

# HOUGHTON STAR

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by D. ELLIOTT TAIT  
Editor-in-Chief

## Exxon-Mobil passes GE as world's largest company

Last Friday Exxon Mobil Corp. passed General Electric Co. as the world's largest company (by market value). Exxon is currently the largest publicly traded producer of oil, and GE contains 11 units which include financial services, health care and the NBC television network. As of last Friday, Exxon was valued at \$385.8 billion, and GE at \$378.59 billion. (From Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000103&sid=aFHCp9i0LE9U>).

## Bush friend releases secret audio tapes from 1999-2000

On Saturday Doug Wead, a close friend to the Bush family, released a dozen audio tapes of various one-on-one conversations he had with President Bush as he was beginning his campaign for President in 1999. The tapes revealed a confident and faith-led President, the New York Times said. "I am going to say that I've accepted Christ into my life," Bush told Wead. "And that's a true statement." In the tapes, Bush also appears to admit "trying" marijuana in his youth, but remained confident that his past would not shadow over the man he has since made himself to be. Wead taped Bush secretly, knowing that the tapes would be valuable when Bush became an "important person in history."

(From Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/02/20/politics/20talk.html?ei=5065&en=3d3a7b4f99465096&ex=1109480400&partner=MYW>).

see NEWS, page 2

## Middle States to visit college and review self-assessment for accreditation

by VIRGINIA WHEALTON  
Star Staff Writer

On March 6-9, eight visiting educators and administrators will represent the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (an agency through which the college receives its accreditation) to assess the school as part of the standard reaccreditation process. A procedure that occurs every ten years, reaccreditation benefits Houghton College by allowing the school to retain the advantageous qualities of an accredited institution, in addition to initiating a useful self-assessment in all the areas of the school's operation.

The immediate benefits of accreditation are significant and easily understandable. Without accreditation, students could not use any type of public aid (e.g. TAP), hold low-interest loans such as Perkins and Stafford, or qualify for the federal work-study program. Without accreditation the NAIA and NCAA would not include Houghton's athletics in their associations. Furthermore, if unaccredited, the school could not recruit the same excellent faculty that is has in the past, and Houghton degrees would be useless when applying to graduate school.

The process of reaccreditation, however, provides additional but perhaps less obvious benefits to the school. Middle States does not simply send a team to examine the school for reaccreditation; it first asks Houghton to assess itself both according to the college's own mission

statement and according to Middle State's fourteen standards as outlined in *Characteristics of Excellence in Higher Education*.

To generate such self-assessment, Houghton formed a Self-Study Steering Committee, chaired by Dr. Daryl Stevenson (Psychology) in the spring of 2003. Ten subcommittees, each with a student representative, used the Middle States standards to examine the topics of Mission, Goals, and Integrity; Institutional Resources; Resource Allocation, and Planning; Governance and Administration; Student Admissions; Student Support Services; Faculty; Educational Offerings; General Education; Related Educational Activities; and Assessment of Student Learning.

As part of this effort, a cross-section of faculty, administrators, students, and alumni completed surveys on a variety of topics, from food services to off-campus programs. Although not equivalent to self-assessment, the Crane Study (an outside assessment

of the college by Crane MetaMarketing of Atlanta) also helped provide information that ultimately folded into the comprehensive self-assessment report, the first draft of which was completed during the summer of 2004. During the following fall semester, "town meetings" in the Daily Grind coffeehouse made it possible for anyone to comment on the report before it was finalized.

This final report provides a touchstone for the visiting Middle States team that is visiting in March. Self-Study Steering Committee chair Dr. Stevenson

**"[This is] not a time to put only our best foot forward; [but a time to] learn and understand where we are vulnerable, where we are weak."**

**--Dr. Stevenson**

see REACCREDITATION, page 2

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## Negropante appointed as first ever intelligence director

John Negropante, former US ambassador to the UN, was nominated by the President as the nation's first intelligence director. The new position is a conglomeration of the heads of the FBI and CIA, two agencies that have long hindered one another in their endeavors to bring people to justice. The intelligence director is to unite the FBI, CIA, and its constituents, and to ensure a complementary relationship between them. Negropante said if confirmed he plans to "reform of the intelligence community in ways designed to best meet the intelligence needs of the 21st century." (From Source: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20050217/D88AC8RO1.html>).

