



SHAKESPEARE
PRODUCTION 5

December 6, 2006

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CAMPUS?

As you may already know, the SGA has been working on making our college more environmentally friendly. This week's PoLaRiS asked students, faculty, and staff what they thought about this issue.

PoLaRiS 4

SPORTS

7



Volume 102 Issue 6

THE HOUGHTON STAR

If music be the food of love, Play On!

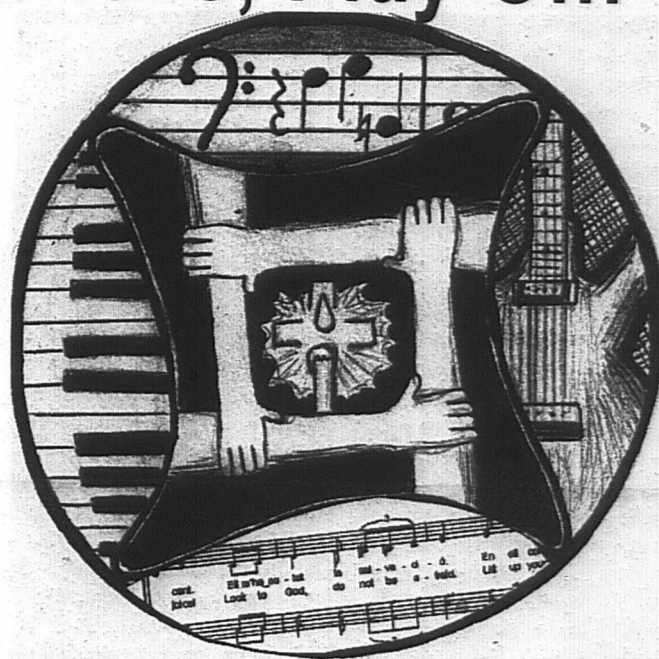
Clara Giebel, staff writer

Sometimes little class assignments can grow into gigantic projects that involve the whole school and demonstrate our greatest purpose in life. Such was the case with six first year music majors who were given the assignment in their Music and the Christian Perspective (MCP) class to plan and perform a service project involving themselves and their music. While many students fulfill this assignment by helping with chapel services, and playing and singing for the elderly who live at the Waters nursing home, Clara Sanders, Emily Stuart, Dan Lawson, Ruth Kenote, Jewel Buckwalter, and Alyson Shipman stepped off of the beaten track to use music in a way that would get the whole campus united in service.

Out of this idea sprung "Play On!," a benefit concert supporting the Houghton Wesleyan Church Food

Pantry and Wellspring Ministries. Originally, these six had thought to support arts education for children in western NY, but as they continued planning, it became clear that nearest to their hearts was helping people in their immediate vicinity. When Clara Sanders and Alyson Shipman went to the Info Center to discuss various local ministries with Kathie Brennenman, they were touched to the core to hear of children in Allegany county crying in their hunger and were motivated to aid the ministries in this area that are working to meet these needs. Wellspring Ministries shares the gospel with those in Allegany County using words and actions. They operate a soup kitchen, provide food and clothing to needy families, and plan on opening an area of temporary shelter for the poor and homeless, hoping in time to reintegrate the homeless into

-continued on pg 3, PLAY



The Play On! emblem above, drawn by Alyson Shipman, represents the power of all different kinds of music to bring people together and to work for change in the world.

The 2nd Annual Rothenbueler Treasure Hunt: The Hunt for Amazon

Daniel White, staff writer

The second annual Rothenbueler treasure hunt was full of surprises. Teams met together on a dark and stormy Saturday night in Schaller Hall to be briefed by the new professor of Enigmatology at Houghton, Dr. Tobias Hunt. Unfortunately Dr. Hunt was detained, and Houghton security guard, Ray Parlett delivered a pre-recorded message in his place. In the message the teams were told of a sinister mystery surrounding the early years of Houghton College. According to Hunt, a shadowy woman known as Veronica Amazon, a supposed resident of Houghton, stole a valuable million dollar grant intended for the school. Dr. Hunt was at present hot on her trail but desperately in need of help. His video message asked the teams to search around the Houghton campus to help him track down Amazon and recover the stolen money.

Armed with a starter page of cryptic clues, teams of four ventured out into the damp night in search of

the real grand prize, regrettably not the million dollar grant but rather a one-hundred dollar gift certificate to Amazon.com.

This year's hunt was organized by the Rothenbueler dorm council led by President Jimmy Dutton, Vice President Michael Biele, and Roth Resident Director Gabe Jacobsen. Jacobsen says of Biele, "He's actually the one that thought of and orchestrated the faculty clues. He was also the one who really had the inspiration to make it big (I had hoped it would get to this point some day, but he was the one who took it and ran with it) and put together all of our website stuff...all that to say, without him, none of this would even have come close to what it was."

