

the HOUGHTON STAR

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

ON THE WEB: campus.houghton.edu/orgs/star

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THE
world
OUT
there
BY BEN HUGHES
STAR STAFF WRITER

Mad Cow in U.S. Sparks Global Fears

Since a slaughtered cow was diagnosed with mad cow disease on December 30, nations have at least temporarily blocked U.S. beef imports. The infected dairy cow was found in Washington State and originated from Canada. It is the first and, so far, only cow infected by mad cow disease ever found in the U.S.

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture announced the discovery of the mad cow case on December 23, 2003. In their ongoing probe, U.S. officials have recalled retail meat related to this cow, and are methodically searching for any other possibly contaminated cows. Several herds in Washington have been quarantined or slaughtered as a precaution.

New U.S. safeguards against mad cow disease have been released, including a ban on meat from "downers" - sickly, immobile cows - and expedited testing of high-risk cattle. Additionally, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently banned feed containing blood for cattle, sheep, and goats, due to concerns that blood could possibly carry the deadly disease.

The scientific name for mad cow disease is bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Probably spread by contaminated feed, the disease attacks the neurological system of infected cattle. According to the FDA, BSE is progressive, degenerative, and fatal.

In humans, a comparable disease, a variant of Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (vCJD), has been linked to consuming contaminated BSE beef. Beef containing brain and spinal cord tissue from infected cattle appears to comprise a specific health risk. Currently incurable, BSE-related vCJD similarly results in degeneration of the human central nervous system and death within a few years. Over 140 people, almost all in Europe, are believed to have died from vCJD. People who

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Zoller Named First Holder of Van Gordon Chair

BY KYLE NAGY
STAR STAFF WRITER

"To never undertake less than the responsibilities of conscience," says Noble Prize winner in poetry Derek Walcott as he reflects on Carolyn Forché's *The Angel of History*. Taking this quote to heart, Dr. James Zoller wants to undertake nothing less than the responsibilities of conscience as he becomes this semester's holder of the Van Gordon Chair.

The Van Gordon Chair is an endowed position given to a faculty member of the English and Communication Department for a tenure of one semester to three years. This position allows the recipient an extended amount of time to work on a specific project of their choosing. The selection process begins with a proposal(s) by a member of the English and Communication Department. Those who wish to submit a proposal are to explain in what way they will use the extended time for their own professional progression, as well as the progression of the department as a whole. This proposal is presented to the entire department for discussion, which then sends its votes to the Academic Dean. If approved by the department, the dean submits the name to the Board of Trustees for final approval. Last semester, Dr. Zoller was approved as the first ever holder of the chair.

For his tenure, which will be this semester only, Dr. Zoller has decided to write a volume of poetry with the working title of *Living on the Flood Plain*. The title refers in part to the immediate physical dangers of living on a flood plain. Dr. Zoller plans to use the recent flooding at Houghton as a starting ground. As his work progresses, he would like to use the idea of living on the flood plain in a metaphorical sense, focusing on the emotional and psychological connotations.

Dr. Zoller would also like to make a step in bridging the gap between those that read poetry and those that don't. He hopes to make his poetry as "accessible" to those that don't make a habit out of reading poetry and, as a result, make his poetry more concrete. For this and other

reasons, Dr. Zoller plans on having a public reading of his work during the semester and eventually would like to publish his work. In the meantime, anyone interested in reading some of his works can find his previously published book in the campus store.

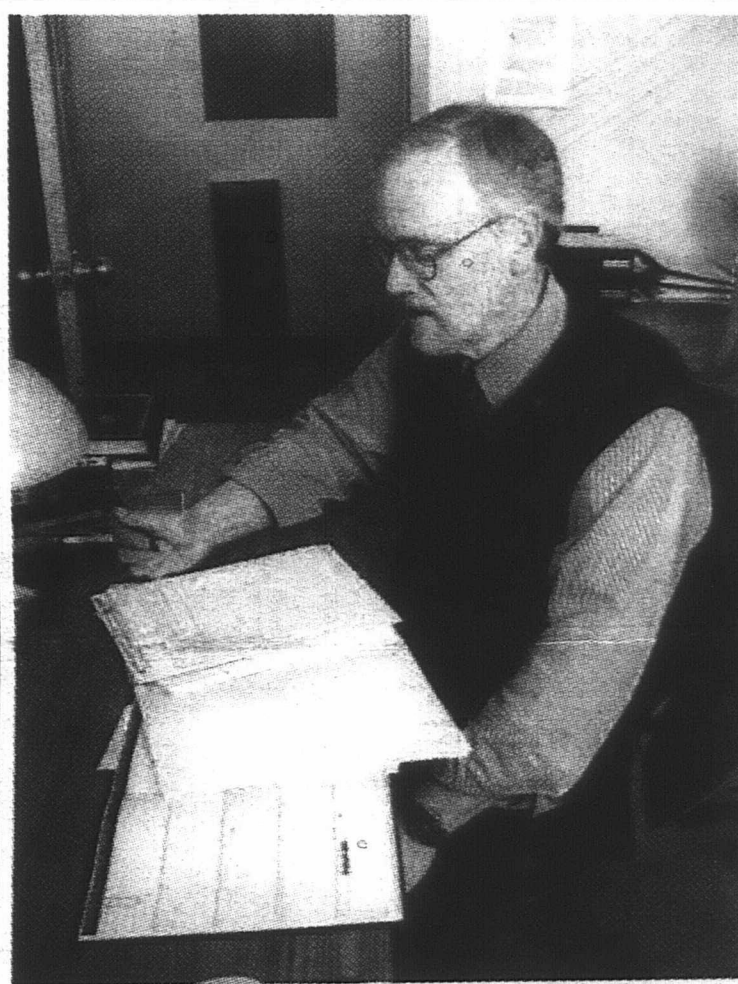


PHOTO BY NATHAN BOYD

Zoller, seen here at his writing desk in his office, plans to use his new position as Van Gordon chair to write *Living on the Flood Plain*.