## Increased levels of lead = violent crime?

Last week the results of a study conducted by Dr. Herbert Needleman of The University of Pittsburgh showed that higher levels of lead in children do more than impede learning. "When environmental lead finds its way into the developing brain, it disturbs neural mechanisms responsible for regulation of impulse. That can lead to antisocial and criminal behavior," Needleman said. (From Source: [http://reuters.myway.com/article/20050218/2005-02-18T190902Z\\_01\\_N18365455\\_RTRIDST\\_0](http://reuters.myway.com/article/20050218/2005-02-18T190902Z_01_N18365455_RTRIDST_0)

## REACCREDITATION, from page 1

explains, "The whole point of the team coming in two weeks [is to see that] what's set in this report is the way it really is at Houghton."

Now that Houghton's self-assessment has been completed, Dr. Stevenson explains that the college is currently in a time "to pick out the things that we think are useful and helpful" in what the college is doing, but it is also "not a time to put only our best foot forward; [but a time to] learn and understand where we are vulnerable, where are we weak."

The last chapter of the self-study report highlights fifteen major recommendations of characteristics, functions, and activities in need of further development. For example, the self-study report raised awareness for the need to prepare for leadership succession. Thus, when President Chamberlain formally announced on February 14 that he would be retiring, there was already a presidential search committee in place, with the majority of members from the board of trustees, in addition to faculty members Dr. Paul Young (psychology) and Dr. Linda Mills Woolsey (English).

Senior Naomi Spurrier, who served on the General Education subcommittee during the fall of 2003, has found her involvement enlightening towards understanding college interacts with a larger organization. "Reaccreditation is something that we [students] take for granted...that we can leave this place and that our degree means something."

Furthermore, she found, "Being a part of the group personalizes this [process]; it's not just a bunch of terms and fancy words—it's a group of people sitting around and table and asking 'How can we make Houghton a better place to be, a better place to learn?'"

As she gathered information from different faculty members on their evaluations of the integrative studies curriculum, she experienced first-hand the fact that reaccreditation and the existence of Houghton College "isn't magical—[it is] a lot of people putting hard work and passion and perseverance into a project."

## Career Pathways: How's your RQ?

by DR. TIM NICHOLS  
Director of Career Services

Have you ever heard of your RQ? Probably not, because I just made up that acronym! We've all heard about our intelligence quotient (IQ) and perhaps wondered how we stack up. Theorists on human intelligence posit that your IQ is largely determined at birth, so there is very little one can do by worrying about it. Your RQ, on the other hand, is an entirely different matter.

Your RQ is your "Résumé Quotient," and that, Dear Reader, is something on which you can make a significant impact. *Beware, non-seniors who may be inclined to be tuning me out right now since I am discussing a graduation issue...the time to be thinking about your résumé is not one's senior year!* Sure, you'll be fine if you wait to come in and get your résumé in presentable format and appearance in your senior year, but the time to focus on its content is **now!**

When you sit down to work on your résumé or to discuss it with me, the first thing you need to consider is "what are my transferable skills?" How will you be able to demonstrate to an employer you have 'what it takes' for the position? Why don't we begin by considering what an employer wants? What luck! I happen to have the list right here based on a survey of thousands of employers: Here is their top ten list of desired traits in an employee: (from the National Association of Colleges and Employers):

1. Communication skills (verbal and written)
2. Honesty/integrity
3. Interpersonal skills (relates well to others)
4. Motivation/initiative
5. Strong work ethic
6. Teamwork skills (works well w/others)
7. Analytical skills
8. Flexibility/adaptability
9. Computer skills
10. Detail-oriented

When I read over that list, the first thing I think is "Great news for liberally-educated Houghton students!" You should have developed most of those skills during your time at Houghton. But how will you be able to prove that to an employer? There are several opportunities to demonstrate these skills:

1. Previous employment experiences
2. Extra and co-curricular activities
3. In-class projects
4. Internships
5. Student leadership positions
6. Volunteer/community service

You will need to have many, if not all, of these categories on your résumé. So rather than sitting in my office in a couple more years with that "uh-oh" look on your face, seek out ways to get involved right now! Whenever possible, identify opportunities that are in some way related to your desired vocation. Questions? Stop by and see me.

