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More than Just a Building

On April 8th, 2006 the chapel is scheduled to close for the remainder of the semester so that renovations can begin. Once students return from Spring Break, the chapel will no longer be available for student use through the end of the year. This poses a problem for six chapels, senior Organ recitals, Baccalaureate, Senior SPOT and the commencement ceremony. The chapel is scheduled to re-open on August 1st, assuming everything goes exactly as planned.

The timing for these renovations, while proving to be controversial, is not without reason. Last year, the Chapel Enhancements Task Force was formed to oversee the renovations and all aspects of

this project. Their recommended time table took into account all those who use the chapel, and the current schedule was decided upon because it least impacted the use of the space for academic programs. It was, according to those on the committee, the best compromise that could be reached. The committee itself, chaired by Dr. Britain, Dean of the Chapel, was comprised of members from each of the groups impacted by the renovations with the exception of members from the current senior class, because of the three student representatives, all were seniors and graduated last year.

In response, Dr. Britain mentioned, "Was it an oversight?

Yes, it was. Was it a serious oversight? Yes, it was. Was it some grand plan to disenfranchise the class? No." Most all involved in making the decision have acknowledged that in hindsight, there should have been someone on that committee to voice the concerns of the current senior class. Dr. Chamberlain, President of the College, stated, "The schedule is forced upon us by the nature of renovation, not by any insensitivity to seniors."

After a class meeting in the beginning of the semester, two seniors, Amy Schiller and Jessie Trump, decided to research the decision process and the alternative options open to the senior class for graduation activities as a project for their PR class. After interviewing Wayne MacBeth, Vice President for Student Life, Jeff Spear, Vice

President of Finance, and Dr. Britain, the two seniors have mentioned that they have met with contradicting facts and reasoning regarding this issue. According to Schiller, "All these people are telling different stories, aren't telling us the same information, aren't on the same page, are communicating different things to different students on different issues about why its being done." Even now, Trump says, "We still don't know all the information."

The *Star* found during recent interviews with MacBeth, Britain and Dr. Darlene Bressler, Associate Academic Dean, that all now state the same reasons for the timing of the renovations. However, Spear refused a request to be interviewed because he was "not in a position

(cont'd on pg 7)

Homecoming

A season to commemorate the patriarch of a family who has been involved in this community for the past three decades.



After nearly thirty years of dedicated service, President Daniel R. Chamberlain will be retiring this spring. To commemorate his leadership and allow the student body the privilege of a more detailed look

at his life and service here at the College, the *Star* will print several stories from his period of presidential leadership at Houghton College. As Homecoming approaches, it is only fitting that the story be told of President Chamberlain's call to serve here and its impact on his family.

In their eighth year serving at Messiah, the position for president of Houghton College became available. Neither Daniel Chamberlain, nor his wife, Joyce, wished to move from their place in Grantham, PA. However, he was encouraged by several interested parties to apply for the position. This direction came especially from Dr. Herbert Stevenson, a man who, according to President Chamberlain, "understood in his bones what a Christian

liberal arts school was about". Dr. Herbert was the father of Dr. Daryl Stevenson, current chair of the department of Psychology and Sociology.

Though he was reluctant to leave Messiah, the persistence of the requests impressed upon Dr. Chamberlain the urgency of the Holy Spirit. He resolved to apply if Houghton College extended the invitation once more, keeping this conviction between himself and his wife. This was an unlikely event, in Dr. Chamberlain's understanding, as Houghton College had already begun interviewing their other applicants. As God would have it, Stevenson did ask Dr. Chamberlain to consider the position once more; so, he submitted his application to the college and Houghton's search committee welcomed him to the post.

At this time, the Chamberlains had been married for twenty-four years. According to President

Chamberlain, their seven children "came in rapid fire order", since all were born within a nine year period. The eldest two sons had already attended and graduated from college, while their third son was currently attending.

Their next oldest, Priscilla, was a senior in high school and had expressed a desire to go to a university where her father was not a part of the administration. Since she was looking for a college that participated in intercollegiate athletics and with a strong pre-medicine program, the Chamberlains explored Houghton College. Her father tells us that when Priscilla visited, she appreciated the community, adored the people, and decided to attend.

