignorance. Find out for yourself. Use your power.

For more information on the election and candidates, go to:
www.vote-smart.org
www.mtv.com/chooseorlose/
www.rockthevote.org

EDITORIAL

Serve or Be Served?

by *Hiram Ring*

I learned the other day that the Houghton College faculty has a pecking order. It came as a shock. I had always believed that at Houghton every professor was equal in rank and that together they formed some sort of an egalitarian, democratic mix - an equal academic playing field that seeks knowledge together, the social makeup of which had nothing to do with tenure or number of years on teaching staff or wages. The fact of the matter is that such things as tenure, time at Houghton, and even leadership positions apparently make a difference to where professors walk in the procession that takes place at every Founder's Day and Commencement ceremony. I wonder if such categorization and ranking during such processions might result in tension in everyday contact between faculty, and whether it could politicize the nature of faculty relationships. If it does, this seems to fly in the face of Christianity, which suggests that the least is greatest, and the servant is the best leader. It reminds me of a professor (who shall remain nameless) who I walked with down to the townhouses. Somehow we struck up a conversation, and I asked him who he was and what he did at the college, having seen him on the path several times before but not being able to place him within the community. He seemed a bit miffed to have to explain who he was to a junior. Being that he had quite an important position, I can understand his annoyance. After all, I often find myself being annoyed at freshmen or sophomores who don't know who I am, or at people who I have introduced myself to who STILL don't remember my name. But is that the Christian response? Perhaps this simply illustrates the human desire for power in the lives of others, and the sinful tendency toward institutionalizing social, psychological, and spiritual structures which support such desires. Perhaps it simply illustrates a misunderstanding of power relationships on my part. But are the hierarchies that we form in our own minds regarding relationships with others biblical? I think we can learn from Christ's example, who "did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness" (Philippians 2:6-7). So if I ignore you and pass by you and treat you as a lesser being than me for any reason whatsoever (less knowledge in a certain area, different political views, a different way of thinking, acting, dressing, etc), feel free to slap me upside the head, and I'll do the same for you. After all, that's what a community is for, right?

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student body passed the constitutional amendment that will change the selection process for the Lanthorn Editor, Boulder Editor, and CAB Director. Instead of being directly elected by the student body, applicants for these positions will be reviewed by a committee consisting of Student Programs Director Matt Webb, Assistant Student Programs Director Elizabeth Sartor, outgoing SGA President Danielle Luckey, incoming

SGA President Marissa Roach, and a student selected from the student body at large. After assessing the applicants, the committee will make a recommendation to be considered by the Senate, which will then have the option to hire the recommended candidate or choose one of the other applicants. The student-at-large for the committee is likely to be selected by the end of the week and the committee plans to start evaluating applicants before Easter break.

Available Now: Student Services Software Makes Easy Access for Students

BY ELAINE TOOLEY
STAR STAFF WRITER

As of today, student services information will be available to students online through a new software program designed to allow students more access to their individual information. These services include student academic records, registration information, scheduling information, financial aid records and information, and other personal information. Previously, students were required to physically visit the individual offices to acquire information regarding their academic status, course selection, or financial aid packages. With the implementation of the new system, students can check their tuition bill, verify their scholarship information, determine if they have any outstanding paperwork, and, in the future, register for classes online, all with the touch of a button.

The purpose of this new software system is to get information to students, and make pertinent details

available for their use. "Part of our hope is that all this new information available to students will help reduce the run-around that they have," said Troy Martin, director of Financial Aid Services.

Specifically, students will be able to check their finances over the computer. Personal financial aid information - including financial aid summaries, award information, student requirements on outstanding paperwork, the cost of attendance, and numerous links to governmental financial aid sites, like FAFSA and the National Student Loan Data System - is available. Applications for financial aid from Houghton and from national associations are also accessible through this new system. IRS Form 1098-T information is located on the system for students to readily peruse and use in their tax work.

Academic records will also be connected to this new software system. Students can find their grades, unofficial transcripts, institutional coursework, holds, their advisor, and

course selections. Students can find a particular class, the instructor for it, the time it meets, and the number of students already enrolled in the class. Next fall, upperclassmen will be able to enroll online for their Spring 2005 semester courses. The user-friendly system alerts students to when there is a scheduling conflict between two classes they wish to take and it tells them if the course is closed at the time they register. After registering for classes, two different individual schedules are available - the detailed schedule and the student schedule. A course section search is also available in which a student can input a time, subject area, day, and location in order to find classes that may be open for enrollment.

One of the most exciting elements of this software is that it is in real time. Once a course is closed, it will show up as closed to students when it closes - not after a once-a-day update as it currently requires. The information is on the page immediately. When an account is paid, the account

summary will show payment in real time.

Since this past fall, members in Technology Services, Academic Records and Financial Aid have worked together to get the system in place for student use. Each student will have a student identification number and a PIN number to access their individual information. Today in their CPO boxes, students received a post card with directions telling students how to get to the login page. An email with PIN number specifications will follow. Parents were also notified that this new software exists through a mailing. However, only the student has access to the information, unless they choose to give parents the identification and PIN number.

There are high hopes for the adoption of this new software. While this system does not decrease the amount of work for the staff in the respective departments, this software system makes navigating through the logistics of registration much easier for students.

Laura Clark Selected Student Employee of the Year

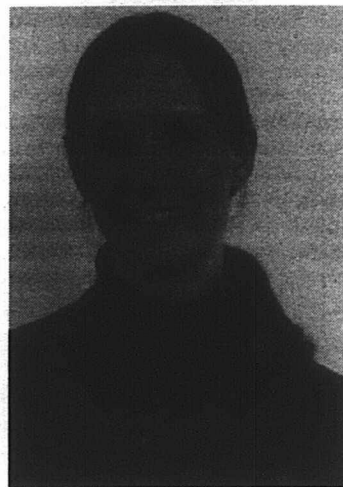
Thank you to everyone who nominated Student Employees of the Year. Once again it was a difficult decision; it became apparent to us that Houghton College is blessed many committed student staff members. All those nominated will be honored at a reception in the Career Center in April. We are pleased to announce that Senior Laura Clark has been selected as the Houghton College Student Employee of the Year.

Laura grew up in Sao Paulo, Brazil where her parents (both alumni—Paul '78 and Beverly '79 Clark) serve as missionaries. A double major in Psychology and Childhood Education, Laura will be graduating this May, being married in

the summer, and student teaching in the fall. She is considering graduate school some day to become a reading specialist. Eventually she hopes to return overseas to teach and help children who struggle with reading. This year Laura served as President of the Psychology Club and as Secretary/Treasurer of Psi Chi. She was nominated for Student Employee of the Year for her two and a half years of service as a Student Departmental Assistant to four academic departments. Dr. Richard Stegen, professor of psychology writes, "Her help is invaluable...Her organizational skills and leadership abilities are exceptional." He goes on to describe how much the Psychology Department hates to see her

leave. Molly Spear, Faculty Secretary also nominated Laura, "I enthusiastically nominate Laura Clark, she has a very strong work ethic and performs her assigned tasks with thoughtfulness, thoroughness, reliability, and expediency. She interacts respectfully and cheerfully with faculty. She is very involved in many areas of campus life and appears to balance her multiple responsibilities well. Her demeanor is marked with poise and confidence and she exudes a positive outlook on life. She will do well in her future endeavors."

A luncheon on April 6 in Buffalo will honor Laura and the Student Employees of the Year from the other colleges and universities from Western New York.



Reflections on the Global Persecuted Church

The following is a two-part essay. Included are two voices: two experiences from two insignificant people leading insignificant lives, whom God took the time to teach. The thoughts on these pages may seem a bit fragmented. In truth, we still have more questions than answers. But we trust that what we have experienced will resonate with anyone who has ever asked, "What is my responsibility to the suffering Church?"

Blessings,

LINDSEY STRAUCH and MATT RUDD

Often I think of the world as formless, moving out over hills and valleys and seas, edges blurring into a sort of grayscale. Men herding goats in Kashmir land somewhere in between ivory and eggshell until each face becomes just another faded snapshot taken by a nameless photographer in an unknown town in an obscure country.