**The Star needs PHOTOGRAPHERS and JOURNALISTS! Get involved with the Star!**  
Do you have any ideas for the Star? If you're interested in writing articles for the Star, email David.Tait@houghton.edu or Sarah.Allen@houghton.edu. Interested in Photography? Email Rachel.Brask@houghton.edu



## SPRING 2005 WRITING FESTIVAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Unless otherwise indicated, all events occur in the Willard J. Houghton Library 2nd floor study room)

### Wednesday, March 2

8:00 p.m. Fiction Reading, Lori Huth

### Thursday, March 3

9:35-10:55 Fiction Reading & Discussion  
Alison Gresik

1:15-2:25 "Life Inside a Publishing House"  
Sally Sampson Craft  
(refreshments)

3:00-4:35 Fiction Reading & Discussion  
Hugh Cook

8:00 p.m. Lecture/Reading  
Alison Gresik

### Friday, March 4

10:00-10:50 "Answers to your Questions about Publishing"  
Sally Sampson Craft

11:00 -11:40 "The Christian Imagination,"  
Laurie Dashnau, Wesley Chapel

Noon-1:00 Women's Luncheon  
Hosted by Laurie Dashnau  
Dining Hall - South End

1:15-2:05 Interview of Alison Gresik by  
Lori Huth

2:15-3:05 Interview of Hugh Cook by  
John Leax

3:15-5:00 Writers' Workshop Readings

### Recital Hall, Center for the Arts:

7:00 p.m. Dessert Reception &  
Book Signing  
Alison Gresik, Hugh Cook,  
and James Zoller

8:00 p.m. Van Gorden Chair Reading  
James Zoller

## Black History Month Celebrated with Coffeehouse

by LINDSAY YANDON  
Star Staff Writer

On Thursday, February 17, the Houghton College Heritage Club hosted a coffee house in the Daily Grind in accordance with February as the nationally-recognized Black History Month. In 1926, Houghton College adapted a tradition of recognizing the Month and began to credit Distinguished African

Americans for their accomplishments and contributions to our society.

During the past few weeks, key African Americans from our country's history were acknowledged in chapel services in order to educate Houghton

students on the importance of this month. Thursday's coffee house was a culmination of the recognition and a time for the Heritage Club to embrace their background while enlightening the Houghton College community about the influential people of a differing ethnicity.

The evening presented a wide variety of material, though mostly from pop culture, and a sequence of trivia questions concerning noteworthy African Americans. Houghton students proved their knowledge with eager responses to each and every question.

Members of the Heritage Club and other students who wished to contribute entertained in the coffee house with poems, songs, quotes, and a slide show, elaborating on the lives of numerous African Americans who excelled in their disciplines. Althea Thompson, a hostess of the coffee house stated, "Black History Month recognizes the people who allowed us to be where we are today."

As images of writers like Toni Morrison, musicians like Aretha Franklin, and athletes like Jackie Robinson danced across the screen, four female members of the Heritage Club delivered a song to accentuate how pivotal each one of these people was in paving the way for all African Americans.

The Coffee House's theme was that of "Past, Present, and Future", showing how African Americans have played

significant roles, accomplished much, and grown tremendously in each of these time categories. Whether it was through sports, music, comedy, or politics, the events highlighted by the Heritage Club demonstrated the amount of enlightening and beneficial material that African

Americans have contributed to our culture.

Jared Bonnick participated by presenting a quote from Nelson Mandela that summed up the very theme of the evening. He recited, "There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to manifest the glory of God that is within us." He felt that this quote was one of the most appropriate ways to remind humankind what African Americans have accomplished and "We need reminding," he added.

This particular coffee house both entertained and educated. Students, faculty, staff, and visitors filtered out the doors of the Daily Grind having learned something about another ethnicity in the country that they both call home. Reminding us of the necessity to celebrate diversity, Erica Wells concluded, "Black History is not just one night; it's a whole month, and year long!"

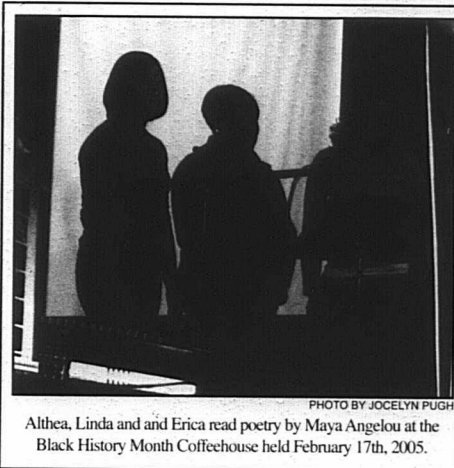


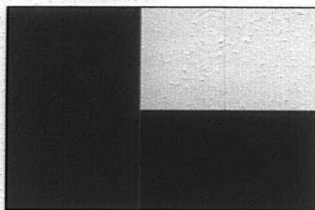
PHOTO BY JOCELYN PUGH  
Althea, Linda and Erica read poetry by Maya Angelou at the Black History Month Coffeehouse held February 17th, 2005.