Spiritual Life Retreat a Success

BY MIKE MORDENGA
STAR STAFF WRITER

At 8:45 a.m. this past Saturday, about 60 pumped students and adults crammed into vans to attend the spiritual life retreat at Cuba Baptist Church. Dr. John Brittain, Dean of the Chapel, would spend the morning and afternoon of the retreat delving into the gospel of John. Avoiding spiritual to-do lists, Brittain intertwined the life of Jesus, his significance, and Jewish culture. One of Brittain's primary goals in his approach was to provide the adults and students with a greater understanding of Jesus' statement, "That you may have life."

From the get-go, retreat attendants were divided into nine groups and given copies of the gospel of John and journals for note-taking. The retreat was cut into five sessions with the Onething band playing worship in between. The first session was called: The

Secret of Jesus, the One Who Has Come. Dr. Brittain explained how the light and word effectively explained the life of Christ and how it relates to Proverbs. Session 2, Understanding and Misunderstanding Jesus focused on how Nicodemus, the money changers and the Pharisees reacted to Jesus' strong words. After a lunch break catered graciously by Moonwinks, Brittain taught about how Jesus' won the hearts of the women at the well and the blind man in the session entitled Encounter: Being a Disciple. The theme of session 4, Grace Flowing from Adversity, was how Jesus redirects the traditional Jewish holidays (Hanukah, Passover and Feast of Booths) to conform to his words of wisdom. The final session: The Holy Spirit as Paraclete talked about how Jesus gave his Holy Spirit as a vindicator and defender of the soul. Before the

end of the retreat, participants gave each other communion and contemplated what they had learned. Jesse Ryals, a Religion major in attendance, said, "I really liked how Dr. Brittain tied in a lot of Jesus' sayings to Jewish culture at the time, and how that can help us get a better understanding of what He really meant."

Overall, the retreat didn't present specific standards or convictions but helped the group see how they can imitate the one who gives life abundantly. Dr. Brittain and all who helped make the retreat possible (including the Hein Foundation, whose generous grant was primarily responsible for the retreat's finances) provided a wonderful opportunity to grow spiritually and gain a fuller understanding of John's gospel.

From world news, page 1

have stayed for extensive amounts of time in countries affected by vCJD are generally not allowed to donate blood.

Outside of its domestic policies pertaining to the mad cow scare, the Bush administration is attempting to reassure other nations that U.S. beef exports remain safe. Reestablishing the beef trade with Japan, which quickly banned U.S. beef after the BSE-positive cow was announced, remains a top priority. Representatives from the two nations are currently debating the resumption of U.S. beef exports to Japan and more stringent guidelines for safeguarding the U.S. meat supply against BSE.

U.S. beef exports constitute an approximately \$3.2 billion-a-year industry. As the chief importer of U.S. beef, Japan alone accounts for roughly \$1 billion of that figure.

The FDA on Mad Cow Disease: <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/bse.html>.

BBC Special Report on BSE & vCJD: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/967133.stm>.

Hope and Violence in Sudan

Despite reaching a landmark accord with southern rebels last month, Sudan's government continues to fiercely battle a separate western rebellion. Its violence and war refugees are even spilling into nearby Chad.

On Jan. 7th in Kenya, the Khartoum government and southern rebel leaders signed an agreement to share oil resources as their peace process nears fruition. Two additional issues remained unsettled, however: how to share political power and the fate of three disputed regions. Additionally, the accord only applied to the conflict between Islamic Khartoum and the generally animist/Christian rebels based in southern Sudan. Two separate rebel groups continue to war against the Sudanese government in the west, a conflict that began a year ago.

Since 1983, the ongoing war has contributed to the deaths of around 2 million Sudanese and also has caused millions to become refugees. According to the U.N., at least 600,000 people have been displaced by the continuing hostilities in the western Darfur area.

The Sudanese government recently commenced an air campaign targeting rebels in Darfur near the border with Chad. The insurgents, while denying heavy losses, have decried alleged government

attacks on civilians and razing of villages. Last Thursday, a Sudanese government warplane apparently bombed the Chadian side of the border village Tine in an attempted attack on Darfur rebels. Conflicting reports suggest that at least two people were killed and several wounded, the victims probably Chadian.

The bombing follows several similar instances in which the Sudanese violence has crossed over the border into adjacent Chad. Over 100,000 Sudanese have sought refuge in Chad, creating a severe humanitarian crisis.

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

And Finally...

On Jan. 24th, 672 skydivers set a new world record for a mass jump in a freefall over Thailand's capital. The parachutists represented 42 nations, and incorporated 250 Thai military personnel.

At an altitude of 7,000 ft. above Bangkok, the huge group of skydivers jumped from six C-130 military transports. Several of the participants missed the landing site, located near the Grand Palace. However, only 3 of the skydivers were reported as injured.

588 skydivers in a 2000 jump established the prior record according to the Guinness World Records.

Top Ten

Reasons Not to Go into the Campus Center after 11 p.m.

BY RACHEL BRASK
STAR STAFF WRITER

10. During prospective weekends: aliens have landed.
9. Chances of seeing guys running through in boxers and ski masks increases 20%.
8. The Info Center attendant sets up a "Psychiatric Help" booth, with a sign saying "The Doctor is In."
7. Security looks at you as though you should have been in bed by 8.
6. You may be tempted to pitch a tent and camp out.
5. You may be tempted to tear down someone else's tent.
4. Card games played become 60% more violent with every hour after 11.
3. The "artwork" on the walls is matched by chair-and-table sculptures arrangements.
2. Making-out couples occupy any possible place to sit and read or plug in a computer.
1. You may meet your future spouse (see no. 2).

GETTING TO KNOW ...

Kim Cockle

by SARAH KUZIAMKO
Star Staff Writer

Age? 35

Hometown? Whitesville, NY (still in Allegany County and about the same size as Houghton only no gas station).

Married? Kids? I've been married to Joel for 6 1/2 years. No kids unless you count our dog, "Kitty."

Alma Mater? Alfred State College

How long have you been at Houghton? Since July 2002

Previous employment? Alfred University (1997-2002) and ACCORD Corporation in the Domestic Violence and Project Head Start programs (1990 - 1997).