Tragically, my fuzzy understanding of the world includes an equally unimpressive view of the global Church. Every so often a missionary will give a talk, hand out a brochure, and show slides of little Surri in Indonesia who goes early each day to help his mother sell papayas in the market. For a moment vivid color will splash across the grayscale and I will care very much that Surri's Christian sister was kidnapped by a Muslim man hoping to physically force a conversion. Impassioned by this injustice I will take a prayer card and sign my name promising to consider sending money to aid our brothers and sisters across those many seas. I might even tack the prayer card beside my bed so I remember to pray that night. And perhaps the next night. But inevitably the colors will begin to fade and Surri's face will recede with all the rest. All the rest of the stories. All the rest of the pain. Too much for me to wrap my mind around and certainly too much for me to make the smallest dent. Who do I think I am anyway?

I can now answer that question. After spending time last summer in an Arab Muslim country, I know who I am. And I know who they are. You see, I am the colorless one. It is my face that is grayed with the pallor of disinterest and the black, hard eyes of one who lives a life of spiritual privilege. Tomorrow I will drop \$30 on another spiritual help book meant to encourage me as I splash about in my Very Important Problems. Nizih, a Christian carpenter in North Africa, will leave before dawn and return as late as possible so he will not have to confront the icy disinterest and contemptuous words of his family who cannot understand why their brother has become a pagan. It is only because he is their financial provider that he has not been killed. Later I will check my chapel attendance to see if I can afford to skip and get in some extra studying. Ra'uf will mark another day on the stone-cold wall of his prison cell since his secret meeting of believers was betrayed. And as I do every evening before I sleep, I will pray with peaceful anticipation for my future husband, whom I know will love Christ more than he will ever love me. Azale and Fatima, both converted school instructors, will close their eyes without much hope of ever finding a Christian protector in a land where it is not safe to go public with one's forbidden faith.

It is these people who spill out color from every pore. It is these, the disenfranchised, the scorned, the persecuted carriers of God's Spirit, who shimmer with Heaven's light. And, ironically, it is often only we free Christians who can see that. For these Arab believers, shunned or tortured every day for their faith in the cross, their land is a dark and sinister place. Their businesses fail as whispers echo the suspicion of a foreign allegiance. Their families murder them to remove the shame that has been cast. Demons permeate their homes and haunt their children's dreams.

Deep crimson slides across this landscape, warm and sticky and smelling of hope lost. It moves and drips from the hands of lovers betrayed by a professed faith in Jesus. It sprays upward over the bleached stonewalls built millennia ago to protect against alien threats. The lifeblood of Christ's followers runs over the same dry earth as did His. And as I stand in the midst of this, protected by my passport, I realize that the life leeching out of these precious believers is more real than any life I have been living. I become convinced that if I were to prick my finger what would flow out would be not hot and dark but lukewarm and clear. They say that blood is thicker than water. What do I do when I discover I have naught but the latter?

It was once said, "A million deaths is a statistic; a single death is a tragedy." Prior to my travels to Egypt and the surrounding Middle East, I chose this statistic perspective regarding the persecution of the Christian Church. But now that I have met and befriended the human tragedies produced by Islamist nations, it is with a heavy heart that I remember them and pray for their safety.

In the midst of my travels, it was easy to become desensitized to the wailing of the five daily prayers coming from the thousands of mosques in the city of Cairo. Yet the burden on my spirit hung like the smog of the city. Dark eyes peered with intense inquiry: Why are you here?

One afternoon I entered a mosque receiving cocked-head expressions. As the prayers began, I realized with growing trepidation that to not join the worshippers would identify me as the blatant observer I was trying to avoid being labeled. But what was I to do? Bow before a god I did not agree with? Or slander with noncompliance everything this mosque was built for? I decided the best idea was just to sit cross-legged against the pillar, eyes closed as if I was praying.

Tap, tap, tap... "Keep your eyes closed - maybe they will stop"...tap, tap, TAP. "Please, God, let them go away"...TAP, TAP, TAP! I opened my eyes and saw everyone standing up around me. The man hitting me in the head sternly pointed to the prayer rug adjacent to his, indicating I was to fill in the gap. "No, I can't do this!" I bumped and jounced my way to the back with a fear of God I had never known before, only to find several thousand more worshipers in the room directly behind the one I was in. Men pointed again and again at empty spaces inviting me to bow alongside them. I worked myself into a corner, praying and quivering for my salvation as I awkwardly performed the salat (prayer ritual) alongside them.

I still remember the panic of that day, yet I realize that no harm was inflicted on my person. I was never arrested and dragged out of my bed in the early morning. I was never punched and kicked senseless. I never served a jail term with anxious children wanting me. Not the way some of my Egyptian friends have. They have been beaten, imprisoned, their immediate families threatened, their extended families disowning them, all for the sake of Christ. Could I live up to that standard? Would I prevail in the face of persecution? I bowed at the first sign of coercion.

I will never forget one man saying of the violence he had suffered at the hands of a Muslim fundamentalist: "You have never seen the Islam that we know." But that doesn't stop me from asking myself, "What would I do if I did?" If it was my blood that was exposed, and my back stripped bare, what color would my life bleed?

This story is not about Us versus Them, nor is my intent to rag on Islam. Christianity has no pretty history either. This story is about the faces burned into my memory. The tragedies suffered by our brothers and sisters in Christ. Hebrews 13:3 reads, "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." I remember the persecuted and my heart and prayers go out to them. Times that we meet for worship, freely proclaiming Christ, remind me of my friends who literally risk death to do the same.

I urge you to turn those suffering into something more than a statistic. If you are presented with the opportunity to take on a little of the pain, bear it. If you are asked to give financially, give sacrificially. If you are prompted to pray, lay down your all. Sweat blood with Jesus in Gethsemane. Petition with the heart of a man who is truly watching his family pay the ultimate price. If you are called to go, don't hesitate. Hold up the arms of those who are on the front lines in this Battle of the Ages. And, if necessary, pick up the banner of the fallen and continue with integrity. This is our calling. We are the universal Church.

SPRING WRITING FESTIVAL



Shirley Nelson

Shirley Nelson earned her undergraduate degree at Barnington College in Rhode Island, and a Masters Degree in English at the University of Albany, New York. Her professional writing career began in FM radio, scripting and producing, followed by several years writing and editing for a Christian film company and other independent film projects. While raising a family, she turned to print media and began publishing short stories, essays, poetry and plays, and in time an award-winning novel, *The Last Year of the War*, published first by Harper and Row, New York, and reprinted by Harold Shaw Publishers. After a decade of research, *Fair, Dear and Terrible*, a history of a New England cult in which her parents were raised, was published by British American. Her work has appeared in *Image: A Journal of the Arts and Religion* and *The Christian Century*, as well as other periodicals, and in a variety of anthologies. Nelson has taught and tutored in creative writing at Barnington College, at the Wheaton College Summer School of Writing, and at the University of Albany.

Schedule of Events

- Wednesday, March 24:**
1:00 p.m.—Fiction Reading (Shirley Nelson)
- Thursday, March 25:**
1:30 a.m.—"The Art & Craft of Literary Translation" (Thom Satterlee)
1:15 p.m.—"The Art & Craft of Biography" (Rudy Nelson)
1:50 p.m.—"The Art & Craft of Memoir" (Shirley Nelson)
1:00 p.m.—Poetry Reading (Thom Satterlee)
1:00 p.m.—Reception & Book Signing
- Friday, March 26:**
10:00 a.m.—"The Making of 'Precarious Peace: God and Guatemala'" (Rudy & Shirley Nelson)
12:00 noon—Women's Luncheon (Host: Laurie Dashnau)
1:15 p.m.—Readings (Samantha Lioi, Michelle LaBarre)
1:15 p.m.—Writers' Workshop Readings
7:00 p.m.—Film "Precarious Peace: God and Guatemala" (panel discussion following)
Panel: Rich Eckley, Cameron Airlhart, Paul Shea
Center for the Arts Recital Hall

Unless otherwise noted, all events will be held in the Willard J. Houghton Library

Spring Writing Festival

The Writer as Peacemaker

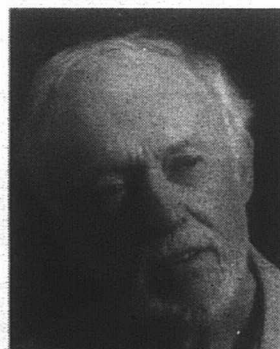
March 24-26, 2004

Sponsored by
Houghton College
Writing Department

We have a duty to live up to our heritage of open-mindedness. We must always be tolerant and fair and never simply revile others for their opinions. The way to silence error is by truth, not by various subtle forms of aggression. But we will always prefer violence to truth if our imaginations are at every moment overstimulated by frenzied and dangerous fantasies. Therefore one of the most important tasks of the moment is to recognize the great problem of the mental climate in which we live. Our minds are filled with images which call for violent and erratic reactions... We are swept by alternate fears and hopes which have no relation to deep moral truth. A protest which merely compounds these fears and hopes with a new store of violent images can hardly help us become men of peace.