Upon reaching the decision to accept the presidency of the college, the Chamberlains offered to help Priscilla find another college to fulfill her earlier desire. How-

(cont'd on pg 2)

(Chamberlain, cont'd pg 1)

ever, her choice was also final. So, her parents simply arranged for her to live in the dorms in order to enjoy as complete an independent college experience as possible. Before the Chamberlains and their three younger daughters moved to Houghton, Priscilla went ahead for the pre-season training of the field hockey team.

The Chamberlains had decided to move themselves from Pennsylvania. The family packed two trailers to hitch to an equally filled truck and car. This small but noteworthy caravan snaked its way north to Houghton. The house in which they were to live is the very same in which Dr. Benjamin King currently resides, then owned by the College for the President's use.

The entire women's field hockey team, including Priscilla and current education professor Connie Finney, waited to welcome and unload their burdens. It was one of the most memorable parts of the beginning for President Chamberlain. He tells how grateful their family was for the girls' help, and says their introduction to "people that thoughtful, that helpful and that joyful...was delightful". The Chamberlains enjoyed the beginning of their relationship with the team members, which continued through out the students' seasons at Houghton College.

For their youngest three, the move to Houghton offered the choice of attending the Academy which was a high school at that time. All three of them did spend their high school years there, though the youngest went to Fillmore public school for her eighth grade year. Their family's involvement in the school continued, as one of their granddaughters and a niece came to live with them and attend. In addition, the Chamberlains opened their home to two Chinese girls, (to whom they refer as daughters), going to Houghton Academy.

From this hamlet, all who passed through their household spread out in the world. President Chamberlain says, "Of our children, no two live in the same state and none in New York." Indeed, they are spread far and wide, from Hawaii to Georgia, from Costa

Rica to Michigan, from the tiny village of Roxbury, Pennsylvania to the bustling urban center of Beijing, China. Many have elected careers in the field of academia, becoming teachers, principals, and directors of programs. Almost all others pursued a place in the field of medicine, with degrees in nursing or pathology. One became a graphic design artist. Their fields are distinctly service-oriented, reflecting values instilled in them by their parents' lives; they serve their communities with the same commitment modeled to them by President and Mrs. Chamberlain.

They have been returning to this community often to connect again with one another and their parents, who sent them into the world. Everyone but their Chinese daughter, who currently lives in Beijing, is arriving on campus for Homecoming weekend.

To increase this fellowship between the families, family reunions are held every other year in

the summertime. The Chamberlains have twenty-two grandchildren through their seven children and four by their two Chinese daughters. These sizable reunions are held in various locations throughout the United States.

Many of their activities are purely for fun, such as selecting musicals as themes for talent nights featuring individual families and designing t-shirts color-coded for each. However, they also use their energy, being "a very athletic family," to perform acts of service wherever they gather. President Chamberlain recalls one summer when they hosted a competition between families to see "who could collect the most debris from the beach as a public service." It is not difficult to believe that the energy they pour into volleyball games that last until midnight would have a significant impact on any environment.

By identifying the Chamberlains' impact on the lives of their children and attitudes toward ser-

vice, we as a community are impacted by the same expectations. Effects of their creative leadership are evident in their family members' appreciation of one another and involvement in their communities. This same impact on Houghton College is made through President Chamberlain's headship of the institution, as he skillfully guides those to whom he has dedicated his service. ♦

-Victoria Kempton
Staff Writer



For more information about President Chamberlain's retirement, landmarks of his presidency, and the search for a successor, visit the website: www.houghton.edu/retirement.

Corrections to last week's edition:
"Women's Soccer"
written by Emily Furman.
Heading Design by Kelsey Harro.

Branching Out

Episcopal Ministry in Allegany County



Among the proliferation of Methodist and Baptist churches in the area around Houghton, it can be easy to miss the six, small Episcopal churches that are spread throughout the county. Allegany County Episcopal Ministry (ACEM), an organization of six individual churches united under one ministry, is a community oriented ministry that reaches out to the whole community in the Church, the workplace, and the schools. There are six different congregations: St. Paul's in Angelica, Christ Church in Bolivar, St. Andrew's in Friendship, St. Phillip's in Belmont, St. John's in Wellsville, and Christ Church in Cuba, and four ACEM clergy. Dawn Barrett is the full-time pastor and is supported by three part-time pastors who all have regular jobs during the week. Because ACEM

has six different congregations in six very different areas, they have the unique opportunity to reach out to a variety of people in a variety of ways.