What are some of your responsibilities in the Office of Student Life? In addition to being Dr. Tilley's Administrative Assistant and doing general office work, I arrange the shuttles at break time and for special circumstances, I approve and send out all campus emails that pertain to Student Life and I approve posters that would go up on campus.

What do you like most about being at Houghton? Everything - I mean that sincerely. The students here are great, everyone has been so warm and welcoming and I love what I do! I immediately felt that I belonged here. I'm so glad that God brought me to Houghton.

Favorite verse? Psalm 118:24 "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

On a scale of 1-10 how badly do you want to be in the Bahamas? Ten! Ten! Ten!

Verdict for Lord of the Rings III? It was great! The effects were phenomenal, but I missed the tree people from The Two Towers. The only part I didn't care for was the way you thought the movie was done, would go to get up and then another scene came on (like three times)!



PHOTO BY NATHAN BOYD

world news continues
in next column

Hornibrooks Head to Cornell University

BY JOSH MILLER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After nine years of coaching for Houghton College, Dwight and Donna Hornibrook are moving to Cornell, where Donna will be coaching the school's Division I field hockey team, while her husband will volunteer as her assistant and work on his masters. Donna was formerly Houghton's women's field hockey coach and Dwight coached the men's soccer team.

This decision was difficult for the Hornibrooks, who were both fond of the Houghton community. "We felt loved here. It's hard to walk away from," says Dwight. "But the reality of who we are and who we have become has created a desire to go back to a setting where we can really focus on preparing student athletes to compete and at the same time use the experience we've had at Houghton to make a positive impact in people's lives."

In particular, the Hornibrooks believe that their experience at Houghton has greatly altered their understanding of coaching. "Houghton has been a great opportunity to grow in my spiritual life, first and foremost, and to understand better where and how I can be used as a coach to help other people," says Dwight. "To become integrated into every part of a player's life was the biggest challenge when I came here; to not just help them on the

field, but to help them find purpose in their lives."

"The opportunity to coach in a Christian environment has been a privilege," adds Donna. "To be able to use sport in that setting is something I'll never forget. I'm a changed person being a part of that for the past nine years. I matured in how I am able to connect with the athletes beyond their sport. Coaching is not just about the sport. It's much deeper. If you want them to perform well, you have to get to know them as people."

Donna will be taking over for a field hockey program that struggled in its last season, posting a 3-13 record and going 1-6 in the Ivy League. "This is a new professional challenge," she says. "Our immediate goal is to be competitive in the Ivy League." She will have her work cut out for her, as she immediately will begin looking for



PHOTOS FROM HOUGHTON.EDU

a new assistant coach, bringing in new recruits, getting to know her current players, and preparing for spring training.

Houghton has yet to find coaches to

fill the gaps left by the Hornibrooks, but is currently advertising for both positions. No one was reached for comment on the hiring process.

Quotable Quotes

"Eating fat free food is like kissing your brother"

-Kim Prins (Class of '05)

"Your father is a lactic proprietor."

-Ryan Engelbrecht (Class of '04)

"I've been wearing these socks for two days and they still smell great!"

-Justin Howard (Class of '05)

"You're an outdoor rec major! I don't have to take this from you!"

-Andrew Coutras (Class of '06)

"For Christians, sleep deprivation serves the role of alcohol"

-Professor John Leax

"The church needs to reclaim a lot of things. One is sex. Sex belongs to us."

-Justin Howard (Class of '05)

"You need cake and cream to make a Twinkie"

-Jeff Babajtis (Class of '06) on the Incarnation and the Crucifixion

"Jesus turned water into wine, not crack cocaine."

-Dr. Jeff Moore

"I'm always here to help you self-inflict pain."

-Naomi Spurrier, FYHP TA, to one of her students

"One person's cult is another person's sibling denomination"

-Dr. Kristina LaCelle-Peterson

Have you overheard a student, professor, or staff member say something witty or funny on campus recently? The Star would love to take that quote out of context for the enjoyment of the campus! If you have quotes or quips, send them, along with the name of who said them, to the Houghton Star through CPO 378 or at star@houghton.edu.



New Song a No-Go

BY MELANIE MARCHIANO
STAR STAFF WRITER

Unfortunately, the twelve-week sexual abuse support group New Song, intended to be a safe and supportive environment for students, will be postponed until next year due to a lower than expected interest rate. Although there were a few who were able to attend, the Houghton counseling staff felt that the benefits of group therapy would be better applied in a group of at least six. Group therapy offers validation of feelings and

experience, freedom from shame, and often provides hope. A larger group gives members a greater chance to connect with people who have had similar experiences. Because the counseling staff wanted New Song to be the most positive experience possible, they felt that they should wait until they had a large enough turnout so that attendees could feel comfortable and get a lot out of it. The hosts of the therapy group are confident that next year's program will elicit a greater response.

Wrights Featured for Missions Emphasis Weekend

BY CHRISTINA TURNER
STAR STAFF WRITER

On February 4-8, Houghton Wesleyan Church will be expanding its focus from the surrounding community to the entire world. The theme of its Missions Emphasis Weekend this year is "Lift High the Cross: Exploring God's Work in Eurasia" and the featured speakers will be Dennis and Lois Wright, the European Area Directors for Wesleyan World Missions/Global Partners. Although the Wrights come to Houghton from Vienna, Austria, they also have an important link to the Houghton community. This year, the Wrights were added to the list of missionaries whose work is partly funded by Houghton Wesleyan.

"We try to have a speaker whose work our church supports," said Vesta Mullen, the organizer of Missions Emphasis Weekend.

However, the week is about more than simply hearing from a speaker. "The purpose of the weekend is to keep the cause of missions fresh in the minds of our congregation and give them a chance to meet missionaries and become acquainted with what God is doing around the world," said Mullen. "It is also to encourage people to become actively involved in missions, whether through finances,

trips, or simply through prayer."

If students, faculty, or staff would like to learn more about the Wrights and their work, there will be plenty of opportunities during the upcoming weekend. On Wednesday, the Wrights will present a message at the adult prayer meeting at the church, and college students who have worked in missions will be presenting a special program for the children. On Friday, Dennis Wright will address the college students in chapel. Saturday will involve prayer breakfasts for both men and women at which the Wrights and Brian Sheets, the Wesleyan Missions representative on campus, will be speaking. Sunday will finish the weekend with the Wrights speaking at all three morning worship services and the evening worship service. Kevin Austin, who has served as a missionary in the Czech Republic will also be speaking to adult Sunday School classes, and Lois Mullen will speak to the children.