—Thomas Merton
Peace and Protest

SPRING WRITING FESTIVAL



Rudy Nelson

Rudy Nelson, Associate Professor of English and Religious Studies (emeritus), University of Albany, began his professional career as writer-producer for WPTL, Rhode Island's first FM radio station, and in films, as Director for Script and Research at Good News Productions/Valley Forge Films in Chester Springs, Pennsylvania. His graduate studies include English (M.A.), University of Rhode Island; Religion (S.T.B.), Boston University School of Theology; and American Civilization (Ph.D.), Brown University. He spent ten years as chair of the English department at Barnington College before his appointment to the faculty of University of Albany. In addition to a number of essays on literature and religion, Nelson is the author of *The Making and Unmaking of an Evangelical Mind: The Case of Edward Cornell* (Cambridge University Press, 1987), an intellectual biography that traces the controversial career of an evangelical philosopher-theologian to bring to focus the far-reaching changes that took place in American religion in the last half of the 20th century.

SPRING WRITING FESTIVAL

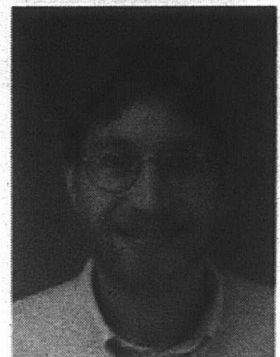
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SPRING WRITING FESTIVAL



Thom Satterlee

Thom Satterlee began teaching at the collegiate level in 1984 and is currently Assistant Professor of English at Taylor University. He holds an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Arkansas. He has translated and published many works of Henrik Nordbrandt and is a frequent conference speaker on the topic of translation. He published English Composition Instructors' Guide with John O'Hare for the University of Maine's English Composition Department and has more recently published *The Houghton's Lament: Poems of Henrik Nordbrandt* (October 2003). Thom is the author of various articles as well as works of poetry and short fiction that can be found in such publications as *Christianity and Literature*, *Paragraphs*, *Aesthetes: The Journal of Sport Literature*, and *Paragraph*. He is the recipient of numerous honors and awards including the American Scandinavian Foundation Translation Prize and most recently second runner-up in the Poetry Fellowship, Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing.

HOUGHTON COLLEGE MLK SERVICE DAY ~ MARCH 20, 2004

Lately I've been thinking a lot about motives. Motives seem to be paramount to the value of what we do, yet they seem to be the most difficult thing to discern about ourselves. As MLK Service Day approached, I began to question my motives. Was I doing this out of a genuine desire to serve God by serving others? Or because I wanted to look selfless and servant-like in front of my peers? Was it out of a sense of guilt for not doing as much service as I should on a more regular basis? Or out of a sense of duty, because God commands us to serve one another? Was it because all my friends were doing it? Because I'd get two free meals (and a bandana)? Or just because it was a requirement for my Global Relief and Development class? An honest answer would probably involve a combination of several of these motives. What are the implications of having mixed motives? Does it somehow render my service less valid? Does it harm only me and my relationship with God?

With these questions churning in my mind, I set off with a group on Saturday for a Buffalo Weed and Seed community center. Before entering the building I surrendered my motives to God, praying simply, "I'm available to you today, Lord. Use me however you want." The rest of the day was filled with hard work and some amusing adventures. Two of us worked alongside some youth to clean up an old building in a cemetery. We mopped, washed walls and cleaned bathrooms, all without any electricity and a very limited water supply because the pipes were leaking. The rest of our team worked to clean the community center from top to bottom and to paint some benches, garbage bins and ceiling tiles with the help of some kids from the center. It was a fun and exhausting day in which we were not only able to help Weed and Seed with an enormous cleaning job, but also interact with some of the kids who benefit from the center.

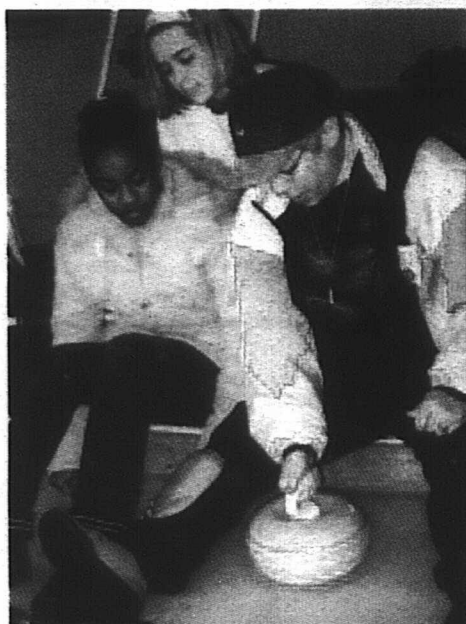
It was clear that regardless of anyone's motives we had all made a positive impact on this ministry. Speaking of motives, Paul wrote, "What does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice." So even with bad motives, good things can be accomplished. But where does that leave the person whose motives are less than pure?

Scripture makes it clear that God cares about our motives, and judges them himself: "All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord" (Prv.16:2); "We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts" (1Ths.2:4).

We can be comforted by the fact that God sees our hearts in their entirety; though we may second-guess ourselves, he always sees the whole picture (Ps.139). In David's speech commissioning Solomon, he gave the following charge: "Acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you...The Lord has chosen you to build a temple as a sanctuary. Be strong and do the work" (1Chr.28:9-10).

Acknowledge God...serve him wholeheartedly, with a willing mind...seek him...be strong and do the work. I saw many people on MLK Service Day who did all of these things joyfully. I also saw how God used these people - and even myself - to bless people and make an impact for his Kingdom. As we ask God to continually search the motives of our hearts, may we daily renew our commitment to acknowledge him, serve him, seek him, and do the work he has given us to do.

~REBEKAH DREW

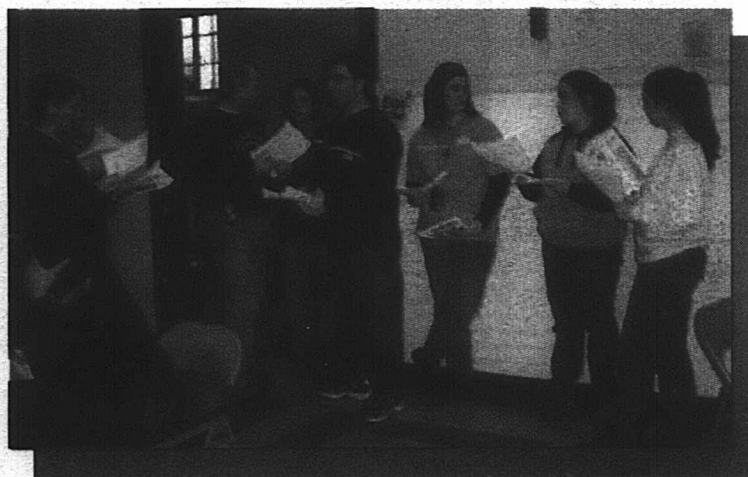


I participated in Houghton's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day by boarding a bus, driving to Buffalo, and spending a good portion of the day working with 13 other people at Buffalo City Mission. Most of my time was occupied by sorting and arranging mounds of board games, coloring books, arts and crafts, and school supplies.

Why did I wake up early and take time away from my supposedly important life to invest in a ministry and people with whom I have had very little, if any, contact in the past? I would be both proud and foolish to think that my individual life is so important as to not have time for other people, regardless of their status or supposed ability to repay me. As a Christian, I am called to follow the example of Christ, who sacrificed his very life for me when I was yet a sinner and could in no way pay him back for the eternal life he offers me. I am also told in Philippians to esteem others as higher than myself; and that verse may be practically demonstrated by adhering to the wishes and needs of other people rather than obeying my own urges to arrange my days according to my personal desires. Another reason: By partnering with City Mission, I was able to encourage a group of fellow Christians and express my gratefulness for their service, which has certainly touched others and may have blessed me in ways of which I am not even aware.