According to Dutton, preparations for the hunt began over a month and a half before it actually took place. A major difference from last year's event was the time it took for participants to complete the clues. While the 2005 hunt was much smaller and shorter, this year the dorm council worked very hard to make the compe-

tition "mind boggling," as Dutton put it. "We wanted to make sure that all of the answers were ones that couldn't be found by just typing key words in at Google and seeing it in the first search result. I don't think any of them were like that; some answers were found on Google, but with much difficulty." Because Biele and Jacobsen had big plans for this year's hunt, the organizers also tapped professors to create nearly impossible complex questions that could realistically be solved with outside help.

Dutton relayed that one of the longest tasks to finalize in preparation was the storyline of Veronica Amazon and Dr. Tobias Hunt. "We knew from the start that a storyline would improve the progress of the hunt. Who knows how many people got this, but the 'Amazon' from 'Veronica Amazon' was based off of the prize from Amazon.com." The entire dorm council imagined this scenario into existence in order to boost the sense of urgency and excitement for the competitors. Dutton, "Tying the clues together

[was] not easy, but we got it done eventually. Turns out that people were just skipping over plot points to get to the next clue though. Oh well, at least they were excited."

Johnathan Reilly, Erik Johnson, Andrew Lundeen, and Andrew Gent of Team "Cakebutt" certainly were excited as they were the winners of this year's competition. Just as any true team would do, Cakebutt decided that instead of divvying up the hundred dollars amongst the four winners they would spread the glory around to their home floor, the first floor of Roth. "We all decided that this victory was more important to the entire floor than to just the four of us. We decided that because it was a floor effort, we would buy four or five DVD's and hang out as a floor and watch them. We'd let the original members take a DVD home and have some kind of competition for the fifth DVD so someone could win it," says Reilly, RA of First Roth.

Although not every team

-continued on pg 3, ROTH

Revenge of the Anabaptist?

A response to Richard Mouw's lecture

Dr. Meic Pearse, faculty writer

Prof. Richard Mouw certainly raised some important issues during his evening lecture in the Wesley Chapel on Thursday, Nov. 16th. He began by telling us that he commenced his student days at Houghton as a committed Calvinist, and left as one. I can identify with that; I went to his lecture a theological Anabaptist — and left as one.

But Mouw really did try. According to him, Anabaptists encourage disengagement from the wider culture; by contrast, his own, Reformed tradition is, in Niebuhr's phrase, "culture-transforming". This phase of the lecture (Anabaptist, bad; Reformed, good) took up the first 25 minutes or so. And it was the best part. I found myself in mere disagreement. But then it got worse. The end of the lecture and his replies to the questions afterwards really left a large question-mark over the coherence of his own position. So let's attend to those first and last sections.

Mouw began by stressing that the Constantinian alliance between church and state was not all bad. He pointed out that the Jewish people in exile in Babylon were called upon to "pray for the welfare of the city" where they lived — and that we should do likewise. That's good. Reformed appeals to the OT very often contain an enormous exegetical fallacy (i.e., that there is a parallel between OT Israel and the polity of the modern state, such as the U.S., where the exegete in question happens to live). But ... exile. OK; even we Anabaptists can wear that as a legitimate parallel.

Even so, I began to wonder whether a straw man was being set up. Mouw related happily how his friends had been given the opportunity by Communist officials to practice their counseling skills in China; Anabaptists, he then told us, would reject serv-

ing the state in this or any other way. Similarly, he reflected how grateful he was for the U.S. police who keep order, the health and education workers who looked after his children when they were small, the legislators who keep the roads safe, etc.. All of these services, apparently, would be rejected as 'Constantinian' by Anabaptists.

Really? Well, the Amish might do so, I guess. And granted, as a non-pacifist Anabaptist, I'm a bit of an odd-ball at the other end of the spectrum. But I doubt most Anabaptists would refuse to work as schoolteachers, nurses or public officials (even if they would be wary about joining the police because of the need to use firearms). Indeed, Pilgram Marpek, the best sixteenth-century Anabaptist theologian, served for many years as city engineer of Ulm, in Germany, whilst pastoring an underground church.

Whilst the issue of cultural engagement in the modern world is extremely important for Christians, it should be said that the Reformed-Anabaptist aspect of the debate can degenerate into mere pointless flag-waving all round. The uncomfortable fact for each side is that the central circumstance that formed both traditions no longer holds good. The sixteenth century was not an open society in which private individuals could participate on their own terms, or where Mouw and I could ponder whether to be 'culturally, politically, and educationally engaged' or to paddle our own canoes — or to steer between those options. There was an official church to which all inhabitants were required to belong; one either adhered to it, or dissented from it and accepted persecution. If you did the former, then you perforce had to justify persecution of those dissenters and the enforcement of your religion on the population. If you did the latter, then you shunned the instruments of state as hopelessly bound up in an apostate church.