Each congregation has its own unique ministry. St. Phillip's is focused on its children's ministry. They have the greatest number of young families and so, has been able to develop its children's Sunday school to a greater degree than the other congregations. St. John's has a program that reaches out to needy children in the schools, offering assistance for medical and school needs. St. Andrew's offers free meals for the poor on school holidays, and has their next opportunity for this service coming up on October 10. Christ Church in Cuba is very active in the diocese, as well as the national and international Church.

These are just a few highlights of what is offered by these small but vital churches. The beautiful buildings and the timeless liturgy that is centered around the Eucharist create a worship service that is different from what many Houghton students know. St. Paul's, St. Andrew's, and Christ Church in Bolivar offer 9:00 services, and St. John's, St. Phillip's, and Christ Church in Cuba offer 11:00 services. ♦

-Laura Kristofferson
Staff Writer





Reverend Ortlip Remembered

Reverend Henry Ortlip of Houghton, NY passed into eternity on September 26, 2005 and will be truly missed in this community. He and his wife Elizabeth have spent their retirement years in Houghton after many years of service on foreign mission fields.

Henry was born on August 15, 1918 to parents Willard and Aimee Ortlip. One of seven children, Mr. Ortlip would often jokingly say he was the only Ortlip devoid of artistic talent. Two of his sisters, Aileen Ortlip Shea and Marjorie Ortlip Stockin, taught at Houghton in the art department. Their work still hangs in Stevens

Art Studios, and the gallery in the Center for Fine Arts bears the family's name.

Henry and his wife Elizabeth both graduated from Houghton, and shortly after Henry was ordained a minister in 1945, the couple began their journey into a life of service for the Lord. Their commitment to the gospel compelled them to learn Mandarin and to travel to China. However, when communism overtook the country, they were forced to leave. Not deterred, they took an assignment in Haiti, where they remained until 1984 as faithful teachers, administrators, and hosts.

In retirement Rev. Ortlip and

Elizabeth were a constant presence at recitals, art openings, and the concert series. The Ortlips often hosted both students and parents in their home. Rev. Ortlip made numerous trips to Haiti with Houghton groups, serving on medical, dental, and evangelistic teams. The Ortlips were avid Highlander fans, often seen at basketball, volleyball, and especially soccer games. Their sons were graduates of Houghton, achieving the honor of All-American athletes for their skill on the soccer field. Their daughter Dr. Karen Daugherty, her husband, dentist David Daugherty, and family have relocated to Houghton after years of service in Africa.

Hebrews 12:1 commands with these words, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses let us throw off everything that hinders and the

sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." As students and community members of Houghton, we are truly blessed to be surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses. These saints, often seen at prayer meetings, chapel, and recitals, are an encouragement to live a life of faith. Henry and Elizabeth Ortlip, Gus and Lousie Princell, Hershal Ries, and Warren and Ella Woolsey are a few of those saints. It is a joy to learn from their wisdom and an encouragement to know that many of them pray for students and faculty daily.

Henry Ortlip was an example of Christ's love, a kingdom hero, a prayer warrior, and a blessing to all who knew him. He will be greatly missed. ♦

-Charlotte Keniston
Guest Writer



Divinely inspired cause and effect:

As related by President Chamberlain, the origin of the CFA and graduate program in the School of Music.

Of all the developments on campus which President Chamberlain oversaw, the most personally satisfying of these was the development of the new Center for the Arts building, which was completed in Fall 1999 and the following establishment of a graduate program in music. As he says, "it was a long time needed and done in a way that pleased me immensely." Prefacing the narrative, President Chamberlain said that he believed there to be a causal relationship between these events, though he humbly admits that it may just be the years he has lived here that led him to contemplate a correlation.

At the time President Chamberlain received his post, one promise the institution had previously made to the student body was to prioritize the construction of a new building for the School of Music. The old location had little insulation between practice rooms, so each individual playing would be able to hear those on either side. This was especially evident in the warmer months, when open windows exacerbated the problem and unleashed a flood of jumbled sound onto the quad. President Chamberlain describes the building as having "almost no acoustics at all, sometimes called cacophony hall." Each musician might play brilliantly alone, but the mesh of

fragmented music created by the lack of appropriate structures was chaotic.