MLK Service Day and events like it reflect Houghton's own mission as a college. Service to others is a way of recognizing one's own place in life, of realizing that students do not (or should not) attend school solely for the purpose of bettering their own mental capacities or equipping themselves for a lucrative job. I am, at times, an upsettingly selfish person. But may I come to realize in my own life the words of my hero: "[W]hoever desires to be first among you, let him be a slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

~RACHEL MORAN



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY GREG BISH

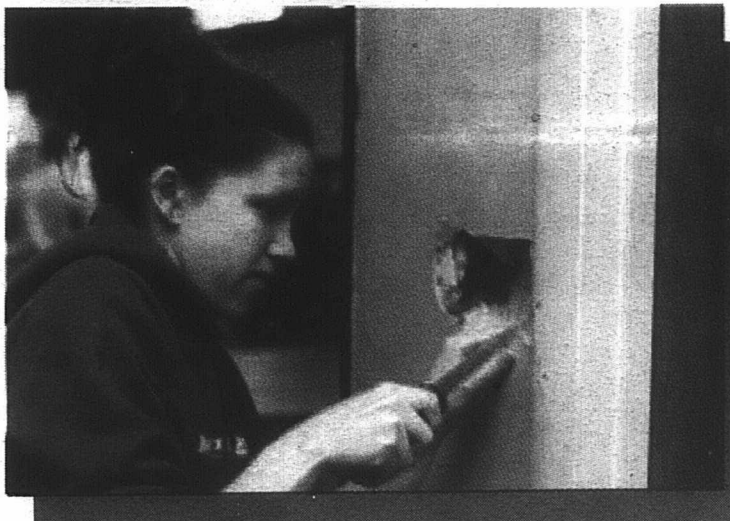
04

I miss manual labor. Don't get me wrong, reading and typing certainly have value, but man, I miss sweat. I miss splinters. I miss scrapes and burns. I miss heavy lifting and heavy machinery. I miss being sore the way you can only get from work, not from the gym. I miss my blue collared shirts.

We used to heat my house in the winter with a wood stove. Having a wood stove means having to split wood and living in New York during the winter means having to split lots of it. Wood stoves are great because they'll heat you twice: once when you chop the wood and another time when you burn it. For MLK Service Day my group got to split and stack wood... for hours... in the rain... It was glorious.

"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love." -Gal. 5:13

~BEN ASKINS



Hot Wheels, Barbies, and Legos are exciting to anyone, but they were perhaps the most exciting for the kids ages 4 through 13 who attended the Rochester Toy Festival last Saturday. A group of 18 students, including myself, went with Dr. Cathy Freytag and Dean Tilley to the city of Rochester to participate in Martin Luther King Service Day. We arrived at Grace United Methodist Church on Driving Park Ave. at 10 o'clock in the morning, our bright yellow bandanas tied tight in contrast to the gray sky.

We were greeted by Dan Prouty, president of the Child Evangelism Fellowship in Rochester, who introduced us to our tasks of preparing for and running the Toy Festival that afternoon. Several members of our team set up the game tables, Hot Wheels and Barbie displays, and the snack table. Another group was assigned to pray earnestly for the attendance of the festival and the receptiveness of the children to the gospel message, and another group went to Henrietta to hang up posters for another Festival coming up in May.

I was assigned to flyer the neighboring streets with Dave Stocker for several hours in an attempt to tell more kids about the Toy Festival. We got a lot of silent houses, but we also met a lot of friendly kids, who were willing to come to Grace Church for games and a snack. As soon as we rejoined everyone at the church, it started raining outside. But there were still near 30 children attending the Festival, and Mr. Prouty said later that over half of them were brand new that day to him and Child Evangelism Fellowship.

The Festival ran from 1 to 3 p.m., and our entire group had a really great time playing with the kids. The Lego tower-building contest and the Hot Wheels racing track were by far the most popular of the contests. The Barbie coloring contest was an intense table to visit as well. The girls and younger boys were vigorously wearing their crayons down to nubs while interacting with workers Kasie Laury and Courtney Glover. I never knew that a Lego board game existed, but 9 year old Austin and I played competitively for nearly an hour. He eagerly built a helicopter, and I put together a race car with some amusement.

At the end of the festival, the kids energetically received their game prizes, after listening to Mr. Prouty present the gospel of Jesus Christ animatedly. Watching him speak so gladly to kids about Jesus gave me a great deal of admiration for the work that is being done by Child Evangelism Fellowship.

This festival was a scaled down preview of a much bigger Rochester Toy Festival that Mr. Prouty is planning for May 1st, at Victory Baptist Church in Henrietta.

~CHRISTINE DIFONZO



Houghton College Presents Opera Workshop 2004

HOUGHTON, N.Y. - The Greatbatch School of Music at Houghton College will present their annual Opera Workshop March 25, 26, 27, 2004 at 7:30 pm each night. Performances will take place in Tysinger Auditorium at the Houghton Academy. Tickets are \$4 for students and \$6 for adults. Tickets will be sold for the Opera Workshop through Java 101, the music office (ext/4000), and at mealtimes in the campus center.

You are invited to "A Weekend in the Country". The first half is Act 1 of "Susannah" by Carlyle Floyd. The opera is based on the Book of Susannah in the Apocrypha but set in the present time in the mountains of Tennessee. It is the story of a young girl, wrongfully condemned by the church elders and their wives as a "bad" girl, a seductress. The underlying themes are bearing false witness, hypocrisy within the church and judgmentalism. The music includes folksong elements, ballads and a square dance and will be performed with orchestra. The second half will be scenes from operas and musicals continuing with the "country" theme, with excerpts from "The Merry Wives of Windsor", "Hansel and Gretel", "Fiddler on the Roof", "Carmen", "A Little Night Music" and "Lakme".

The Opera Workshop is a musical/opera production consisting primarily of music students but includes music and non-music majors. The class meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:15 to 4:30 with occasional evening rehearsals. Professor Shirley Close is the Director of the Opera Workshop and conductor. She has performed as a professional opera singer for the past 20 years with the major opera companies and orchestras of Europe and America and since 2001 has been Professor of Voice and Opera at Houghton College. The Guest Stage Director for this year is Steven Stull. Mr. Stull holds a Masters in Voice from the Eastman School of Music and has sung widely throughout America. Amanda Cox, Adjunct Professor of Voice and Ha-Na You, junior piano major, will accompany at the piano.

Close says that she is very enthusiastic about this year's production. She sees Opera Workshop as a great way for music students to learn by doing. They study opera in music history, but performing them puts them right in the middle of the action. It is also a great way for students to learn to express themselves, to take on characters that are totally different from them personally. Opera encompasses all of the arts in one setting: the visual arts (through set design and painting), singing, dancing, acting, orchestral music and more. Close notes that it is a great opportunity for the community to see talented musicians right here in Houghton. People from the area do not have to travel all the way to Buffalo or Rochester to see opera when it is right here in their own backyards. The performances allow the college to display the great talent and appreciation for music that is here.

Krista Zimmerman, Public Relations Student
PH: (585) 567-9500 ext. 1013
krista.zimmerman@houghton.edu

Want a \$20 Gift Certificate to Java 101?

**Heard about the coffeehouse
going in the basement of the
Campus Center this summer?**

Want to Get Involved?

YES? Then We Need YOUR help!

Starting on March 28th there will be a suggestion box in the Info center where you can place ideas for the name of the coffee house! The suggestion box will be in the **Info center from the 28th of March until the 7th of April**. After those 2 weeks, the committee that has been working on the interior design of the coffee house will meet and choose three of the ideas. On April 15th there will be another box in the info center where you can place a vote for one of the three choices. **The name will be announced on April 16th**. The person whose name was picked to be the name of the coffee house will receive a **\$20 gift certificate to Java 101!** So give us your suggestions and help us out!



If you have any questions please contact Emily Armstrong.

Jay Paul's "Trilogy" on Exhibit in Ortlip Gallery

BY RACHEL BRASK
STAR STAFF WRITER

The most recent exhibit at the Ortlip Gallery features the award-winning black and white photography of Jay Paul, triptych prints arranged in three frames of narrative slices that portray issues humorously, thoughtfully, and darkly. The exhibit will be open to the public from March 1-31, 2004. The opening reception was held on March 1st, with Paul speaking on his photographic "trilogies."