And I think the former was apostate. Mouw gave us lots of cuddly quotes from Calvin's piety (Augustine gets the same kid-gloves treatment: we stick to his Confessions). But try this one: "I shall never permit him to depart alive, if my authority counts for anything." And, as we know, the heretic Michael Servetus did not depart alive.

This is no mere cheap shot. All of the Protestant Reformers — and the Catholic and Orthodox authorities — took the same view about killing heretics. But that's my point. Calvin's remark was not an aberration or a one-off; it was the central meaning of his theological system. It was a blueprint for running society-as-a-whole — hence all those dodgy hermeneutics of the OT. But the faith of Jesus is not a pattern for running a society. Go read Matt. 5-7 again, and try imagining how those commands could possibly — ever — be made into a public law. It can't be done.

The Reformers neither preached nor practiced religious toleration; they wanted to substitute their own, 'right' religion for the Catholics' 'wrong' one. Puritan New England was established on Reformed principles. That's why the Bostonians whipped and imprisoned Baptists and hanged Quakers. It was very 'holistic'.

But, after the first few generations, even before the Revolution, America came to function on Anabaptist principles, and has done so ever since. It happened by accident, of course. The country was too big to enforce conformity. The people were too few — and way too diverse — to make persecution practicable in the long run. The early Anabaptists' heroic repudiations are no longer quite so necessary; the iron will of the Reformed to exert religious "discipline" on the rest of us has long since corroded to irrelevance. But, like Mouw on Thursday, the Puritans really did try.

Call me perverse, but I happen to think it a good thing they failed. Because that's not what Christianity is.

And even Mouw can see that, too, really. I agree with him completely that, when we want to argue against legalized abortion, it's best not to fall back on Bible verses to do so. But Calvin and the Boston Puritans would've banged us both into jail for our godless approach.

And when, deep into injury time, Mouw started arguing for human rights, his Reformed heroes wouldn't even have known what he meant — far less have agreed with him. At this point, even I'm a better Calvinist than Mouw!

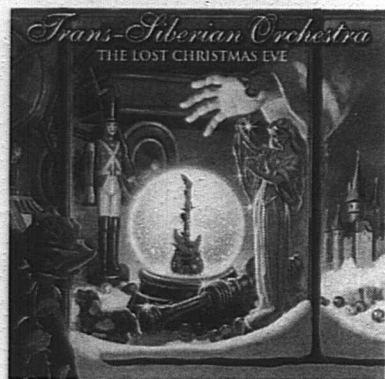
To be fair to Mouw, at least a number of those who claim to speak for 'Anabaptism' today are guilty of equivalent historical fallacies and misunderstandings to his. Pacifism is admirable as a personal ethic; the original Anabaptists meant they were willing to pay the price of death rather than offer violent resistance. But that's not what lots of self-styled Anabaptists now mean. Some of them want to make pacifism a policy of government, which it can never be. (Well, only for about 20 minutes, anyway.) And if today's mere leftist whiners can't see that point, Menno Simons and the real guys could, and said so.

The trouble for both Reformed and Anabaptists is the same: we're in a different world now. So could we please stop being dishonest about the real meaning of these two legacies, and check out how much is usable in the present? And, pace Mouw, I humbly submit that a believer's church adhering to all of the key doctrines of pre-Constantinian Christianity is more usable than a theological system that owes its origin and meaning to the attempt to obliterate the distinction between the Testaments in the interests of creating a Christian state.

Review

The Lost Christmas Eve

Justin Hackett, staff writer



For the past few years I've been hearing all this hype about the Trans-Siberian Orchestra around Christmastime. What the Trans-Siberian Orchestra does on their numerous Christmas albums is take traditional Christmas carols (along with some

originals) and transform them into epic rock ballads. I often have a hard time buying into hype because I think liking something just because everyone else does is boring. The Trans-Siberian Orchestra (TSO) hype seems to grow annually and their popularity strengthens. I know that they are doing an arena tour this winter and one of their last stops before Christmas is in Buffalo at HSBC Arena on December 23rd. Prior to this past Thanksgiving break I had heard a grand total of two songs by TSO. Their most popular Christmas song "Carol of the Bells" can be heard all over the radio during the Christmas season. The other song was "Wizards In Winter" from their most recent Christmas outing *The Lost Christmas Eve*. Both of these songs are instrumental masterpieces in my opinion. I wanted to hear more, but never had the opportunity, until this

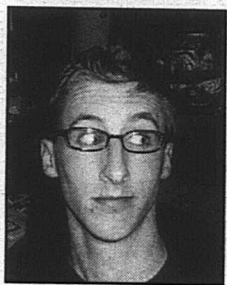
past break. When I got home, I discovered that my mom had just bought a copy of *The Lost Christmas Eve* and I was elated. However, upon further listen, I was less than impressed.