President Chamberlain was "eager to see a facility that matched the kind of program we have". The School of Music, noted for high musical standards and astounding quality, has been accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music since 1946. When the construction of the new building was complete, President Chamberlain insisted students and faculty to perform at the dedicative service. While he recognized that professionals might usually be brought in from outside the community, he wanted to honor and exercise the talents which had made the construction necessary.

Wilson and Eleanor Greatbatch, who were invited to the service, were sitting in the audience with the Chamberlains. The closing piece at the dedicatory service was the *Messiah*. An invitation was extended to any members of the audience who had performed the piece to join the choir, as a stack of scores was made available. President Chamberlain and Wilson Greatbatch left their seats and elected to participate. At the conclusion of the piece, Mr. Greatbatch was greatly moved. As President Chamberlain recalls it, he leaned over and remarked, "Dan, Houghton

is ready for a graduate program in music."

In the reception following, held in the atrium of the Center for the Arts, Greatbatch repeated this sentiment to several others. President Chamberlain asked his friend about his seriousness, and today says, "Bill replied: 'Just get me a proposal.'" In response, President Chamberlain approached the music faculty requesting a preliminary proposal be drawn up. He admonished them that a graduate program "dare not weaken the undergraduate, but indeed it must strengthen it".

When the draft was complete, the proposal revealed that the necessary equipment, additional faculty, and materials would cost an approximate 15 million dollars. President Chamberlain received this and made arrangements to take his friends to lunch, expecting that they would review the proposal and offer a piece to begin the process. He says, "I would never have asked for a fifteen million dollar gift."

To President Chamberlain's surprise, Wilson and Eleanor expressed no amazement at such an amount. He told them to take "six months or so, and pray about it," but they responded that they would not need quite so much time. Within a month, the Greatbatches contacted the president, informing him of their decision to proceed and a final proposal was designed for review.

Both Wilson and Eleanor Greatbatch were interested in the

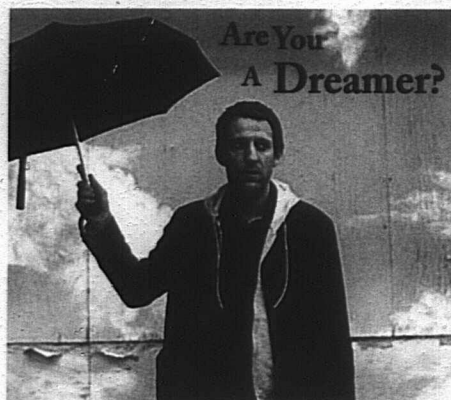
School of Music, but Eleanor expressed more particular support. Of the gift, she told President Chamberlain that they were merely "doing the easy part; we're just giving the money." When Eleanor was in high school, the Houghton College Choir came to her church to give a performance. President Chamberlain says, "I will never forget the word she used [to describe the affect of that performance on her] - she said she was 'smitten' with their music."

The graduate program in the School of Music was founded in Fall 2004, much to our presidents' delight. To mark the building's completion, students performed a blessing at the dedicative service, prompting Wilson Greatbatch to consider the possibility that the College now enjoys as a reality.

Indeed, the timing may be coincidental, though it seems a more likely reflection, following President Chamberlain's thoughts, that the events are related. The reputation of excellence among Houghton College's music students throughout the decades, as well as the desire to offer our voices and instruments in dedication and the contributions of generous hearts, have resulted in the first graduate program Houghton College offers. ♦

-Victoria Kempton
Staff Writer





Are you a dreamer? That is the question that up-and-coming musician Denison Witmer poses to his listeners as he plays his mellow, nostalgic, memory-invoking tunes that will melt your frost-bitten, Western New York hearts. Witmer, who performed here two years ago along with Rosie Thomas, is returning to Houghton on October 10th for a coffeehouse performance co-sponsored by CAB and the Lanthorn. In addition to Thomas, he has toured and performed with the likes of The Innocence Mission, Copeland, Sufjan Stevens, and other laudable musicians. His most recent album, released this summer, is his first CD under the label The Militia Group. He is also making appearances in Border's Bookstores around the country and can be heard in the background at Starbucks around the world because his songs were selected to be on the company's music mix. Before you know it he'll be popping up on the OC.