### Dear Dr. Brittain....

Have a problem or a question that you want answered with the wisdom, humor, and unique flavor of Dr. Brittain? Write to The Star at [star@houghton.edu](mailto:star@houghton.edu) or CPO #370. Letters should be no longer than 250 words.

# WORLDVIEW: BENIN, WEST AFRICA



## THE FACTS:

**Country:** Republic of Benin, Africa  
(Situated in West Africa on the northern coast of the Gulf of Guinea)  
**Languages:** French (official) Fon, Ge, Bariba, Yoruba, Dendi  
**Population:** 6.9 million  
**Capital:** Porto-Novo  
**Main Religions:** Animism (Voodoo), Muslim, and Christian  
**Government System:** democratic republic  
**Head of State:** President Mathieu Kérékou  
**Major Industries:** Textiles, cotton, cigarettes, beverages, construction materials, petroleum, palm products  
(sources: LonelyPlanet.com, news.bbc.co.uk, cnn.com)



## INTERVIEW WITH TINEKE HEGEMAN, M.K. FROM BENIN, AFRICA

by HEIDI SPRUNGER  
Staff Writer

**Where in Africa did you live?** Well, I grew up in Benin, which is to the West of Nigeria. I went to Boarding school in Niger, which is kind of above Benin and Nigeria. My parents worked with a language school in the Baatonum language, so the Bible school was located 3 kilometers north of the city.

**Did you learn to speak the native language where you were living?** I learned Baatonum, the language of the people we were working with, just from playing with other kids and so on. At school (the first school I went to)—some of the students were Swiss German, and they would do their studies in German. If you were an English-speaking student, you would have to take German, and if you were a German-speaking student you would have to take English. And you both had to take French. French is the national language, so I ended up getting quite a few languages.

**How many languages do you know?** I know them in varying degrees. English and French are fluent, and I speak Baatonum semi-fluent, and Dutch semi-fluent, and German... I can converse but I am not really fluent at all.

**So what the Baatonum language sound like?** It's a tonal language so it's like kinda' musical....and you have to say things a certain way—for example, I think they have like four tones, and the word, which to us looks like one word depending on how you say it, can mean four different things. Their greeting for "Good afternoon." literally means, "You and the time of the sun." Then

you go through a lot of different greetings back and forth... it often takes like five minutes (ha ha). It is really important to greet because, first of all, it's the way that you express that your relationship is good...that your greeting each other at all, and by the answers you give you kind of get an idea of, "Is the person well?" "Is there a problem?"

**So if your friend won't even greet you on the street, are they really mad at you—**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY TINEKE HEGEMAN  
Tineke eats with other young women in a discipleship group from the local church at a goodbye party for a coworker.

Yes!..yes. Basically they will great each other in their village context at least once a day. Well..at least to their community every morning at about ten o'clock, and then every evening, everyone goes around and greets people, just to show you know everything's good.

**What is one of the biggest differences between the US and Benin?** In Benin, everything is about your status--where you fit in. Everything is about fitting in your role: for me as a daughter, as a young woman, as a foreigner...where as here, it is so much about what you accomplish. You are known by where you're at in your education process and what you've done and you haven't done. And pretty much everyone is on an equal plane, whereas that is not at all the case where I'm from. You definitely have a keen since of the latter--where you are and what kind of respect is due each person around you.

**What is something you miss the most about being there?** Haha..only one thing? One thing I really miss is the rain, because it is a whole different experience there. Because of the corrugated ten roofs, when it rains, it's really really loud!...It's deafening - besides the fact that every rain is practically a storm. There's lightening and claps of thunder. I really miss that.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY TINEKE HEGEMAN  
Tineke on a walk through the Catholic monastery grounds with friends from the neighborhood where she taught last year.



# Faculty Profile: Dr. Meic Pearse, Assistant Professor of History

by RACHEL MORAN  
Staff Writer

## Give us a little background

**information about yourself:** I was born in England, but I spent most of my early adult life in Wales and went native to the foolish extent of marrying a local girl (my wife Anne is from Swansea). That's also the origins of the slightly eccentric spelling of my name. The Wales church we were a part of remains a major formative influence on my life, one that kind of shaped me theologically. Immediately before coming here, I was teaching for 10 years at London School of Theology, for most of that time leading a degree program in theology. My main subject was church history. Since 1995 I've also been teaching for a couple weeks each year at the evangelical seminary in Osijek, Croatia.