I knew that TSO sang on a number of their songs, but I thought it would be better than this. Each of their Christmas albums is a mix of instrumental songs and songs with vocals. *The Lost Christmas Eve* is no different. I do not know what I was expecting, but it was much different from what I was hearing. It sounded like I was listening to an 80's hair band sing to me about Christmas bells and sleigh rides. I don't know about you, but I prefer to hear about our marshmallow world in the winter from Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin or about the not-so-rocky "Jingle Bell Rock" from Bobby Helms. I only wanted to listen to the instrumental songs on *The Lost Christmas Eve* the second time around.

I do enjoy new takes on the sometimes repetitious Christmas music we are blitzed with starting every December...November, but TSO just feels so very much out of place. *The Lost Christmas Eve* is just a mixed bag. Some may enjoy it all or some, like me, will tend to skip past the songs where there is singing. Instrumentally, however, they are incredible. I'm sure their non-Christmas singing that is not season-oriented is a better fit. Maybe it's because I'm not so much a fan of the genre that is stereotyped as liking spandex pants and using a whole bottle of hairspray a day. Call me old fashioned, but Christmas music should be a far cry from this. I'll take a Bing Crosby with a side of Danny Kaye, please.

Grade: C+

Ruin a relationship in 10 easy steps



Jimmy Dutton, columnist

Are you stuck in a relationship that you're just dying to get out of? Is your girlfriend asking for a wedding ring after only one date? Is your boyfriend too comfortable with being naked around other guys? Or is he a complete nerd, but you didn't realize it at first because you just thought he was really super emo and now you want to dump him? Well, fear no longer my relationship-troubled Houghton peers, the un-love doctor is in. The following are ten easy steps to dumping your significant other (or, as I'm going to call them, "Sigs").

1. If you've been dating your Sig for a while and have gotten to the point where "I love you" pops up after every sentence then this step is for you. Typically when an "I love you" is said, an "I love you too" is supposed to follow; it's what your Sig expects and it's what keeps the Sig happy. It's not smart to complete this transaction

if you're trying to dump someone. So next time that your soon-to-be ex-lover says "I love you" then react in one of the following ways: Pretend that you lose your hearing every time your Sig says it. Insist that you don't want to talk about "elephant shoes." Attempt to finish your entire plate of food in one bite in the slowest amount of time possible. Or, if you're too lazy to complete the next nine steps, say "I love you so much that I can't possibly stay with you any longer." But that's a cop-out.

2. Step 1 is a good softener; it'll weaken your Sig to the point of insecurity. This next step is a little jab that will only help your cause. Ok, here is what you do: Eat onions as much as you can all day, every day. On top of that, insist that you go out for Mexican food every night and only order beans. If they have onion beans that's even better! Obviously this will drastically affect your breath status, but there is also a bonus. Eventually, you will start excreting sweat and eventually, you'll smell like a Shen man on a skunk hunt or (to keep it balanced) a Roth man in the presence of a pretty girl. This step probably won't lead to a break-up unless your Sig is completely shallow and mean....so, in most cases, it actually will lead to a break-up.

3. This next step is a little

extreme, but highly effective. If the previous two attempts fail, then the next thing you do is fake your own death. I know what you're thinking. You're thinking, "Jimmy, that's a good idea." Well, thank you. The only downside is that you have to find a way to go about your daily routine without your Sig knowing it's you. My favorite approach is the "twin with the same name" approach. But feel free to be creative here.

4. This one is my personal favorite. Every time your Sig leans in for the kiss, pretend that you're about to sneeze or burp. This will usually stem off the Sin Attack (aka "kissing"). It's my favorite one because it's kind of fun to see the look on your Sig's face... but that's just me.

I think that those four steps are good enough. If your Sig still sticks with you after all of that crap then they're crazy. Officially, I also want to stop at four because I'm running dangerously close to re-creating the classic movie *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days* in writing form. And I just don't think I'm up to the challenge. It's like taking the *Lord of the Rings* books and trying to make them movies. It just can't be done. Except for that one time.

Why HC needs to be more Amish



Marc Smithers, columnist

There have always been two things that I admired about the Amish (even though when I was in my teenage years, I had a slight fear of them and their secrecy). Number one, they have the coolest beards in all the land – thus the reason why I now shave as an Amish person, and number two, they do things as a community. When someone has a wedding, it seems as though everyone who is Amish attends. When someone needs their barn raised, they hitch up their buggies and aid their fellow Amish brother in his time of need.