I missed out on Denison last time he was on campus, but I was lucky enough to see him in concert this past July at a small standing-room only venue in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was with Rainer Maria and Copeland. Standing front and center under Witmer, I was instantly enthralled with this soft-spoken man and his sweet "aw shucks" personality. He may not have a forceful or demanding attitude like some emerging musical artists today, but his incredible stage presence cannot be denied. In his unassuming way, he is able to take and hold his audience's hearts captive while he sings his soul-baring melodies. His conversational and narrative lyrics are engaging and unpredictable, making it easy to relate to him. In addition to performing, Witmer is going to give tips on writing, and it should be an amazing opportunity for all of you aspiring musicians.

So pull out your planner, and make a special note on the date of October 10th to come down to the Campus Center and enjoy some fresh-baked goods and inspiring music. If he asks for requests from the audience and you don't know what songs to yell out, I suggest "Stations," "Are You Lonely," or "I Tried to Make You Smile," some of my favorites. Even when he is singing about heartache, Denison Witmer plays songs you can fall in love to—so bring a date. ♦

-Rachel Varughese
Staff Writer



Films from the Library

Humphrey Bogart's influence on Hollywood is undeniable. Appearing in 80 films throughout the 30's, 40's and 50's, Bogart was serious about his art and not only epitomized the Hollywood hero but gave us riveting and extraordinary performances, winning Academy Awards and eventually starting his own production company. The classic star lives on as an important figure in cinematic history starring in such classics as *Casablanca*, *The African Queen*, *The Caine Mutiny* and the two films we review for you this week.

The Treasure of the Sierra Madre

In this 1948 black and white classic, Bogart plays a character much different from his typical heroes. It is an adventure rich with action that serves to test and unveil the complexities of the main characters. Through these trials, we see the effects of avarice and greed, as Bogart's character, "Fred C. Dobbs," is driven deeper into insanity and will do whatever it takes to keep his riches.

A down and out Dobbs meets another broke American, Bob Curtin (Tim Holt) in Tampico in 1925. After earning a little money, they decide to team up with an old prospector named Howard (Walter Huston) and set out to mine for gold. Disregarding Howard's warnings about the effects of gold on men's souls, the three journey into the unknown and battle jungle Indians, fellow prospectors, and bandits who boast in one of the film's most famous lines, "don't need no stinking badges."

The wonderful portrayal of "Howard," for which Walter Huston won an Academy Award, is a delight to watch. The grizzled old prospector dances, laughs and, through the plot's twists of surprise and irony, shows himself to be a reliable and enjoyable character trying to help Bogart's refreshingly intricate, unglamorous "Dobbs" resist his greed.

The adventure and action in the movie is perfectly echoed by the wonderful characters that make *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* a different breed of action film that we are not used to today. Filled with compelling honesty and attention to detail, this film sets itself apart from today's simplistic action movies. Oscar-winning director John Huston brings all his skills to bear to tell this story. From foreshadowing and irony to lighting and changing make up, everything works together to capture the essence of the men's relationship with each other and the obstacles they face. ♦

-Adam Sukhia
Columnist



The Big Sleep

Bogart's most famous leading lady is Lauren Bacall, the cat-eyed siren whom he eventually married. Their on-screen chemistry in the film noir classic *The Big Sleep* is unforgettable, arguably their best film together next to the great Hemingway adaptation *To Have and Have Not* (which is also in our library, though currently off the shelves for repair). The screenplay for *The Big Sleep* is also an adaptation of a pulp fiction novel of the same name by Raymond Chandler, adapted for the screen by a team of writers led by one of America's greatest novelists, William Faulkner. It is not surprising, then, that one of main strengths of this film is the writing, specifically the dialogue. Bacall and Bogie's exchanges are well paced and planned, and the undeniable influence of Faulkner's style sparks off the screen in the speeches of the decrepit old "General Sternwood," who speaks in the stoically recollective diction of Faulkner's doomed Compson family.

Yet it is not just snappy dialogue that makes *The Big Sleep* a classic in the film noir genre. The minimalist composition that director Howard Hawks uses in his shots is vividly stark, and the black and white tones compliment the lighting perfectly. If you are a fan of minute cinematic detail, the lighting is a real treat in this film. It certainly does not attempt to make Bogie a better looking man (a feat not easily attempted) but instead utilizes his craggy facial features to cement the character, Bogie's most famous: Phillip Marlowe, the Private Dick.