Members of the college community will also have several opportunities to get to know the Wrights. They will be eating in the college

dining hall after chapel on Friday and at a reception at Houghton Wesleyan after Sunday's evening service.

The Wrights grew up in the United States and began serving in Eurasia through Operation Mobilization. They have served as missionaries for more than thirty years and first became involved with Wesleyan World Missions (WWM) in 1991.

Recently, they began serving full-time with WWM. The Wrights are the parents of two adult children who live in the U.S. and two teenagers who still live at the Wrights' home in Austria.

For more information about the Wrights and a schedule for Missions Emphasis Weekend, visit <http://www.hwchurch.org/missions.htm>.



PHOTO BY NATHAN BOYD

Houghton Wesleyan will host its Missions Weekend on February 4-8. Dennis and Lois Wright, European area Directors for Wesleyan World Missions/Global Partners, will be the headline speakers for the weekend.

Houghton Clubs and Organizations in Dire Straits

BY D. ELLIOTT TAIT
STAR STAFF WRITER

There are generally three different mediums through which all Houghton College students are able to participate in co-curricular activities: clubs/organizations, intramurals, and residence halls. Each of these three media battle both internally and with each other over the use of each student's free time, forcing students to make difficult decisions regarding their time out of the classroom.

The '02-'03 school year and thus far through the '03-'04 school year, the clubs and organizations have been losing this battle to intramurals, residence halls, unorganized activities, and apathy.

The Houghton College web site boasts that there are currently "over 30 student led organizations and clubs" on campus "that provide...an opportunity to get involved." Most of these clubs and organizations, however, have been experiencing an unsatisfactory level of attendance.

"I feel like the underclassmen don't want to get involved," SGA President Danielle Luckey stated. "We [the junior class] are really involved, currently," and, according to Luckey, have generally been that way since the beginning of college.

The members of the freshman and sophomore classes are "usually not too involved," she continued, but reiterated that the current two classes are especially apathetic.

SGA Vice President Laura Pasieka agreed. "The freshmen and sophomores

are just struggling."

Laura Slye and Raquel Hill, presidents of the sophomore and freshman classes, respectively, were unavailable for comment.

Both Luckey and Pasieka, however, were quick to add other significant reasons behind the lack of participation.

"Clubs haven't been advertising much," Pasieka stated. "No one knows what they are doing." Also, there is "confusion about importance--people underestimate [a club/organization's] potential."

An example of this would be the College Republicans, who have "about five or six regulars, [and] probably a good dozen come and go," according to their president, Adam Carman. Since this is an election year, the organization plans to have voter registration drives and hopes to be able to publicly promote Republican candidates, but such plans have been significantly limited due to the lack of money they receive from the SGA as a result of their small membership. Carman admits that advertising by the group has been minimal, but also believes that "most people don't think of politics as much on a Christian campus."

Another reason for the co-curricular drought, according to Luckey, is the elevated amount of school work at Houghton. "Because Houghton requires so much academically, it's hard to get involved. You have to be really motivated."

One interviewed student and former SGA senator agreed with Luckey's comment. "I've got too much work to do! I don't have time to do other stuff!"

The average Houghton College student takes 15 credit hours a semester. In order to be a decent student, one must work two hours for every hour of class, making the average amount of time spent on school per-week, 45 hours. Also, the average student sleeps seven hours a night and spends 120 minutes eating each day, for a combined total of 63 hours-per-week. At Houghton, one also needs to add in time for chapel, devotions, church, exercise, and "miscellaneous time," for a total of about 20 hours a week.

Added together, this brings the total amount of time an average Houghton student uses each week to maintain physical, spiritual, and educational stability to 128 hours. This leaves about 40 hours of time for a part-time job,

socializing, entertainment, extra school work, and extra curricular activities.

"That seems like a lot of extra time that I didn't know I had," the same student replied. "Sometimes it feels like I don't have time, and probably sometimes I really don't, but I guess I have no real excuse not to be involved."

The final reason for the lack of club/organization membership is the increasing popularity and activity of unofficial groups, Luckey argues. "There are a lot of unorganized activities [on campus]," she said.

Matt Webb, Director of Student Programs at Houghton, believes that this is the main reason the school's clubs and organizations have had low levels

See Clubs, next page



PHOTO BY NATHAN BOYD

Where are all the students if they are not participating in campus clubs and organizations? The SGA is almost at a loss to explain the phenomenon.

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of participation. "A lot more of our students are involved in service...more than we realize," he stated. Examples of this include "volunteering in the church, visiting the nursing home, and the creation of a new soccer ministry" that has seen some quick success in its early-going.

Webb also argues that the current fluctuation in participation between the media and among the different clubs/organizations is a natural occurrence on college campuses. There's an "avid flow" of interest and action among student organizations and clubs, he stated, and there is little one can do to prevent it from occurring.

Leadership, however, does have an effect on this flow, Webb adds. There are currently some groups that have increased their members and audiences due to good leadership. "Young Life and Allegany County Outreach (ACO) are good examples of how good leadership" has turned a struggling organization into a currently popular one," says Webb.

ACO, an organization which pairs Houghton College students with children in Allegany County in order to minister to the children and their families, currently has 51 members, which, according to ACO President Keri Logee, is "a significant increase from last year."

Other clubs and organizations that have experienced significant increases in membership since the previous school year include *The Boulder* and Swim Club. Most of Houghton's clubs and organizations have experienced little or no increase in participation, including OneThing Ministries, H2S, Psychology Club, College Republicans, *The Lanthorn*, Habitat for Humanity, Baseball Club, *The Star*, and CAB.

Some examples of groups that have decreased in membership include Houghton College Radio, the Equestrian Society, and the Shakespeare Players. (Note: groups not listed were unavailable for comment).