**So, you've had a lot of different jobs, right? What were they?** Well, they've just been kind of various, really. When I was in Swansea I was doing an unbelievably boring variety of jobs for Swansea Council, simply making ends meet so we could live and be involved in the church. Eventually it became apparent that I was probably suited for an academic career...there was kind of a major career change, we sold our house and went to Oxford, and I got a Master's and Doctorate there.

**What are your responsibilities now at Houghton?** I don't know. The real reason I came here is to set up and run the East Meets West First Year Honor's Program, and alongside that I'm teaching a number of other courses in the History department and a few that overlap a bit in the Theology department.

**What've been the best and worst**

## aspects of moving to Houghton from the UK?

The best aspect is the fresh air and the countryside and the people we've met here. The worst aspects are mostly behind us now, but the first month was pretty horrendous. The bureaucracy in America and the apparent inability of American systems to cope with non-Americans - that was very bad and really surprised me, and continues to surprise me especially in rural areas. I went to take my provisional drivers' test in Belfast, and I'm not exaggerating, the woman working behind the counter stared at my passport for 20 minutes. Houghton itself is a fairly cosmopolitan place, but the rest of Western New York is another story.

## How many books have you written?

I've written six, published five. I've got one that I can't get anybody to take, and I've been hawking it around everywhere for about three years now.

**Tell us about your most recent book and why everyone should buy it.** Why the Rest Hates the West is looking at the underlying reasons why the West is getting itself into such serious conflict with everybody else around the world. I'm deliberately *not* looking at particular foreign policy actions, but looking at the underlying *cultural* conflicts. I am making a classic Christian argument that what is needed inside the West is a massive cultural revolution; that Westerners need to stop being the ceaseless barbarians that non-Westerners

perceive us as. I'm also making the case that the "anti-culture" - the attitude of a society that rejects traditional morality and takes away all incentives to marry and have children - is destroying the West and

its very existence. A culture like that simply cannot reproduce itself.

**You spoke to President Bush and members of Congress over break. Yes, I had a few minutes merely to flag up a question mark over their crusading ideal that what we need to do is westernize the non-West, and point out that that ideal is not entirely without its problems.**

**What's this about you helping to lead a new**

**Honor's Program? You're taking people to the Balkans? Can I sneak back as a freshman and come?** Yes, I think I could fill up a bus with existing students, faculty and friends, even if not a single honor's student goes for it. The idea is to get some of the brainiest people who are coming in here to connect radically with non-Western worldviews and in the process to understand the Western worldview better. We're looking at the Catholic/Protestant West, Eastern Orthodox East and the Muslim world, and how they have operated fruitfully, cooperatively and in conflict over 1500 years. In the Balkans, they meet right there and intermingle, which is what the Balkan conflict was all about. Students will look at these concepts from a point of view of history, culture and theology. In the spring semester they will study Comparative Literature with Stephen and Linda Mills Woolsey, and Political Science with Peter Meilaender, and then take a May Term trip to the Balkans.

**If you ever retire and you could do anything at all with your time, how would you spend it?** Teach students and write books. That's all I'm interested in doing ever.

**And the question that's been on every student's mind: how can I learn that cool accent? What can I say? I hate to break it to you, but this is the real language.**

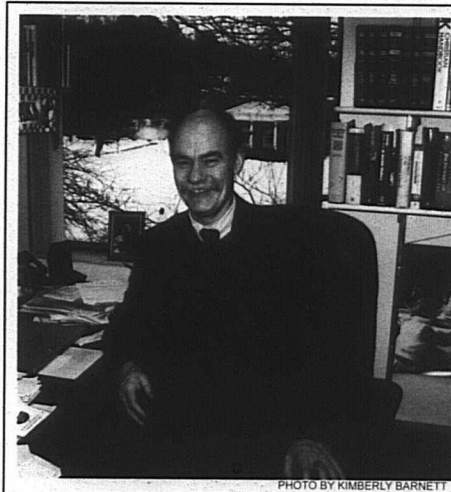


PHOTO BY KIMBERLY BARNETT

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Virginia Whealton

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# MOVIES

with Adam Kline

## Grade: B+

*Constantine* is based on the DC comic *Hellblazer*, and follows John Constantine, played by Keanu Reeves, a man who has literally been to hell and back. He was born with the gift to see the world behind the world, demons, angels and their battle for our souls. Right from the onset *Constantine* has a theology that is biblically off track but it does have a theology and sticks with it. God and the devil sit on their opposite thrones and only influence humanity through angels and demons. Freewill is at work here but the crisis of the story is when certain demons and angels break the rules and John Constantine must save the world from utter destruction. The result is some disappointments but also some truths, we have a heaven,