The plot in *The Big Sleep* is almost undecipherable. It takes so many twists and turns that if you try to follow it, you're liable to get whiplash. What is great about the film, is that when most plots would resolve themselves, it progressively unwinds. This is typical of film noir, the greatest examples being the Roman Polanski film, *Chinatown*, and the more recent Cohen Brothers film, *The Man who Wasn't There*. Essentially Kafka novels with tommy guns, these films are like existential essays that don't seek to convince necessarily; they just highlight the walls of the maze. ♦

-Beave Sorenson
Columnist





Broken for you

In the grocery store
the woman behind the folding table
nudges a little clear cup
streaked yellow with cheesecake
towards the edge.
"Go ahead, take it."

Beneath her latex gloved left hand
a blue sign with white print advertised,

'you won't understand till you try it.'

looking at the woman's curly mop of hair
bunched in a cloth net
I see Jesus
stretching his arm across a table,
a broken piece of bread
between his fingers.

Holding the slick smooth plastic
I pick up the tiny spoon
and taste the sample.
A disciple, feeling the soft
sweetness smooth against my tongue
molding into the contours of my mouth
and now,
I understand.

Adam Sukhia

Featured Artist: *Hi Uan Kang*

Installation piece by senior Hi Uan Kang, raked stoneware. To make this piece, Kang took a plaster cast of a classmate's feet. She coated them with vaseline to prevent the mold from sticking and then poured liquid plaster around them. The hardening process takes several hours, requiring the model to sit absolutely still. The chemical reaction between the plaster and water releases just enough heat to give the model a psychological scare, but although there have been reported incidents of lost eyebrows when plastering on the face has been attempted, casting through this method is usually fairly safe.

Kang coated the inside of the mold with torn pieces of clay. After the first firing, she re-heated it in an outdoor raku kiln and then smothered it in a trash can full of sawdust to achieve a reduction finish. Both techniques involve a certain amount of randomness, which Kang says contributed to the overall effect. "I was initially planning to smooth out the lines, but I found that I liked the marks of the process, the jaggedness," she says.

"I wanted this to be seen in terms of a short, curving path, somebody walking somewhere, and people relating somehow with that journey" she explains. "I wasn't saying this was necessarily my journey or anything like that. I wanted people to connect themselves to something in it, whatever that may be."

This piece is unusual in Kang's body of work because it is explicitly figurative. "I do what I do because I'm interested in beautiful lines and the relationships between multiple forms. I'm always looking for a pure line, a line that doesn't seem to be made by human hands."

Her work is often inspired by nature, but she prefers to convey "the beauty and wonder" she feels in a more abstract way, rather than attempting to recreate an observed object in a realistic way. "I would say that my pieces are more about the aesthetics than the concepts," says Kang. "I'm fascinated by the shapes I find in nature, the relationships between shapes, and I want to bring those relationships into a context where people can focus on that beauty for its own sake." ♦

-Kelsey Harro



Opinion

Republican Party Rocked by Scandals

As if the Republican party didn't have enough trouble on its hands with record low public support for the Iraq misadventure and the bungled federal management of Katrina, now some of its most powerful members are facing criminal charges.

This past Thursday, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay was indicted on criminal conspiracy charges. On Monday, he was indicted on charges of money laundering. The Texas Republican is credited with shepherding some of the party's more controversial legislation through the House. Both indictments stem from accusations that DeLay schemed to bypass Texas laws governing political campaign financing in order to raise money for Republicans in the Texas legislature. DeLay has denied any wrongdoing, and has lashed out at the prosecuting District Attorney, Ronnie Earle, as a "partisan fanatic". Ironically,

while Earle is a Democrat, eight of the twelve politicians he has investigated during his tenure as DA have also been Democrats. The indictments have forced DeLay to at least temporarily step down as House Majority Leader, although he retains his seat in Congress. Roy Blunt (R-Missouri) has been appointed to stand in for him. If convicted, DeLay faces a maximum of two years in prison.

All is not well for Republicans in the Senate either. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist is currently under investigation for selling his shares in the Hospital Corporation of America (which, under Senate conflict-of-interest rules, he should not even have known he owned as Senators are required to place stocks in a blind trust that supposedly prevents them from knowing how their own financial situation will be impacted by their legislative decisions) two weeks before a lowered earnings

report caused a sharp drop in the company's shares. The Securities and Exchange Commission has upgraded its investigation of the incident to "formal" as it searches for evidence of insider trading (the same activity of which Martha Stewart was convicted).