Walking around the gallery, people viewed the triptychs, spending more time examining some than others. The small scale of some of his photographs demanded that viewers get closer to the images to better see and understand them. Some of the trilogies read as narrative pieces in a progressive chronology; others read together as a single visual composed of three frames; and others read as individual frames linked by a

theme or idea. Some of the series are quirky and humorous and immediately illicit a response from the viewer, such as one entitled Big Mac Attack. Some expressed issues related to society and to faith, causing the

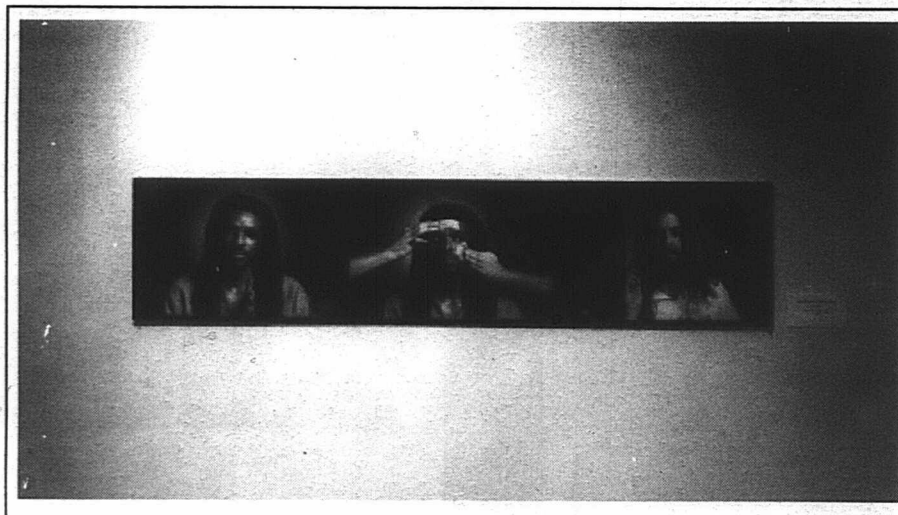
"momentary suspension of disbelief." He cites the surrealists as a large part of his influence, saying that he feels that "the world is very surreal." In the creative process, Paul first comes up with an idea for a piece, an image in

of how he needed to find a man wearing certain attire and reading a book while smoking a cigar, situated in front of a burning house. He got a call about a burning house in the area; he then went to the house with the

props he needed and asked different men to don the bowler hat, cigar and book, until he finally found a man to pose for the photograph. He says he generally photographs family, friends, or other acquaintances for his works.

Jay Paul worked as a photojournalist for 15 years and currently teaches photography courses. He volunteers with Art180, a non-profit organization introducing the arts to at-risk young people to encourage them to use their art to see a 180-degree turn in the direction of their lives in the circumstances

they are in. For more information on Art180, go to www.Art180.org.



viewer to look more closely and think about the issue at hand.

Jay Paul speaks of his works requiring the viewers to experience a

his mind of how it should look and what he wants to portray. He then goes and finds subjects to take pictures of for his compositions. He told a story

Movies... WITH DANIEL GRAFFAM AND ADAM KLINE

Starsky and Hutch

"I was supposed to see *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*"

Dan's Review

Home for the weekend, I remarked to my parents during lunch on Sunday that I needed to go see *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* so that I could review it for the *Star*. So, of course, my mother offered the standard questions: What is it rated? Who is in it? What is it about? And so on. This got me to thinking about which movies, if any, are actually appropriate to watch. Thus, instead of a review this week, I will offer these arguments and let you decide for yourself.

Growing up with two movie-loving older brothers, I became desensitized very early to the violence and language that is now pervasive in so many movies. I have always viewed movies as potential works of art, assuming that they will have at least some redemptive value. Though some may call that naïve, I disagree with the opinion shared by many Christians that any movie not rated G is not worth watching. There are undoubtedly many movies that are simply trash, and by no means am I trying to justify those. There are also, however, several movies that are written off as "evil" that are anything but. On more than a few instances here at Houghton, myself (and Adam) have been unfairly judged by fellow students for watching movies like this, almost always by someone who has not yet seen the particular film. It is a fact that scenes in such "evil" movies as *Fight Club* and *Requiem for a Dream* have affected my life more positively than almost any Chapel I have attended while here at Houghton. The extreme violence of *The Passion of the Christ* is celebrated on Houghton's campus and throughout the Christian community, mostly because it portrays an event that really happened. There is no doubt in my mind that another true story, the jaw-dropping *City of God*, which contains violence committed by and against children, would be viewed here as vile and disgusting. *City of God* just happens to be the best film I have seen in a few years, and it is a shame that almost no one on this campus will have any desire to see it. Refusing to see a great movie simply because it is rated R will only further the complacency of the Christian community regarding the world around us, as well as keep us from a potential life-changing experience.

There are exceptions, but most movies really do contain at least some redeeming value. Be it an uplifting story, aesthetically beautiful visuals, topics that make you think, or even just an incredible performance, we have to be more willing to seek this beauty out. Is it worth sitting through all of the junk that is out there just to find these great films? Each individual has to decide that for themselves. And for anyone actually interested in my opinion on *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, I do plan on seeing it in the near future. Just don't tell my mom.

Adam's Review-Grade: B -

I as well did not end up seeing *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, so in addition to Dan's piece, I am reviewing *Starsky and Hutch* which came out March 5.

Starsky and Hutch is yet another old TV show adapted into a movie, but unlike most of them, this adaptation has some worth. Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson hit the screen as the unlikely cop partners, David Starsky and Ken Hutchinson. This is the fifth time Stiller and Wilson have worked together and I do not know if I will ever get tired of seeing them collaborate.

David Starsky is the good cop who fights every possible type of crime, and Ken Hutchinson is the rebel cop who does a little crime on the side for some extra money. As punishment for misbehaviors, their sergeant makes them partners and from that point on Stiller and Wilson let their hilarious chemistry fly.

Neither Stiller nor Wilson does anything we have not seen them do before; Stiller does his usual fish out of water routine and Wilson does his witty ladies-man act, yet it is still as funny as ever. This is a movie that finds its humor in one-liners and is also one that will probably become funnier over time by repeated viewings, like particular scenes from director Todd Phillips' previous movie, *Old School*.

The other thing that makes *Starsky and Hutch* as funny as it is is the great supporting cast. Vince Vaughn plays Reese Feldman, the drug lord Starsky and Hutch are after.

Vaughn plays his typical sarcastic smart-aleck role by dropping lines like, "Fine, I promise to never kill Terrance again, ok?" Snoop Dogg is also perfectly cast as Huggy Bear, the criminal insider that keeps Starsky and Hutch on the right trail. The movie is also complimented with brief comedic appearances by one of the funniest men alive: Will Ferrell.

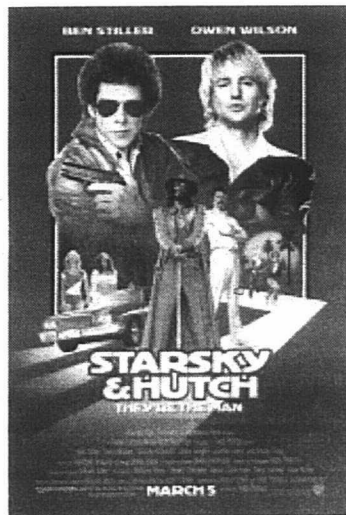
Starsky and Hutch is definitely Todd Phillips' cleanest movie, as it is rated PG-13, and it could be his funniest. But even though I laughed quite a bit in this movie, it was not as funny as I was expecting it to be. Some of the funniest moments in the movie are when Todd Phillips stations the camera in front of Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson and just lets them create hilarious banter.

Hutch (Wilson): "Are you crying?"

Starsky (Stiller): "I'm not crying, you're crying...I don't cry, I work-out, I have hobbies!"

But at the same time I believe the reason this movie is not as funny as it could be is because they stuck to the script too much and did not let Stiller and Wilson ad-lib as much as they could have. This leaves me looking forward to the deleted scenes on the DVD.

So, *Starsky and Hutch* is a movie that depends on its cast for humor; it's the cast that makes it worth seeing. And I am sure this movie will be even funnier when I have the opportunity of watching my favorite scenes over and over on DVD.



Top Ten

Reasons to be a Super Senior

BY ELIZABETH KRANTZ, KELLY JOHNSON, ET. AL.

GUEST STAR WRITERS

10. If you have not offended someone in a SPOT skit during your first four years at Houghton, you have one more chance to try.
9. You don't have to have a meal plan.
8. You don't have to be married to not go to chapel.
7. Therefore it's ok if your i.d. breaks.
6. Another chance to hope that SPOT might be good.
5. Any title with the prefix SUPER must be cool.
4. If you are a female Super Senior you will keep the ratio intact.
3. Because all your friends are gone you can spend more time with nature (that means going out to the lean-tos).
2. Incoming freshmen will think your style is "retro."
1. Because there's a thin line between today and tomorrow.