a hell, one road to heaven, a merciful God, and an overarching story of redemption.

John

Constantine has been to hell and back because he committed suicide at a young age but two minutes later was revived. Since he committed suicide for those two minutes, which felt like an eternity, he went to hell and

so Constantine now knows he is going to hell when he finally does die. What is interesting is that John actually knows the way to heaven as the angel Gabriel

explains, it is not just knowing God it is believing in him and giving yourself as a sacrifice for his purposes. Despite this truth John selfishly would rather attempt to buy his way into heaven by using his God-given gift to fight off demons in hopes God will reward his efforts.



Again, the theology is not entirely accurate, there are a few other mystical influences here, but what is admirable is that you have a Hollywood film that

actual does draw some lines in the sand; there are some blacks and whites. Even though Jesus is almost entirely left out of the picture this film does provide enough truths that it provides a decent platform for everyone to think and discuss about these ever important eternal issues.

There is a lot at work here in this film, an intriguing premise, theology(s) that demands discussion, great special effects, and stylish and effective direction. *Constantine* does get a little slow at times it could have been shorter, it does have a couple things that go unexplained, but the premise and the journey John Constantine takes is fascinating enough that I highly recommend you see this movie in the theatre.

## This Week's Review: Constantine

## The Oscars: Picks and Predictions

The biggest awards night in film is drawing closer, this Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup> the Oscars will be on ABC at 8pm. Still a very credible awards show, this year the Oscars bring us nominees that were a little bit surprising, a little bit disappointing but overall very exciting. In preparing for the Oscars I have taken some of the major categories, listed the

nominations, submitted a nomination I think is missing, picked who I think should win and finally predicted who I believe will win. It should be an Oscar night of excitement and surprises so enjoy.

### BEST PICTURE

*The Aviator*  
*Finding Neverland*  
*Million Dollar Baby*  
*Ray*  
*Sideways*

**Missing:** *De-lovely*

**Pick:** *Ray* or *Million*

*Dollar Baby*

**Prediction:** *The Aviator*

### BEST DIRECTOR

Martin Scorsese - *The Aviator*  
Clint Eastwood - *Million Dollar Baby*  
Taylor Hackford - *Ray*  
Alexander Payne - *Sideways*  
Mike Leigh - *Vera Drake*

**Missing:** Michel Gondry  
- *Eternal Sunshine...*

**Pick:** Martin Scorsese

**Prediction:** Martin

Scorsese

### BEST ACTOR

Don Cheadle - *Hotel Rwanda*  
Johnny Depp - *Finding Neverland*  
Leonardo DiCaprio - *The Aviator*  
Clint Eastwood - *Million Dollar Baby*  
Jamie Foxx - *Ray*

**Missing:** Paul

Giamatti - *Sideways*

**Pick:** Jamie Foxx

**Prediction:** Jamie

Foxx

### BEST ACTRESS

Annette Bening - *Being Julia*  
Catalina Sandino Moreno - *Maria Full of Grace*  
Imelda Staunton - *Vera Drake*  
Hilary Swank - *Million Dollar Baby*  
Kate Winslet - *Eternal Sunshine...*

**Missing:** Bryce

Dallas Howard - *The Village*

**Pick:** Hilary Swank

**Prediction:** Imelda

Staunton

### BEST SCREENPLAY (ADAPTED)

*Before Sunset*  
*Finding Neverland*  
*Million Dollar Baby*  
*The Motorcycle Diaries*  
*Sideways*

**Pick:** *Before Sunset*

**Prediction:** *Sideways*

### BEST SCREENPLAY (ORIGINAL)

*The Aviator*  
*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*  
*Hotel Rwanda*  
*The Incredibles*  
*Vera Drake*