Meanwhile, the investigation into the Plame Affair continues. The identity of Valerie Plame as a covert CIA operative was leaked to the press shortly after her husband, former Ambassador Joseph Wilson, wrote an op-ed piece in the *New York Times* accusing the Bush administration of "exaggerating the Iraqi threat" in order to spur the country to war. Independent Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald is currently investigating the source of this leak, which has been asserted to be an act of political vengeance by Bush's senior political advisor, Karl Rove, for Wilson's criticism of the administration. Other major administration figures alleged to be involved with the leak include Dick Cheney's chief of staff Lewis Libby and former White House press secretary Ari Fleisher.

Lastly, the Government Accountability Office just recently found the Bush administration guilty of illegal, covert propaganda

for paying journalist Armstrong Williams \$186,000 to write newspaper columns and do TV and radio spots in support of the controversial "No Child Left Behind" act, which has been widely criticized by teachers for making huge demands and providing little to no funding. The Department of Education is also accused of producing 21 videos, designed to look like news reports, that supported the act. Under US law, government agencies must identify themselves as the source when releasing information; these videos contained no such identification and, in fact, went out of their way to look like honest journalism instead of government-released political stumps.

Barely a year away from the 2006 Congressional elections, widespread scandal could be catastrophic for Republicans at the polls, giving Democrats an opportunity to narrow or even reverse Republican control of the two houses of Congress. ♦

-Dan Perrine
Columnist



On Christian Politics

In dealing with the question of Christianity and politics many people seem to limit discussion to theorizing about how Christians should interact with politics. This, however, is the wrong question. Whether we admit it or not, we are all involved in politics. We are all part of an organized community, or polity and, therefore, are inescapably involved in politics—the relationships and workings by which a polity is organized. Whether we like it or not, we have been created to be involved in relationships, both with God and with others. We are relational beings.

Since we cannot escape politics, the question then becomes a matter of practice. Not how do we interact with politics, rather how do we engage in politics? The answer to this question should be approached in the same manner with which one answers the broader question: How do we engage in life, or what is the "Christian life" supposed to look like? The answer is complex and will take more than the space of one column to delve into. However, it seems that the appropriate jumping off point lies in exploring our identity and purpose as believers. I Peter 2:9-12 states:

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you

may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us. (NIV)

We are God's people, and our purpose is to show others the mercy, love and grace of God—to help shine the light of Christ into a broken world, wrought with pain and darkness. As we approach life, we must do so with this in mind, looking to Christ as the ultimate example, the "express image" of God who humbled himself to bear the burden of our sins and show us how to interact with each other in a manner befitting God's people—citizens of His kingdom. It is the unpacking and application of these ideas that I intend to do slowly over the next few weeks as I write these columns. Until next time, may the grace and peace of God be with you. ♦

-David Clem
Guest Writer



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A Plea For Peace

Today a chocolate wrapper told me to "be fearless," and while it made a good point the chocolate wrapper is hardly the one to listen to. I know I have been told to be without fear by the one who has promised to take it from me, but I still have trouble feeling like God is in control. The big questions, like "what am I going to do with my life?" I have an easier time with than little things. "I'm so scared I'll fail this test." "I don't think my professors like me." "I'll never get through this reading." These are the ones that I trip on time after time.

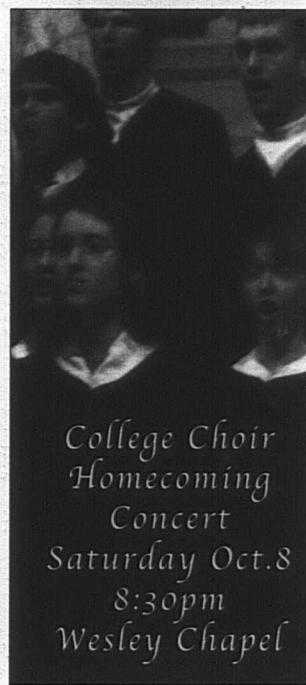
God will take my fear of both the big issues of life and those little ones that keep coming. In Isaiah 43 I am told by the Lord to "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine." The text goes on to tell of rather extreme and unnatural dangers God will protect his people from.