I say this not to propose that we at Houghton College should eliminate the use of electronic appliances. Instead, I want to bring to light a dark evil that seems to go unnoticed by most on campus – the lack of community. In that fine staple of the Houghton College diet, FYI, students are barraged with claims that Houghton is a community of which everyone is a part and which everyone should respect. However, what do we really do as a community? Attend sport-

ing events? Celebrate homecoming? Complain about the cafeteria food?

I was struck by the lack of Houghton student attendance at the recent Jars of Clay concert, and this is what got my mind stirring about the so-called Houghton community that we all pledge allegiance to. But the truth is, we don't do anything community-like out of sheer choice.

Chapel is attended (by most), and this is arguably the greatest extent of communal gathering that occurs on this campus. But even this could not be proved to be willingly attended by all or even most. Koinonia seems to be widely attended by students, and this is an entirely voluntary attendance. But even these numbers continue to decrease as the semester progresses. Sporting events are the greatest disappointment in my eyes. In high school, I loved when basically the entire student body would show up to support our school's sports teams. And I thought that since college presents so much more communal-type living, that spirit would be even greater. But attendance is borderline pathetic at most games, and at games that would tend to draw even more of an audience (games involving a certain Roberts UnWesleyan College), support is lacking to say the least.

Many other examples could be given, such as the Homecoming Parade's miniscule importance in the eyes of many, and the relative inexistence of ShenBloc this year. All point to the same conclusion – we've lost our sense of Houghton identity.

The reason for this elimination of the Houghton identity is, in my eyes, straightforward. The Houghton administration spends the bulk of their time, when explaining the Houghton community, focused on "Community Responsibility." Students don't know why they can't drink or dance, they just know that they're expected not to. And the reasons given are based on the idea that Houghton is a "city on a hill," and the city that has been created here is superior to other communities that allow all of those atrocities to occur. Our allegiance has not been sought after, but rather has been offered as a choice between Houghton's world and the other world.

If Houghton would like to maintain, or more appropriately, regain its sense of community, something needs to be done about its presentation. Why should we associate ourselves, not just with Houghton College, but with the people who make up the Houghton community – staff, students, and alumni? What are community expectations, aside from a list of things we do not do? These are the questions that the administration should respond to when trying to instill community identity within this campus. In no way am I saying that I think the rules of this college are ridiculous and should not be followed. It just seems that Houghton has been relying on these rules as the factors with which the Houghton identity will be constructed. Rules maintain a community, but they do not build one.

-PLAY, continued from pg 1

families, churches and communities.

Those on the committee organizing Play On!, wanted it to be big enough that the whole college would be influenced. Alyson Shipman has high hopes for Play On! saying that, "Big events are always a great way to raise awareness about issues and to get people into action about them together as a community." It is not only big events, but music also, has a special power in uniting people in a common cause. Eventually, the MCP assignment, grades, and even the spark that started it all became less important than their communal goal of sharing the love of Christ through music.

The night of the concert was December 4th, and the acts held everything from opera to avant-garde jazz, because, says Clara Sanders, "All kinds of music can work together for change in the world." The Play On! committee sends many thanks to all who participated, by either performing or listening. Because it is their, "Hope that all the work that has gone into this, each piece of music, and each note performed will praise the Lord who deserves all praise!" exclaimed Emily Stuart.

The title of this project comes from Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, as the opening lines of a lovesick duke, "If music be the food of love, play on!" The members of this group have placed these words in a greater meaning, invoking Christ's commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, with all that we have, including our lives our hearts and our music. "If music is the food of love—the love of Christ—we have an eternal calling always to play on."

-ROTH, continued from pg 1

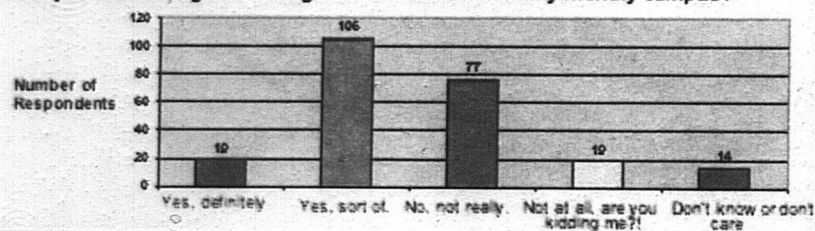
could relish in the glory of triumph, others certainly enjoyed the contest. Ryan Musser of Team "Two Americans and a Brit" had this to say, "I just thought it was amazingly well-done. There were always new twists, and as I look back I can't believe that we and all the other groups figured some of those riddles out. They were hard! The whole thing was definitely hooking! I couldn't find myself willing to give up. I didn't care about winning, I just wanted to succeed! Major props to the Roth dorm council on this one!" One of the council's goals was to bring together students from different dorms although Dutton jokingly responded that the real purpose of the hunt was to "prove the awesomeness of Roth."