Music Review

Blindside Fans the Flame

BY MIKE MORDENGA
STAR STAFF WRITER

It was the year 2002 when Blindside decided to make a blip on the secular radar of rock music with their album *Silence*. They had recently been on the Tooth and Nail-Solid State label when they switched to Elektra's Three Points label (a label started by POD).

Now the Swedish quartet has put out another album off of Elektra's Three Points label called *About a Burning Fire*. Blindside has always been known for hardcore grunge music with both razor-edged and soft spoken lyrics. Their past three albums carried a collage of edginess and disorganization that gave them a distinct sound from everyday hardcore rockers. About a Burning Fire seems to have dropped

carry a new type sound that carries with it a new audience. This new audience seems like the MTV culture. This is not a surprising move seeing that Blindside got incredibly popular on MTV 2 and FUSE. You can even hear some of their new music on the videogame *Need For Speed: Underground*. The band also made a very popular choice in landing Billy Corgan to play guitar and do background vocals on "Hooray It's L.A."

There is always debate about what makes a Christian band Christian. Blindside has always encompassed the kingdom of God on their albums in some respect, including their most recent release. This new album definitely has good intentions, but the poetic license has also been cut down a bit. The songs

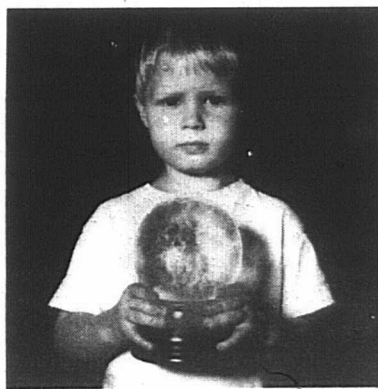
about human struggles, the pity of some of their edginess. Their lead singer Christian Lindskog has more of a deliberate method in his songs. While this change doesn't vanquish their sound completely, it's hard to put this album at the top if you loved the old Blindside.

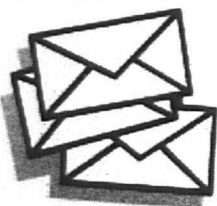
It's evident that Blindside put a good degree of effort in this album. Songs like "Eye of the Storm," "Follow You Down," "All of Us," and "About a Burning Fire" still capture their chaotic edginess. Those expecting powerful guitar riffs and lyrical screams won't be disappointed. Other songs like "Swallow," "Die Buying," "Shekina," "Roads," and "Hooray It's L.A."

people, and the beauty of God seem to be a bit watered down. On the other hand, "Where the Sun Never Dies" is a beautiful song about Heaven and "Die Buying" is all about freedom of the soul. In

spite of this, don't expect to hear this album at any altar calls.

Overall, Blindside put up a decent album. It seems like their radical style of play has been replaced with a somewhat methodical style. So, even though I am a loyal Blindside fan, I must put this album near the bottom of my favorites, and hope that on their next release, the fire of their talent won't be snuffed out in the lime-light.





letterbox

star@houghton.edu

Dear Editor-

I commend the Star for the recent adoption of its improved movie column. It is both entertaining and informative to read what Daniel Graffam and Adam Kline write each week; I find it even better that they pull no punches in their reviews. If the dialogue, acting, or movie as a whole is poorly made, they write that in their review. Flaws are pointed out along with strengths.

I suggest that a similar approach be taken when reporting other events such as plays, recitals, concerts, lectures, and forums on campus. Perhaps two reviewers for each event is unnecessary, but pointing out flaws along with strengths is one thing that is sorely needed in the pages of the Star. Not everything performed on the Houghton campus is well done, not everything is entertaining, and not everything is a success. But to read the paper, it would seem as though every play, every concert, every coffeehouse was the best thing to come along since Jeremy Eggleston started flipping burgers on Wednesday nights.

Yes, this is a Christian community, and yes we should be constantly be looking for ways to build each other up, but to flatter and give undeserved praise is ridiculous. How can anyone improve their skills when every single campus event is lauded as a wonderful success? When I complete a painting, it is put up for critique where others point out its strengths and its weaknesses. When one writes a paper in a fiction class, often the first draft is critiqued by peers and professor. The final draft is then an altered and strengthened piece of writing. Why then are college plays, recitals, and concerts never critiqued? They have flaws, and these should be addressed. They also have strengths, but these should not be over-emphasized. When people have the courage to put their hard work and hours of preparation on a public stage, they deserve fair and realistic responses. They also are risking criticism. And if it is deserved, then it needs to be given. To give rave reports on every campus event lessens the significance of those individuals that actually deliver superior performances.

I appreciate the talent of the Houghton community. But I also appreciate those that can say the critical comments in the spirit of spurring others to sharper skills and better performances.

Sincerely,
Nathan Boyd

In Response to: "Intramurals or Intramesses" by Christopher Austin

I found Mr. Austin's column in the last Star a tad bit frustrating, so as is his right to write his column I am writing a response. As Mr. Austin addressed his gripes in three stages so will I.

In response to his first issue, unsportsmanlike players: Yes, unsportsmanlike behavior exists at times in the intramural program. But I challenge Mr. Austin to finding a sporting event from Pee Wee basketball to noon ball where unsportsmanlike behavior to some degree does not creep into the picture. I will be the first to say I have been very unsportsmanlike in the past. But I would come back by saying I think that on the whole unsportsmanlike behavior is kept to a minimum in the Houghton intramural system. I have seen friends at Roberts play in their intramural games, I have seen friends at state schools play in intramurals; and if you have complaints about unsportsmanlike conduct here, go glance up there. I see more people helping up a knocked down opponent than I do unsportsmanlike conduct.

I believe Mr. Austin is specifically addressing indoor soccer in his article. There will be physical contact; other big boys are going to bump you. But after playing and watching many indoor games here, I have not seen anything categorized as "physical or verbally abusive." I would question Mr. Austin's definition of abuse. Man up buddy; you are going to get knocked down every once in awhile.

I think the refereeing comment was a low blow to the officials. They have long days just like us filled with other frustrations and stresses and our making a sacrifice to come officiate. Last time I checked there is not high competition for intramural officiating jobs. Their main goal of the day is not to prepare themselves to ref your intramural game. They are working because they need to put gas in their car or go out on the weekends. From what I have seen, though, they do their best to do be fair and alert. Yes, none of these refs go to officiating school; but they do not try to make bad calls. They don't get anything if their friend's team wins. Nor do I think that favoritism happens. In my recent game, two of the officials were friends of mine and they definitely did not let me get away with anything. I was even scolded a few times for being an idiot. I think your comment makes you sound like Mel Gibson in Conspiracy Theory-pretty paranoid.

Lastly, Mr. Austin is the first person I have heard of who can't read the intramural schedule on the computer. My friends and I constantly refer to that schedule and we end up getting to our games at the right time with the right color shirt on. It's not that hard. You find the day of the week, scan down the column, find your team number, and find what time block your team's game falls in. Then you get in your car or ride your pink-and-purple bike on up to the gym and have a good time. As for the supervisor, their job is not to ref. I am not sure the exact definition of their job, but I have seen many times when a supervisor has helped with an injury by finding a trainer or calling for some help, found a better ball for a game, or supported an official. If you are vying for good sportsmanship at Houghton, shouldn't two teams in an intramural volleyball game be able to sort out a call?

I am not by any means saying our intramural program is perfect. But did you try having face-to-face conversations off the court with opponents who you think are unsportsmanlike? Did you try to work stuff out with them or did you just go straight to bashing them in your column? Have you tried reffing intramural sports? Have you had your peers yell at you for just trying to do your job? Have you ever thanked the officials after your game, or do you just walk off the court like they owe it to you? As for the scheduling, you can feel free to come up to my apartment any time and I can help you figure out when your games are. Maybe in your next article you can be thankful for something instead of complaining. I know it would make me smile and give me something good to talk about rather than getting frustrated. At least try to be a little less reckless and thoughtless with your bashing. In no way do I feel this article was edifying to our community or helpful to improving the intramural program. Count your blessings, man.

-Joseph Moore

PS: I am thankful for our intramural program. Thank you refs, supervisors, and organizers. Do not be discouraged; you are appreciated.