In Matthew 6 Jesus addresses daily matters. "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what

you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" I am not concerned about where the next meal is going to come from, because I have already paid for the 21 meal plan, but I do worry about what grade I'll get on the homework assignment.

The heart of my worry is lack of trust in God, not giving him my fears as they come, or not acknowledging his power over my life. As Paul writes in Philippians 4, verse 6, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." He actually commands us not to worry, and to trust His plan for our lives. By praying over every issue that concerns me I will lose my fear, in the knowledge of His power over all of my life. Paul continues in verse 7 "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." ♦

-Clara Giebel
Staff Writer



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to discuss this issue at this time." In defense of claims that discrepancies between student interviews occurred due to a poor level of communication, Dr. Chamberlain said, "I find that sometimes when people raise questions regarding communication it is not because the message isn't clear; it is that the message isn't the one they want to hear, and those are two very different things."

To gain student feedback, a poll was taken of the senior class, asking their opinion on where they'd wish to hold graduation. Some of these options include on the quad, at Burke field, in the gym or on an alternative site off campus. Lindsey VanVoorhis, President of the Senior class, said that in a meeting with Dr. Darlene Bressler, "She (Dr. Bressler) really gave me the impression that even if the seniors choose something, if the administration doesn't like it or thinks that it is too expensive and doesn't want to pay the money for it, we are out of luck." Dr. Bressler, in turn, has assured the senior class that, "I think that their ideas will be taken very seriously, and the other factors taken into account will be issues maybe the senior class isn't aware of." Some of these issues include the accessibility for the handicapped, available restroom

facilities and the quality of sound at the chosen location.

At this point, VanVoorhis has stressed that, "The chapel is a building, and as much as we love it and as much as it is a beloved and sacred building here on campus, it is just a building. But the message that is being communicated to the seniors is the problem: that we don't matter." This frustration has arisen from the seniors involved, in communications concerning their own graduation, including who they are supposed to talk to, getting straight answers from the administration, and gaining a clear understanding of the weight of their input.

"Short of sending a mass email, we don't know what we can do to get the administration's attention because we don't know who we are trying to get the attention of," commented VanVoorhis. This issue is not the first time this semester that members of the student body have expressed concern over who to inform of their opinions, as displayed in VanVoorhis' allusion to the mass emailing debacle over chapel scanning at the beginning of the semester.

When this concern was brought to Dr. Chamberlain's attention, he said, "First of all it is always appropriate to talk to

the Vice President of Student Life because he has overall responsibility for student life issues." So Schiller and Trump started a PR campaign of fliers passed out to seniors which stated, "If you are unhappy and you know it, email Wayne MacBeth." Chamberlain went on to say, "Students can always share concerns with me. I certainly listen to them, but I think students need to understand that if they want to make a direct appeal to me, that they then have imposed upon me what I call the obligation for consultation and reporting. In other words, I don't make unilateral decisions." He did, however, emphasize that decisions of the college are intended to be "wise or fair."

Another suggestion for voicing student opinions came from Dr. Bressler, who said that students should work through the student government. "It is just a matter of organizing in a way that convinces their representatives that issues are important, and in my experience, when issues have come through the appropriate channels of student government, they have been looked at very seriously."

There is a movement on campus to encourage proactive students to speak up on issues that concern them. In a recent email circulated by Jason Shambach, a

senior and the SGA President, he wrote, "Too long have I lamented this issue silently. The time has come for We the Seniors to form our battle lines and to demand to the administration, 'We will be heard!'" Pointing out that more than one person needs to stand up, VanVoorhis requested "the senior's help in raising a fuss about this." If student representatives are the voice of the students to the administration, then they need to know exactly how those they represent feel.

Dr. Beach, one of the senior class advisors, noted that there was a poor turnout at the class meeting and said, "It would be nice to get some feedback from the seniors, especially if they feel really strongly about it, one way or another, so that we could address these issues." The members of the administration have stated that they will listen to student opinions when they are substantial enough to warrant another look. Schiller remarked, "Students need to realize that their opinions do matter, they just need to voice them." She went on to remind all students that "nothing is going to change if you don't say something." ♦

-Kate Hamilton
Staff Writer



Comics

The Camp Wrath Songbook



Stroke of Thursday

by Andrew Davis



Joe and Ducko

by Joseph Freeman