All in all, the second annual Rothenbueler Treasure Hunt seems to have been an enormous success. Much time and effort was put into this year's competition and next year's only promises greater things. So start preparing now, because who knows; next year's prize may well be Amazon's stolen million dollars.

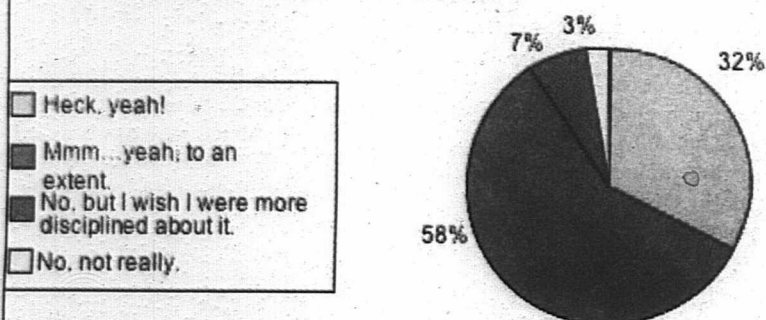
PoLaRiS

As you may already know, the SGA has been working on making our college more environmentally friendly. This week's PoLaRiS asked students, faculty and staff what they thought about this issue.

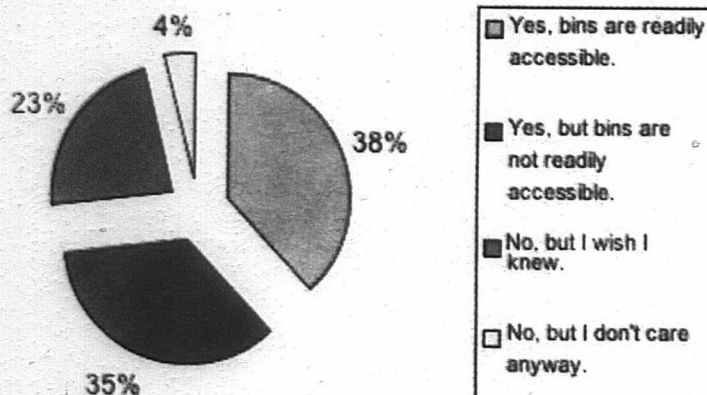
1. Do you think Houghton College has an environmentally-friendly campus?



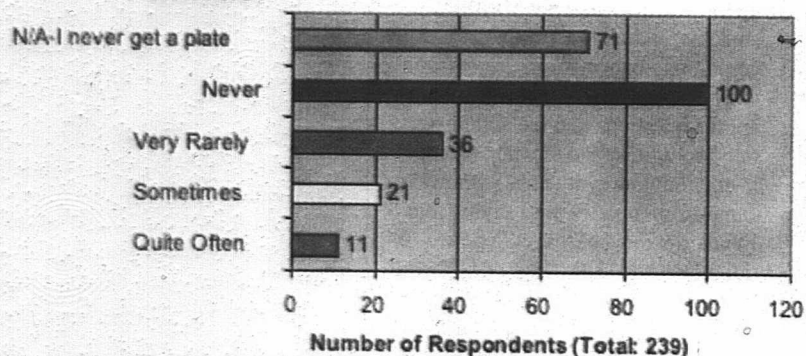
2. Would you consider yourself someone who cares about the environment? (e.g. you try to recycle, save water energy, gas, etc.)



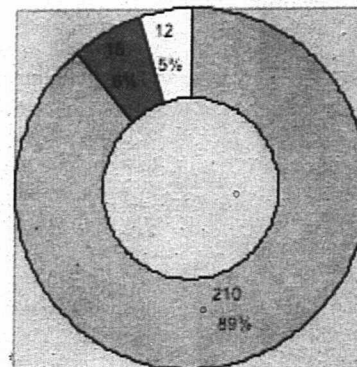
3. Do you know exactly where to place your cans, plastic, paper, cardboard, etc., around campus in order to recycle them?



4. When you go to Big Al's to eat, and you get a plate, how often do you go back to ask for a Styrofoam box to take your leftovers?