**Pick:** *Eternal*

*Sunshine...*

**Prediction:** *Eternal Sunshine...*

### The Grading System

A+ = Perfect, no complaints  
A/A- = Great movie, worth owning  
B +/- = Good movie, worth seeing  
C +/- = Disappointing, maybe on video  
D +/- = Bad movie, not worth the money  
F = One of the worst movies of all time

### Coming Soon...

In Theatres Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>  
- *Cursed*, the new movie by Wes Craven  
- *Man of The House*, starring Tommy Lee Jones  
starring Winnie the Pooh  
On DVD Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>  
- *Flight of the Phoenix*, starring Dennis Quaid  
- *The Spongebob Squarepants Movie*



## GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

*Readers are encouraged to write responses to any portion of The Star in the form of a letter to the Editor. Letters should be no more than 500 words in length and should be sent to david.tait@houghton.edu. All letters are subject to editing or dismissal at the Editor-in-Chief's discretion depending on their content and relevance. Letters should be sent to the Editor by noon on the Sunday before the next issue. Anonymous letters will not be printed.*

## Letters To the Editor

20 February 2005

Dear Editor:

We are writing in response to the recent article published in the Houghton Star (February 17, 2005) regarding the concern about "scanning and scrambling." Although we do not condone the action of scanning and scrambling, we are perturbed by certain comments made by SGA Chaplain David Clem.

To begin, Clem's wording assumes a position that chapel attendance is equated with salvation and/or the condition of one's walk with Christ. His statement describing those who scan and scam as "falling through the cracks" suggests such students are clearly without integrity, and that Houghton College has the authority to play parent to an erring youth. We are a community not a totalitarian regime. In addition, Clem's use of the title "perpetrators" places scramblers on the same level as criminals.

Our second discrepancy involves the statement, "This is an issue of integrity." By making such a claim, Clem again elevates chapel attendance to an issue of necessity for a Houghton College student's Christian walk. This statement also contradicts a later comment by Clem, "Obviously, you cannot force people to follow Christ or live lives of integrity, and that is not our goal." We would like to ask then, what is your goal: to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24) or to manipulate students into holding the same beliefs about chapel attendance as you do? (If one were to comment on verse 25 of the same chapter, which states "Let us not give up meeting together," we would respond by stating attendance is a personal choice and, in terms of chapel, a Houghton College mandate.)

Although as chaplain Clem may feel the need to regulate chapel attendance, we feel there are worthier issues to focus on and lend our energies to, such as the apparent poverty of Allegheny County. As Matt Halulko stated, let's not "make a mountain out of a mole hill" by insinuating the necessity for having a campus-wide rally against scanning and scrambling when there are more important issues at hand.

Sincerely,  
Karis Koett  
Tara Fisher  
Rachael Kellogg

(community statement of beliefs probably hit job)

by SARAH ALLEN  
Managing Editor

## Not ready to give up on Lent

Growing up a Protestant in a largely Catholic community, the Lenten season for me meant little more than restaurants that would be crowded and smell like fish on Friday, and me showing off my lack of participation in this tradition as point of arrogant righteousness ("You can't eat pepperoni pizza today? Oh, I can because my church doesn't need to do Lent.").

Looking back, I am sure that this was not only silly but bordering on sinful. According to *The Meaning of Lent* (<http://www.geocities.com/francischinchoy/lenteaster/lent.html>), "The word Lent comes from [the] Anglo Saxon, mean[ing] spring. In Latin, Lent is *quadragesima* which means forty days. In Greek, it is *tessarakoste* (fortieth), a word formed on the analogy of Pentecost (*pentekoste*). Lent then, is not

intended to be a solely Catholic tradition, but a commemoration of the universal church, a forty-day period of celebration lasting from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Based on Matthew 6:1-18, the three distinct characteristics of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, essentially with the intention of "repentance and goodwill toward others." We copy several other notable Biblical models of significance in our forty-day Lent: Israel wandered for forty years in the desert, Moses stayed for forty days and forty nights on Mt. Sinai, Elijah walked forty days and forty nights to Mt. Horeb, and most significantly, Christ fasted for forty days and forty nights in the desert.

As of late, the common practice is not to fast for this period, but rather to give up something in order to commemorate the season and

practice spiritual discipline.

The goal, observed Dr. Connie Finney, is to prepare our hearts for Easter—the greatest celebration in Christianity. "As far as fasting goes," she explains, "I have done that some years by giving up things that steal my attention or my time. This year I'm using a slightly different approach—another practice I've also used from time to time. I'm adding something to my life rather than fasting something. My thinking is that I have to remove something from my life in order to add something. It's going at things from a more positive direction—enriching instead of removing. I'm adding music to my life during Lent this year by playing a musical instrument every day."