Webb agrees that intramural activities have been very popular over the past few years. Intramural Director Todd Kleitz stated that, "Last year, there was approximately 65-70 % of the student body participating in an intramural activity."

Luckey and Pasieka argue, however, that participation in student led clubs and organizations is important for two major reasons. First, it helps "carry on traditions, keep transitions smooth, and unify the student body." Secondly, participation "enhances your time at Houghton. People don't remember staying up late to study for a final; they remember" the events that occur outside the classroom.

-- TECH CORNER --

by DAN PERRINE

Feel the Thunder

If you pay attention to the world outside of Houghton, you've probably heard of the myDoom computer virus and its various offspring that have been sweeping the Information Superhighway like a really, really big street cleaner. Like a vast majority of viruses out there, myDoom exploits security vulnerabilities in Microsoft Outlook to spread its pestilence across the land. As Microsoft has demonstrated a remarkable inability to secure its software from the predations of bored 13-year olds living in their parent's basement listening to Linkin Park, I would like to take this opportunity to advise you that the only way to secure your email inbox from viruses is to simply not use Microsoft Outlook.

Enter Mozilla Thunderbird. This open-source email client is available absolutely free at <http://www.mozilla.org/projects/thunderbird/>. Unlike Outlook, Thunderbird simply does not have security vulnerabilities. For real. It's called having competent people write your software. You would have to actively try to acquire a virus through Thunderbird.

Security is not the only great thing about Thunderbird, however. Easy-to-install extensions allow you to customize how the client works to your liking, and if you're really into aesthetics, there's a bevy of nifty themes to try out. And then there's the adaptive junk mail filtering, a feature I have come to love here at Houghton. Much like training a small chimp to go to chapel and scan for you, setting up Thunderbird's spam controls involves a bit of work up front, but the long-term benefits are immeasurable. After you have spent a few weeks manually designating emails as "junk" or "not junk," Thunderbird will start to recognize which messages you wish to receive and which can be safely sent straight to the trash (you can recover them later if you must). Of course, in an environment like Houghton where the email addresses of junk mail senders remain constant (for my job's sake I won't name any), you can simply direct Thunderbird to delete messages from these senders. It's so wonderful it makes me want to dance a jig!

Configuring Thunderbird is fairly simple, especially due to recent changes in Houghton's server configuration. Install the program, then opt to set up a new account. Houghton uses POP servers, and if your student ID begins with an odd number, your email account is on corinthians1.houghton.edu for both incoming and outgoing mail. If it's even, then you're on corinthians2.houghton.edu. Your user name will be houghton\firstname.lastname. The directions in the account creation process should make it fairly obvious what other settings should be, and Thunderbird has extensive online help documentation available, but if you have any problems, please don't hesitate to contact me at daniel.perrine@houghton.edu.

Love is in the Star!
(or rather, it will be soon)

- Looking to wow that special someone this Valentine's Day?
- Hoping to share your vision of true love with the Houghton community?
- Or do you just really love sappy poetry?

If this is YOU, then the Star wants you to send in poems or short prose (100 words max) about LOVE. The pieces can either be your own work, your friend's work, or any piece by an author of your choosing. You can e-mail it to star@houghton.edu or place submissions in CPO 378. So get into the mushy, fun (and occasionally sickening) spirit of Valentine's Day love and send something to the Star today!

Houghton's Leax Publishes Poems over Sabbatical

BY RACHEL INGRAHAM
STAR STAR WRITER

While on sabbatical last semester, Houghton College writing professor and poet-in-residence John Leax was able to see two writing projects to completion.

The first, a five-hundred line poem entitled "Writing Home" was a project that had kept Leax busy for several years. Drawing heavily from personal experience, the poem explores the subjects of landscape, memory, and incarnation. About half of "Writing Home" has been published in literary journals, with individual sections appearing in *Image*, *ISLE* (Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment), and *The Cresset*.

Leax's other project, "The Tabloid

News," is a series of poems based on tabloid headlines. The poems in this series are both shorter and lighter in tone than "Writing Home," and Leax says that writing these poems brought a kind of relief from the emotional intensity necessary for completing the other work. Poems from "The Tabloid News" are scheduled to appear in *Image*, *The Chaffin Journal*, and *River King*.

Additionally, an expanded version of Leax's *Grace is Where I Live* was recently released as an e-book, and a print version is due out in April. Leax also published more than a dozen poems in journals during 2003, including *White Heron*, *Radix*, *Christianity and Literature*, *Cold Mountain Review*, and *Ginger Hill*, and has other poems scheduled for publication in the near future.

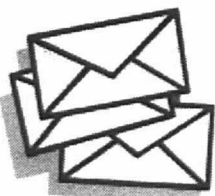


PHOTO BY NATHAN BOYD

Professor and poet John Leax has recently released several publications of poetry.

Letterbox

star@houghton.edu



Aaron,

While I respect your right to voice your own opinion, perhaps you would have done more service to your readers and to the men's basketball program if you had written a piece that was based on research and that tried to get to the bottom of the reason why Houghton men's basketball does not have a history of success.

As a "sportswriter" you should know that many things in life are not easy to explain. That is definitely the case when it comes to wins and losses in college athletics. Many factors play a part in the success of a college sports team, including that school's emphasis on that sport as opposed to other sports, the opponent's emphasis on that sport, the scholarships for that sport available at other schools, the tradition of other schools, the location of other schools (I'm sure you know that high school basketball is taken much more seriously in Pennsylvania and Ohio than in New York and Houghton has to compete for recruits with other conference schools that are in the heart of those areas). There are many more reasons that athletic director Skip Lord and men's basketball coach Brad Zarges would be willing to share with you, if you would only ask.

I'm interested to know what games you have watched this season. If you watched home games, then you should be thrilled with Houghton's performances. The men are 3-2 at home, one loss to Seton Hill (over Christmas Break), one four-point loss to Tiffin, and three wins: over Geneva in comeback fashion, Notre Dame by eight with an offensive output of 90 points (Notre Dame just beat St. Vincent, the No. 4 team in the country), and a 15-point win over rival Roberts Wesleyan. They are one win from a playoff spot. You should also know that our conference is one of the toughest in the NAIA, with four teams ranked in the top-25.