Dear Houghton Star,

I'm writing to clear up misunderstandings I've heard from students and staff regarding the planning and decisions around the upcoming campus forum about homosexuality.

Sponsored by the Houghton Theological Society with the backing of other student organizations, the event was proposed to the administration as a 3-day series of panel discussions. I helped organize the third part, a public panel featuring several homosexual Houghton alumni who were invited to share their personal experiences as gay Houghton students.

The administrative committee approved parts 1 and 2 of the proposal, but not the alumni panel as proposed. Below are several misconceptions about the cancelled alumni panel.

1. The HTS was operating under a liberal political agenda to soften public attitudes toward accepting gay marriage as normative - FALSE. The goals of the HTS planners were to coordinate with the Christian liberal arts mission of the college by educating the Houghton community about the experiences of homosexual students, put a human face on a controversial issue, and to improve the quality of rhetoric and public discourse around an issue that divides Christian communities. I don't even know the personal theological or political opinions of the planners I worked with; they were intentionally left off the table.

2. The alumni panel was an effort by an official Gay and Lesbian Houghton Alumni Association - FALSE. The idea for the panel was generated from conversation between me and members of the HTS; and we were fully responsible for the planning and proposal. I'm not aware of any Houghton organization of homosexuals, nor are any alumni I spoke with. Houghton's director of alumni relations was supportive in principle of the panelists returning to campus as guests and expressed a desire for them to feel welcome and not hated, but there is no policy of endorsement or support of any theological position that would conflict with the Wesleyan church.

3. The alumni panel was made of people wanting to "change" Houghton - FALSE. We screened out Wiccans and anyone with an axe to grind. Though some panelists were prepared to describe situations of discrimination and abuse in their college experience, all who were invited profess commitment to Christian faith, are active in their local churches, and have a great deal of affection and care for the Houghton community.

4. The Houghton administration forbade any panel of homosexual alumni - FALSE. President Chamberlain personally proposed an alternative panel that would be made up entirely of homosexuals who have been delivered from their homosexual orientation. Although the HTS decided against this format, I interpret the suggestion as a good-will compromise.

5. The administration bowed to financial pressure from big donors - FALSE. The decision to not approve the panel as proposed was ultimately made by President Chamberlain. He told me that there are members of the Houghton constituency who will already be asking for his head on a plate (my paraphrase) for approving the first 2 panels. He mentioned specific donors who may be angry, and even quoted the amounts of money involved.

Though I met with the president hoping to change his mind, he persuaded me that he made his decision with care and feeling, not for any reasons of political expediency.

The president expressed to me that he does not believe homosexual relationships are ever compatible with Christian faith, are always outside the will of God, and therefore harmful to the spiritual lives of individuals who engage in them. He believes the term "homosexual Christian" is an oxymoron, and expressed his belief that some students may choose homosexual relationships if they encounter a person who self-identifies as a "gay Christian." He feels it would be potentially harmful to bring people who claim to be gay Christians into contact with Houghton students, and that is the reason he did not approve the panel. It was not to satisfy any rich donors (indeed most of the invited panelists are donors). It came from his concern for the spiritual lives of Houghton students.

6. The president doesn't think people should ever talk about this issue - FALSE. The president told me he thinks a classroom setting where a professor would take several weeks to prepare students for an encounter with people who call themselves gay Christians may be a better way to bring to campus homosexuals who can describe their personal experiences.

7. Homosexual alumni are never welcome at Houghton - FALSE. In my many conversations about this I never personally encountered anyone who stated outright that homosexual Houghton alumni are to be excluded from visiting our community. The director of alumni relations is specifically interested in keeping them engaged in Houghton events; and many faculty and staff I spoke with maintain warm and caring friendships with gay alumni. No one has told me a homosexual alum would be excluded from chapel, worship services, campus tours, alumni weekends, concerts, sporting events, or any other open Houghton function.

Though I wish the administration had approved the panel we planned, I was pleased to hear that the president does not believe cruelty of language or action toward homosexuals should be tolerated. The 2 panels that the administration approved for next week on this topic will hopefully move our community toward kindness and peace without encouraging anyone to give up their moral convictions.

I'm glad to answer any other questions about my role in this matter. You can contact me at dave.huth@houghton.edu

Cordially,
Dave Huth
Class of '95

The other day as I was waiting to print something out at the Print Center, I noticed a flier on a nearby wall encouraging students to vote against the constitutional amendment that has lately received so much press. No sooner had I noticed it than a member of the SGA cabinet walked by, noticed the flier, promptly ripped it off the wall, and threw it in the trash. I do not feel the need to name the specific cabinet member, but I do feel that it reflects very poorly on the Houghton student government. SGA members are elected and, as such, have a responsibility to the students whom they represent. That responsibility does not include ripping down fliers that they do not agree with. Such acts suggest a lack of personal integrity and a lack of commitment to the opinions of fellow students. While I generally appreciate the hard work of SGA and do not mean to indict every individual in the cabinet, I do think the student body reserves the right to hold its representatives accountable.

Andrew Schrock

AUSTIN TIME

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

BY CHRISTOPHER AUSTIN

STAFF WRITER WHO MISSED THE DAYS IN SECOND GRADE WHEN HIS CLASS LEARNED CURSIVE

This Week's Topic:

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING LITERATE

Over my mind-expanding years of college at Houghton and public education in the thriving town of Webster New York I know I have learned one thing for sure - the sincere and grave significance of literacy and all that literacy stands for. Greatness in communications stem from the ability to read and write (i.e. literacy).

Renata and I went to Albany for a wedding on Saturday. We drove about 4 hours and 15 minutes and arrived at the church half an hour before the wedding. Strangely, only one other person was in the parking lot, puffing away on his cigarette and fiddling with his truck. The church was locked. First Baptist was not screaming out "WEDDING HERE TODAY!" at us, and this was curious because the invitation said it was starting at 3:00, and no one was there at 2:30. Now we see how literacy comes into play - the invitation also said March 27th, not March 20th. Our poor exercise of the literacy talent...well, actually, my poor exercise led us to an 8 and half hour tour of New York State, 2 tanks of gas and \$6.25 in tolls with nothing to show but a higher odometer reading on my car.

So, my first piece of advice is to learn how to read cursive if you are getting a wedding invitation, because sometimes that's what happens. I am just lucky the wedding wasn't in California.

Another key part of literacy is being able to write. I once wrote something so that people could use their literacy to read it, but it was taken out of the paper, well, edited out I should say. This was because I was complaining, as I so often do, but I actually directed my complaint at someone. Now, I may or may not have been right in putting down someone's name, but the fact of the matter is, I was censored. I have noticed a sign in the campus center stating that the Star is the student's uncensored paper, and yet I find this is not the case. Granted, not everything should be printed, but if not everything can be printed, then one should not have the gall to call it uncensored because that is a flat out lie, and I proved it by having my article censored for content.

I would write more about this, but it would be out of bitterness and not out of healthy criticism, so I will not continue. Suffice it to say that I hope the paper will maintain its status as a student-led publication as opposed to a tool of the public relations department. They have done that pretty well in the past and I respect that.

For now, I encourage you to use your literacy in your own ways. Write letters to the Star if you think something is wrong, or if you think something is right, or anything in between because criticism is good for improvement. It is difficult to affect change if no one says something is wrong. Criticism is painful, but in my opinion, something necessary to allow improvement in so many aspects of our earthly lives. And someone write me some more questions because it is hard to come up with my own topic every week. And when I say someone write me questions, I don't mean for you to write those dumb little napkins with annoying questions on them like Roger Farney creates at his lunch table and sends everyday.

In conclusion, just be thinking about your own views of censorship and of course, your stance on literacy. Literacy is a growing divide between people these days, so pick a side and stick with it. The key word of today is **Compaq**, because where would we be without them?

EDITORIAL

What Would Willard Do?

by Christopher Stanley

Tradition. Every time I hear that song from Fiddler on the Roof, I think of the sight it would be to have a few of our Deans sing that song at SPOT. There are a lot of traditions at Houghton College. I'm sure we've all heard of them time and time again. I suppose there are some traditions worth keeping, such as a chapel requirement (sorry, Dan Perrine), but other traditions are pretty useless, such as the "no dancing" policy. I decided to use the Ask Willard service while it was up and running last year and ask where that policy came from. Sadly, I was quoted some spiel from Willard J. Houghton. Great. Nothing frustrates me more than having to live by some ancient tradition conjured up by the same guy who thought that playing cards were evil. Is this really who should make our rules? Because if so, we need to start publicizing that. Some people have told me that dancing could lead to immoral acts. Pray tell! What kinds of immoral acts? I went to all the dances at my school since 8th grade, and I never heard of any "immoral acts" happening afterwards; and my school was a public one. I know what professors are thinking right now: "Don't be an idiot, Stanley, you know what we mean by 'immoral acts'." Yeah, I do, and it's nonsense.