Lent, my friends, is not just for Catholics but perhaps should be considered more seriously by

Protestants too as we enter the season of celebrating our Savior. I was quick to ignorantly criticize because the focus can easily be shifted from the message of Christ on the cross to that of our own works. The value of remembering Christ's sacrifice cannot be measured, but we must bear in mind that a Lenten discipline is not the heart of the matter. Rather, we must focus on the fact that in some small way we are hoping to reflect a portion of what Christ has done for us, always keeping in mind that this is the goal of a lifetime and not just of a forty-day period.

Thanks to the following:

Dr. Connie Finney

[http://www.](http://www.stjohnscamberwell.org.au/Sermons/2Lent2003.htm)

[stjohnscamberwell.org.au/Sermons/2Lent2003.htm](http://www.stjohnscamberwell.org.au/Sermons/2Lent2003.htm)

<http://www.geocities.com/francischinchoy/lenteaster/lent.html>

# Highlanders suffer double loss to Wildcats

## Men's Basketball

FEBRUARY 15

HOUGHTON HIGHLANDERS 80,  
DAEMEN WILDCATS 91

By: Kristen Irja Niemi. Sportswriter  
HOUGHTON, N.Y.—Senior

Aaron Morley was the first to score for the Highlanders in the men's last regular season game; Morley with 17:48 to go in the period put the basketball in for three, shooting from just outside the three-point line on the far right side of the hoop. The Wildcats ranked number three in the AMC North Division were able to capitalize, however, in being a good offensive team and on what Highlander Head Coach Brad Zarges noted as the hosts not "executing defensively as well as offensively."

The Highlanders and Wildcats narrowly differed in shooting averages as the Wildcats had 60 percent and the hosts had 57 percent from the field. The Wildcats were on top in regards to scoring for the entirety of the game with the one exception of a tie in the

first period with 7:12 to go after Corky McMullen sank a freethrow.

Highlights of the game included a dunk by Kenny Gethers with 7:53 to go in the second period. Gethers jumped to grab the ball, over the hands of two opponents, and took the ball down the court to slam the ball in the hoop, leaving his hands to hang on the rim and his fellow Highlanders behind him. With only three minutes to go, it was Gethers again who passed the ball in from the right side to Harry Aldrich positioned on the three-point line directly in the center of the court. Gethers moved in from the side to underneath the hoop and received the pass from Aldrich to put two on the board with a layup, bringing the score to 73-83.

The Highlanders are now officially in

the off-season and will begin training accordingly with a 0-0 mentality—a



The Highlanders and Wildcats await in anticipation for a rebound after a shot by Adam Griggs.

blank slate as Coach Zarges commented. The team will focus, among many things, on developing skills and a commitment in playing defense, overall with the need to outwork future opponents.

## Women's Basketball

FEBRUARY 15

HOUGHTON 46, DAEMEN 71

By: Kristen Irja Niemi

HOUGHTON, N.Y.—The Highlanders started strong in this match up against number twenty-three in the NAIA and leader in the AMC North Division, the Daemen College Wildcats, but throughout the game hit "dry spells" as Coach Skip Lord noted, "doing good things in spurts."

The first and second half could be characterized largely by many missed and blocked shots evident in the Highlanders 27 percent shooting from the field. The Wildcats were able to take advantage of this with a 48 percent average and significantly increase the margin between host and opponent. There was a nine minute span that started with 18 minutes to go in the second period when the Highlanders

could not get any points on the board, and towards the end it was really a scramble. When the clock was winding down to the one minute mark, Jessica Clark flew in underneath the hoop and through opponent defense for a rebound. Clark rapidly passed

the ball to Maggie Unger positioned near the freethrow line and Unger continued to pass the basketball to Amanda Glasner who was a little to the left of the hoop; Glasner took the ball up for two to make the score 44-71. Clark followed this up with two successful freethrows, ending the game with a Highlander defeat 46-71.

The Highlanders finished their season after their last victory on February 19 against Ursuline and will now take two to three weeks off before beginning off-season training. They will focus throughout on growing stronger as a team and becoming more of a threat from outside the perimeter, hoping to increase their percentages in shooting.



Cassie Merrill looks to pass the ball to a teammate; the Highlanders fighting for a basket.