The next time you are interested in exposing something that you think is wrong with Houghton College and its programs, please talk to the people who are intimately involved. You would help provide your readers with answers, rather than create more questions about the situation and hurting those who are working hard as a part of the program.

Jason Mucher
Director of Athletic Communications

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to the article recently published in the STAR entitled, "Addressing the Lows of the Highlanders." While I would agree with the author in some sense that this season has been disappointing in terms of wins and losses, I do not agree with much else.

The author asserts that our men's basketball team is "constantly embarrassed on the court." What exactly does that mean? It is true that the team has lost a fair number of games by double-digit margins, but does that mean they have been embarrassed? From the games I've seen (every home game which, by the way, is only 5 of the games of the 19 they have played to date), the team plays hard, shows a high level of sportsmanship, and is 3-2 at home. I don't find this embarrassing at all.

The author goes on to say that he hopes for a "higher bar set for achievement in athletics, just like the academic bar here is set fairly high." This is simply not comparing apples to apples. In institutions with limited resources, some will put more money into specific athletic programs as compared to more fundamental academic programs. Perhaps it is the case that Houghton recognizes the importance of academics as fundamental to the mission of the college while putting fewer resources into having a team with a winning record. I would dare to say that other schools put far more financial resources into men's basketball as compared to Houghton and that resources may not be split among all sports evenly at all schools. It is therefore difficult to compete with such schools for this and many other reasons.

Near the end of the editorial, the author talks about not making this a "personal attack." While I don't think the thoughts conveyed were meant to be a personal attack, it is difficult for the individuals involved not to take them personally. The author says that NAIA coaches are teachers first and foremost, and that we should strive for excellence in everything we do, whether in the classroom or on the court. The clear implication seems to be that Coach Zarges does not take preparing his team as seriously as he does preparing for a lecture and that the players and coaches are not striving for excellence. Having known coach Zarges for nearly 5 years, I can tell you that he takes preparing his team about as seriously as he does the need to breathe air. He is constantly reviewing film, scouting games, recruiting, and formulating plans for practices. As for the team, I can say based on my interactions with these young men that they definitely are highly competitive and strive for excellence. In short, the team has shown significant improvement in my time at Houghton College, even if it doesn't show up in wins and losses. While I dare say neither the coaches, players, nor fans are particularly happy with the results so far this season, I am proud of the way our team continues to prepare and compete. And I don't think writing an article questioning their desire for excellence is helpful in the least. Go Highlanders!

Sincerely,
Matt Pelletier
Assistant Professor of Biology

Try a Little Cinema at the Little Theatre

BY NATHAN BOYD
DESIGN EDITOR

The early part of every year is typically a period of slim pickings at movie theaters across America. Films expecting Oscar attention have already been released between Thanksgiving and Christmas and the summer blockbusters are still 4 or 5 months off. What is a discerning film lover to do when there is little of interest at the theater and the Christmas DVDs have all been watched and re-watched? If you find yourself hungering for a little cinema, may I suggest the Little Theatre in Rochester?

I have seen several films at the Little Theatre, and every time I have come away pleased with both the experience of the theatre and with the quality of films screened. I like loud, fast Bruckheimer productions as much as the next person, but sometimes a little Wong Kar Wai or Sophia Coppola is just what I need. If you haven't heard of these filmmakers, do a little research on them and see one or two of their films. You will not regret it.

But though I fancy myself to have

an eclectic side, I was not sure what to expect as two friends and I slipped into the already-darkened theater for a showing of *The Company* last Saturday evening. Having braved the horrific Rochester weather and the snow-covered downtown streets, I was hoping that this film about ballet would be worth the effort it took to get to it. To my pleasure it was.

Directed by Robert Altman (*Gosford Park*, *M*A*S*H*) and co-produced by Neve Campbell (*Party of Five*, *Scream*), the film follows the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago and its members' lives both on stage and off. Though with little dialogue and the thinnest of plotlines, the films far exceeds its potential shortcomings when it focuses on the ballet performances themselves. The way the camera slides around the dancers, frames the choreography, and immerses the audience with the sheer artistry of ballet is a credit to Altman and to cinematographer Andrew Dunn. What summer actioners lack in soul, this film has in excess.

While Neve Campbell is the headlining star, without whose determination and finances the film would probably never have been made, the

majority of characters in the film are actual members of the Joffrey company. It was a wise choice to avoid the well-known pretty faces of Hollywood actors for the authenticity of real dancers; the film is saturated in authenticity. Campbell, who trained for four months for the film, performs as part of the company. It is a true collaborative effort and is a treat to watch.

Throughout the film Altman balances the breathtaking choreography of Lar Lubovich and Robert Desrosiers with the cinematic power of such drama as an unexpected Achilles tendon snap or the memorable sequence of two dancers performing while a thunderstorm threatens and then pours rain. In the film, the audience opens their umbrellas rather than leave and miss the performance, and if I were there I would have done the same. That is the unexpected power of Altman's film.

As the credits rolled to scenes of the ballet dancers taking their bows, I found myself satisfied with a film I never would have guessed I would have an appreciation for. It is that feeling that the Little Theatre offers to those that will give it a chance and try

a different type of film.

The Little Theatre was opened in 1982 as an alternative venue for independent and international films that rarely grace the screens of the megaplexes. Four others as well as a cafe that serves a light menu of soups, salads, sandwiches, and vegetarian dishes now accompany the theatre's original screen. The cafe, which continually exhibits artwork of local artists, also sponsors concerts by local musicians.

The winter film lineup at the Little Theatre features, among others, the acclaimed Canadian drama *The Barbarian Invasions*, the French animated *Les Triplettes de Belleville*, and Gus Van Sant's 2003 Cannes Palme d'Or winner *Elephant*. Ticket prices are \$7 for evening shows, \$5 for matinees and \$5 during student night. A complete movie schedule, as well as coming attractions and directions to the Theatre is available on their website, www.little-theatre.com. Go check out the site and then check out a film—it'll cure the winter cinema blues.

The Company is rated PG-13 for brief strong language, some nudity and sexual content.