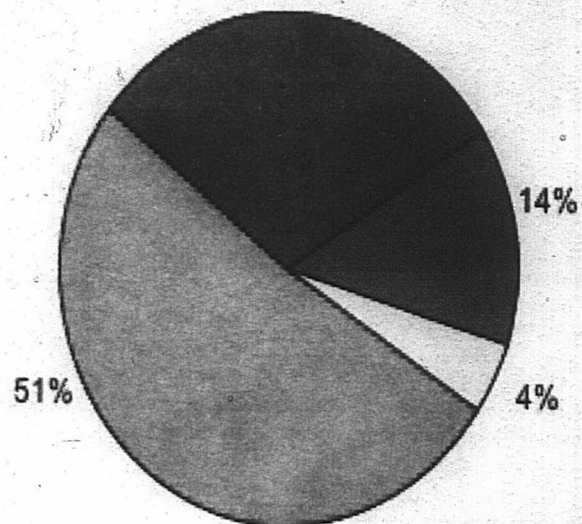
5. In order to reduce the use of Styrofoam, when you go to Big Al's to eat, would you like to be asked if you want your meal "for here" (on a plate) or "to go" (in a Styrofoam box)?



Yes! No Why does it matter?

Would you be willing to pay, say, \$20-25 more each semester for your meal plan with the condition that Pioneer Foods (the Cafeteria and Big Al's) became 100% environmentally-friendly (only use biodegradable and compostable disposables) and purchased 100% Fair Trade coffee, fruits, and vegetables? (If you don't have a meal plan, what would you do if you had one?)

- ☐ Yes, definitely!
- ☐ Hmmm...I'd have to think about it, but probably I would.
- ☐ No, not really.
- ☐ Why would anyone want to do that? It's not worth it!



Total Respondents: 239

Thank you very much to all of you who wrote comments and suggestions for Houghton College as it tries to become more environmentally friendly.

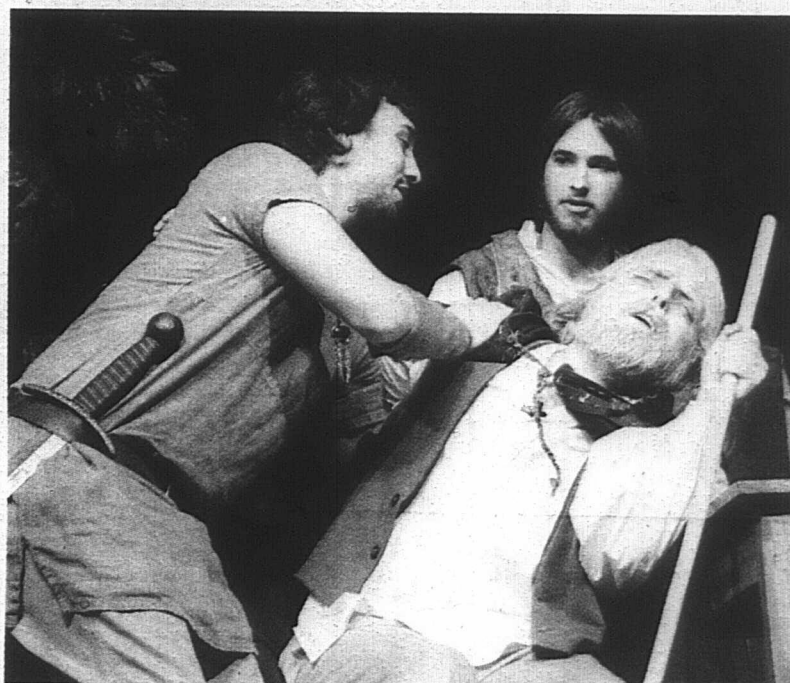
Note: PoLaRiS is in no way a professional opinion survey and its results should not be used as official statistics. Some percentages might not add up to exactly 100 percent due to rounding. All fill-in responses were either discarded due to irrelevance or added up to one of the main options due to their resemblance with the provided options. Question number six from the original survey was not included in this compilation. Colors throughout the charts do not necessarily associate with each other or represent one specific side on the issue.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions for future topics or specific line items, please contact Inti Martínez. Keep playing PoLaRiS!



Left: Oliver (David Lopez) and Celia (Amy Labzantis) are very happy awaiting their turn to be married.

Below: Orlando (Stefan Sciavone) sets Adam (Steve Libick) down after carrying him through the Forest to get food.



Players present: As You Like It

Above: Orlando (Stefan Sciavone) and Rosalind (Bryana Mahan) gaze into each others eyes and happy to finally be together.



Right: William (Bennet Minchen) and Touchstone (David Mahan) fight over the love of Audrey (Journey Osburn).

Right: Orlando (Stefan Sciavone) gets a lesson in love from Rosalind (Bryana Mahan).