What kind of dancing was around back then? It was ballroom dancing, maybe even the tango as well. What does ballroom dancing lead to? Probably a romantic walk around the Quad. Uh-oh. It's not like male-female relationships don't get enough promotion on the campus already. The tango and salsa dancing can be pretty sensual, I suppose, but when the dance is done properly, with excitement and vigor, students will probably be too worn out to think about anything else. How about disco or line-dancing? Willard knew how rowdy those dances could get, didn't he? For the sake of reasonable debate, I am going to leave off the forms of "dirty dancing" that are more commonly practiced at clubs and such because I would agree that those forms of dancing probably don't belong on the campus, let alone on a dance floor.

Let us be realistic for a moment. If the college were to host a ball or a "box-social" or two per semester (probably associated with some kind of fundraiser as well, as is usual with college-sponsored events), or even allow the classes to host dances on-campus, it would probably be the most romantic thing a student at Houghton would attend in his or her college career, not to mention an easy way for the college to score some cash and points with the student body. I think it's time to call out this policy for what it really is: A now-archaic rule instituted by someone who probably meant well over a hundred years ago. It is a regulation that's sole existence today can be attributed to the fear of letting young people enjoy themselves in a college setting. Is Houghton College really afraid to try something new?

I'm told that in Christian college circles, Houghton is thought of as one of the more "liberal" schools. I think that's great. There's always someone at the front of the line helping move others towards the future that lies ahead. If there wasn't, everyone else would be stuck in the past.

SPEEDER BIKES WILL SOON SUPPLEMENT THE COLLEGE'S FLEET OF TRENDY RECRUITING VEHICLES. SAYS UNNAMED STAFFER, "PT CRUISERS ARE SO LAST YEAR!"



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LETTER GUIDELINES

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The STAR, CPO Box 378
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NCAA March Madness Contest Update

BY JOSH MILLER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Well, there was much weeping and gnashing of teeth at the Miller household this weekend as my hometown heroes—the Kentucky Wildcats—were knocked out of the tournament with a last-second shot by UAB. But I know I'm not the only one in mourning. The early exits of Gonzaga and

Stanford have crippled many of the submitted brackets, as has UK's loss. Here are the current standings.

(Also, I decided to fill out a bracket myself to see how I'd stack up against the competition. Don't worry; I won't take your Big Al's Bucks. And even if I was competing, I had to go with the Cats, so I wouldn't have been much of a threat.)

IN THE HUNT

Robert Erbeling	4700
Peter Pasieka	4700
Jesse Crikelair	4600
Brian Middleton	4600
Elizabeth Overhauser	4600
David Musselman	4500
Elizabeth Weaver	4500
Kyle Crocker	4400
Anthony Gryckiewicz	4400
Kirby Schuler	4400
Brett Sherwood	4400
Kelcey Stack	4400
D. Elliott Tait	4400
Elaine Tooley	4400

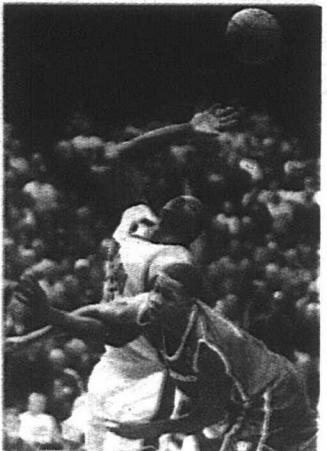
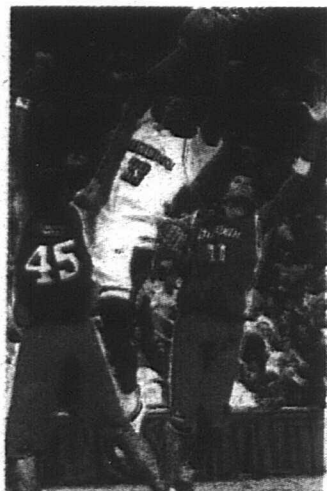
STILL CHASING THE PRIZE

Autumn Bailey	4300
Daniel Fuller	4300
Kelly Mazzeo	4300
Steve Rudd	4300
Lindsey VanVoorhis	4300
Rob Campbell	4200
Nick Furman	4200
Joel Hamilton	4200
Larry Petry	4200
Adam Steen	4200
David Truesdell	4200
Laura Cadden	4100
Joshua Grimm	4100
Sam Johnson	4000
Adam Kline	4000
David Lewis	4000
Robert Mayle	4000
*Josh Miller	4000
Keith Parker, Jr.	4000
Jared Reinhardt	4000
Michael Russell	4000
Andrew Sonnekab	4000
Danny Visger	4000
Adam Buczek	3900
Eric Jankov	3900
Ruth Kroeger	3900
Melissa Murray	3900
Kyle Nagy	3900
Lindsay Kucwicz	3800
Mike Fraher	3700
Joanne Grimm	3700
Jordan Matteson	3700
Daniel Róorda	3700

NEEDS GOOD SWEET 16

Lisa Poore	3600
Billy Stokes	3600
Justin Pauley	3500
Josh Hazelton	3300
Sarah Kuziomko	3200
Rachel Moran	3100
Dustin Newman	3100
Stephanie Pocock	3100
Aleshia Ellinsson	2800
Liz Sands	2600
Mike Mordenga	2500
Chris Nafziger	2300
Jon Davidson	1900

*ineligible for prizes



-- TECH CORNER --

by DAN PERRINE

Deal Me In

Now, I'm sure that some of you read that title and are immediately concerned that I'm going to write an article discussing how to pay for next year's tuition increase through on-line gambling. You have nothing to fear; I read my community responsibilities, and I know that, while spending a ridiculous amount of money on a pointless coffeehouse just to try and shut out WJSL is "good stewardship," participating in mathematical games of chance for fun and profit is an abomination before God... anyway, I'm getting sidetracked again. Today's column is about how to get cool stuff really cheap online.

Sales are an instrumental part of our consumerist economy. Now, if you go to a Tops grocery store like the one I used to work at, "sale" means "raise the prices really high, then reduce them a little bit and call it a deal." A few companies, however, have scruples, and actually offer you good deals at fairly regular intervals. The problem is there's usually a fairly narrow window of time where you can take advantage of these offers. Usually, you only find out about sweet deals when a friend walks into your room and tells you about something you really wanted that he or she was able to get really cheap because they caught the last hour of the sale two days ago. This is where your constant companion (who, contrary to the popular myth perpetuated by MSN, is NOT incarnated as a fat blue butterfly) the Internet comes to your rescue. There are quite a few websites out there that specialize in publicizing sales as soon as they're discovered, often even providing you the coupon code you need to take advantage of them. Perhaps the best-known is www.fatwallet.com, which has occasionally been sued by companies that are upset when thousands of people take advantage of a sale they hadn't intended on making widely-known (as a rule of thumb, if someone is being sued by a large company for monetary damages, chances are they just did something beneficial to society). Another one, www.hot-deals.org, updates several times daily and offers good descriptions of the deals available. If you're interested in looking for long-running sales, www.dealmein.net has extensive archives, although be aware most of the listed offers have probably expired. These are just three of my favorites; a quick Google search will turn up plenty more.

Lastly, I'd like to thank everyone who voted me in as STAR chief-editor for next year. Although I was running uncontested, the margin of yes to no votes was much closer than you would probably imagine, so your support is very much appreciated. I look forward to working with you next semester on the propositions I put forward in my platform. Until then, I'll keep trying to make your computing life just a little easier!

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

OK. When can I start?

If you're up to the challenge of a year-round outdoor adventure, being a Youth Counselor at an Eckerd Youth Alternatives wilderness camp may just be the perfect job for you. Get paid to canoe, backpack and make friends that you'll keep for life. If you have the patience and dedication to help turn an at-risk kid's life around, we'd like to talk with you. Excellent salary and benefits plus paid training. Free room and board. As a Youth Counselor, you'll make more than a living. You'll make a difference. ARE YOU READY?

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