AUSTIN TIME

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

BY CHRISTOPHER AUSTIN
STAFF WRITER GIVING MAD PROPS TO EGGLESTON

This Week's Topic:

BURGERS AND BUSINESS ETHICS

Now, just as a disclaimer, I really enjoy Big Al's food. It is one of the best parts of this campus. In fact, the chicken finger sub is a good deal and a great tasting meal. So is the bagel sandwich. But a tragedy has occurred at this establishment, which I find rather saddening and unlike the quality that is so often found at Big Al's. I have recently been informed that some Houghton students ordered chicken wings for their eating enjoyment. They were told it would be a half hour wait, which is not so crazy as to merit an article in the *Star*. However, when said group went to pick up the said wings, a Big Al's worker informed them that they could not pick up their said wings now. In fact, they had made the wings and then sold them to another party. With a shrug and a "sorry," our hungry consumers were told that it would be another 40 minutes until their wings were ready.

This, *mes amies*, is an outrage. How can any place of business take an order for a product, build that product, and then sell the product to someone else? Now, I'm no business major, but I don't think they can do that. At least, not if they want continued business with all of their customers. But I guess I need to revise that last statement, because a business can do whatever it wants when it is the only one in the general vicinity. Another brief example is the Famous Houghton Mini-Mart, identified by great signs all around the Hamlet of Houghton. Gas prices there are continually higher than our surrounding areas (with the exception of Fillmore). Unfortunately, they can do what they want because they have a mini-monopoly. It seems we could call our Citgo the Houghton Mini Monopoly Mart, or H(M3). The only time the prices are normal is gas sale Tuesday.

But I digress. The point of all this was that businesses should do what they can to stick with some sort of ethical code. Now, obviously I don't know why the gas prices are higher in Houghton or if someone made an innocent mistake and sold a wing order to the wrong person. Perhaps because we are in the middle of nowhere it is expensive to ship gas out here and that is why the prices are higher, or something like that. But if there is no other reason then pure, simple greed and monopoly, that is not cool with me, nor should it be cool with Houghton. Because as far as I know, Houghton owns the mini-mart. And perhaps some sort of retribution should have been awarded to the chicken wing victims, so as to illustrate the good will of Big Al's towards its patrons. Oh well.

On a more positive note, for those of you who like to read about happy, feel-good-inside things, it seems that there is a mystery man of the cafeteria who is all about making Houghton students happy. I just received a letter from a dedicated fan who says there is a great individual working in the cafeteria making special order burgers, or to put it another way, burgers made with love. Wednesday night is a special night for Houghton, a night of passion, and burgers, made by none other than Jeremy Eggleston. I personally have sampled the fine delicacy known as the swiss bacon mushroom burger, and I nearly melted from the goodness of that burger filling my stomach. There is no doubt in my mind, if I was in charge of Pioneer's employee of the month award, Jeremy would win for two months in a row.

Well, stay tuned for next time when we discuss something else that is fun to discuss. Remember, CPO 17 is where you send your questions and stuff, and the key word of the day is **mini-monopoly**.

EDITORIAL

Down for the Count
by Chris Stanley

Well, discussion has begun to circulate around the SGA and its cabinet about the possibility of eliminating Houghton College Radio forever. Before a decision is made to recommend the destruction of the station, a more official polling sample must be taken of the student body as opposed to the graffiti board that was up outside the SGA office for a day or two. Houghton College Radio doesn't need destruction, it needs reorganization. How would you like to wake up in the morning and tune your radio (yes, your actual radio set) to Houghton College Radio rather than messing around with the webcast? It is possible. The radio station has a Very-Low Frequency (VLF) transmitter that has the potential to cover the entire campus area. It's all there in the station just waiting for the order to be put up. Some contend that the station would need an FCC license. That's not true. A VLF transmitter broadcasts to such a small range that a license is not necessary.

People I've talked to in the SGA, the SGA cabinet, and Student Life have stated that they want to see the station live. I urge them to help us find volunteers. Help us get the word out about what the radio station means to this campus. Help us reorganize. Help us with public relations so that no one can ever say again, "Well, no one listens." One senator told me "Well Chris, there is six thousand dollars worth of equipment in that station." Help us use it rather than selling it off for pennies on the dollar or throwing it away. This equipment was bought with student funds; don't let it be sold off at a severe loss. I publicly urge the SGA and the cabinet to take a proactive role in saving our radio station, and not simply writing it off because of a misconception of a lack of interest.

Radio has been at Houghton College for decades. It has had many successful years, but they came at the expense of many rebuilding years. This could be a rebuilding year, but rather than rebuilding, discussion is circulating about dismantling our radio station. As students, I urge you not to let it happen. Write or call your SGA senator and tell them to give the radio station another chance. If you want to have a radio show next semester or if you want to listen to the radio next semester, write Laura Pasieka, the Vice-President of the SGA at Laura.Pasieka@houghton.edu. Faculty and staff, I urge you to write the Student Life Office and tell them to give the radio station another chance. Houghton College Radio is down for the count, and it needs your support. Together, we can make it happen.

You Know You Have Them

What do I have? you ask? Ideas for articles and stories. The *Star* needs your ideas. What do you want to see covered in these pages? What topics do you want to see print? Let us know at the address below.

Even better, you can sign on to WRITE and PHOTOGRAPH for the *Star*. We are currently in need of able reporters and photographers. Interested? Great. Now let us know.

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Vinateri Field Goal Wins Super Bowl XXXVIII for Patriots

BY JOSH MILLER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After a Super Bowl record 27 scoreless minutes, what began as a defensive showcase quickly became an offensive explosion, as the New England Patriots and Carolina Panthers spent the next 33 minutes racking up a total of 51 points. The scoring began with a 5-yard pass from New England quarterback Tom Brady to Deion Branch, which Carolina countered two minutes later with a TD pass of their own from Jake Delhomme to Steve Smith. Both teams managed to score again within the final minute of the first half and entered the locker room with the score Patriots 14, Panthers 10.

The second half began with another defensive stand by both sides that continued until the opening of the fourth quarter, when Patriots' running back Antowain Smith ran the ball from two yards out for the score, putting the Patriots up 21-10. Again, Carolina struck back with a DeShaun Foster touchdown run, but failed on a two-point conversion, making the score 21-16 Patriots. Carolina would

find the end zone again on an 85-yard pass to Mushin Muhammad with under seven minutes in the fourth quarter. After missing another two-point conversion, the Panthers maintained a one-point 22-21 lead.

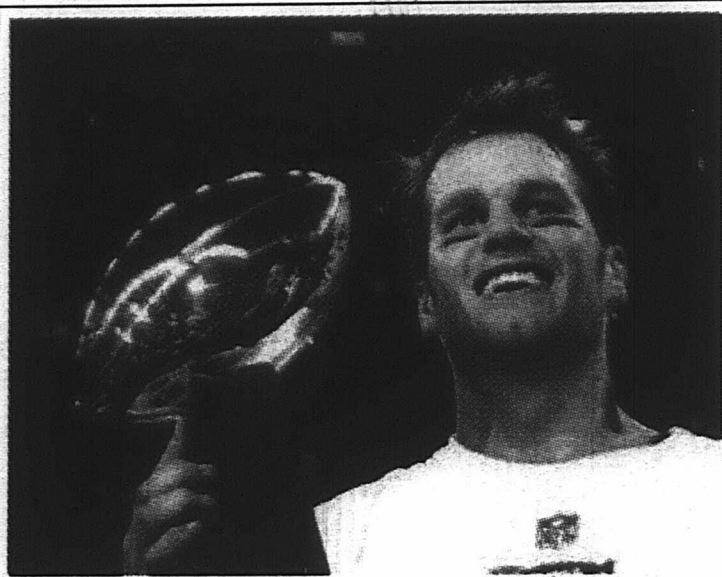
But the Patriots weren't done. Tom Brady drove his squad back down the field and completed a 5-yard touchdown pass to Mike Vrabel with 2:51 left on the clock. The Patriots then went for two and converted on a brilliantly executed shotgun draw run by Kevin Faulk, giving them the lead 29-22. However, Carolina retaliated quickly. The Panthers marched downfield and scored on a 12-yard pass to Ricky Proehl with 1:08 to play.

Unfortunately, Panthers' kicker John Kasay made a devastating mistake on the kickoff, booting it out-of-bounds, which gave the Patriots good field position at their own 40. Brady and crew took advantage of their momentum and an exhausted Panthers defense to get in position for a 41-yard field goal attempt. The pressure was on Patriots' kicker Adam Vinateri, who had already missed a kick from 36 yards out and had his

second field goal attempt blocked. Vinateri came through though, and nailed the field goal, giving the Pats a 32-29 lead with only four seconds remaining. The Patriots then stopped the Panthers' kickoff return and became Super Bowl Champions for

the second time in three years.

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, MVP of Super Bowl XXXVI, was once again named Super Bowl MVP. He completed a Super Bowl record 32 passes for 354 yards and 3 touchdowns.



AP PHOTO

Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady of the Patriots holds the Lombardi Trophy high during the post-game celebration. Brady passed for 354 yards and 3 touchdowns.

Men's Basketball Gets Boost by Defeating Roberts

BY AARON BOYNTON
MANAGING EDITOR

The scenario could not have been any better for the Houghton Highlanders last week. They were playing at home, in front of a full crowd, and the opponent was rival Roberts Wesleyan. Behind strong determination and the clutch shooting of senior guard Seth Raper, Houghton knocked off Roberts 71-56 in AMC North Division play. This victory was key for Houghton, as Roberts was in second place at that point in time.

The Highlanders got off to a quick start, jumping out to a 17-10 lead. Roberts Wesleyan slowly crept back to

take a one-point lead near the end of the first half. Houghton regained the lead and went into halftime leading 28-27. The second half was a different story. After Roberts went on an 11-0 run to take a lead, Houghton's offense exploded behind the strong play of Seth Raper, Eric Jankov, and Jason Lee. Roberts attempted to come back one more time, but Seth Raper made sure that did not happen by hitting three crucial three-pointers in the closing minutes of the game.

This was one of the best performances in Raper's career at Houghton. He was perfect from beyond the arc, had four steals, and was on the court for all but three

minutes of the game. Raper finished with 19 points, a team high for the game. Eric Jankov contributed 14 points, while seniors Justin Pauley and Joel Hamilton each chipped in 12 points. Hamilton also grabbed 8 rebounds, helping the Highlanders win the battle of the boards.

This was the first time Houghton had beaten Roberts in men's basketball since 1995, a streak of fifteen

games. Houghton improved their record to 3-5 in the American Midwest Conference and a 5-14 overall record. Unfortunately, with an 82-64 loss at Point Park on Saturday, the Highlanders dropped to 5-15.

The team has four upcoming home games, all against AMC opponents including key games against St. Vincent and a rematch against Point Park.

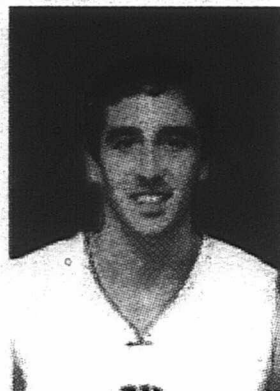


Coach Zarges rallies the men's team before their game against rival Roberts Wesleyan. The Highlanders' victory over the Raiders was their first since 1995.

PHOTO BY AARON BOYNTON

HIGHLANDER athlete of the week

Seth Raper / men's basketball



Raper, a 5-11 senior guard from Cato, N.Y., averaged 13.5 points, 4.5 rebounds, and four assists in the Highlanders' 1-1 week. He poured in 19 points on 7-of-8 shooting from the field in leading the Highlanders to a 71-56 win over rival Roberts Wesleyan — the program's first over Roberts since 1995. He was a perfect 5-of-5 from three-point range, knocking down three in the final three minutes to put the game away. He finished the week with eight points, four rebounds, and five assists in a loss at Point Park.

HIGHLANDER SCORES

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Tues. 27	ROBERTS WESLEYAN	L	41-72
Sat. 31	PONIT PARK	L	55-67

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Tues. 27	ROBERTS WESLEYAN	W	71-56
Sat. 31	POINT PARK	L	64-82