Director's Spotlight

Aleshia Ellingson, guest writer (director)

Directing *As You Like It* was not an easy task but it was one of the most memorable experiences I have had at Houghton. It was overwhelming at the beginning of the semester thinking of all the things I needed to do and how long they would take. I started where every good director starts – the assembling of a cast. We had three nights of auditions and filled every

role. Of course, there were people who dropped out during the semester, but I did not have a problem filling those roles.

The next step was to schedule rehearsals. It became a Friday night tradition to sit in one place for a couple of hours with the actors' schedules and what scenes each person

-continued on pg 6. SPOTLIGHT

News from Outside the 'Houghton Bubble'

Elyse Drum, staff writer

•It's officially the holiday season which means that the stores are filled with people. Apparently, for two 15-year-old boys in Maine, that meant it was a good time to try out their home-made bombs inside of a local Wal-Mart. Hundreds of customers were evacuated and, fortunately, the only injuries reported were ringing ears and irritation in the eyes and throats of at least eight customers. The boys were charged with criminal use of explosives.

•The fifth anti-Syrian Lebanese politician to be killed in the past two years was assassinated in the Christian area of Beirut on Tuesday, November 21. Pierre Gemayel, a prominent Christian political leader in Lebanon was shot in broad daylight in his car. His killing came just after the Lebanese cabinet decided to set up a tribunal to try those suspected of assassinating former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in February of 2005.

•It has been a long and bumpy road to democracy for the Democratic Republic of Congo. Election results from the summer were announced in mid-November with the incumbent President Joseph Kabila as the victor with 58% of the votes. This, however, has not been received well in parts of the country and there are now dissident soldiers who have attacked army positions in the east, where the President is most supported.

•A Russian man named Alexander Litvinenko, who was an ex-spy, died this week in London. It is believed that he was poisoned with "radioactive thallium". On his deathbed he accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of being involved in his death because he has been an outspoken critic for years. Some believe he may have been poisoned to stop his investigation into the death of his friend, Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya.

-SPOTLIGHT continued from pg 5

was in. It was not easy to work around everyone's schedules, but somehow we did it. Most people made it to a majority of the rehearsals. Throughout the semester, I also learned who I needed to remind about rehearsals.

With the cast in place, I knew I needed help with the set and costumes. I wanted to re-use some of the stage scenery from previous Shakespeare productions so that we would only have to make a big tree and a rock. I went through my e-mails to find out who was interested in working on the set in hopes of finding a stage manager. Megan Grandits accepted my offer and did a wonderful job. When it came to costumes, I was pretty clueless. Thankfully, Bryana Mahan, who was also playing Rosalind, offered to take on the difficult task. With help from Steve Libick and many others, it worked out. Our costumes were amazing!

With those tasks taken care of and rehearsals in full swing, it was time to find a location. This turned out to be one of the most stressful parts of the play. One morning I decided to e-mail Houghton Academy to see if their auditorium was available. I did not have high hopes that it was going to work out. Amazingly enough, it did work out. I was pleased because I was able to give my actors a real stage to perform on.

It was a huge relief once all of this was covered. Now I had to focus on making sure my actors were ready for the performance. Our rehearsals were on Monday through Thursday nights from 6p.m. to 10p.m. I made it a personal goal to try not to keep my actors late at night because I knew they needed sleep. Some of them were

there for 3 to 4 hours a night, and they still needed time to do schoolwork. This crazy schedule also took a toll on me and led to many late nights and a severe lack of sleep by the time the play was upon us.

The week before the play, I was anxious and nervous. I still had programs to make, posters to hang, tickets to number, homework to do, tests to study for, and rehearsals almost every night. Rehearsals were stressful, which is expected for production week because there are kinks to be worked out. By the grace of God, I got it all accomplished. Looking back on that week though, I can't even fathom how I accomplished everything.

Friday night came and I was nervous, but I had faith in my cast. Once the play started, I sat in the back and watched. I could not have been more proud of them. Saturday night I was also nervous, because for me this was the night my family was visiting. My friends were also there, and I wanted them to approve. As I sat in the back of the audience, I looked around the auditorium and was amazed at how full it was. After the play I was doubly proud of my cast and all that they had accomplished. My family and friends told me how much they loved *As You Like It*, and I knew right then that my cast and I had transformed this written work of Shakespeare into a very successful, entertaining, and enjoyable night of theatre.

CASH FOR BOOKS

Houghton College Campus Store

Monday
December

11

thru

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December

15

Monday, Dec 11 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
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Season preview 2006-2007

Houghton College Women's Basketball

Ben Tsujimoto, sports writer

The Houghton College Women's Basketball team enters the season with new faces and a revised system. Without a senior on the roster, the Lady Highlanders turn to returnees Ashley Scudder, Cassie Merrill, and Rebecca Kallal for leadership and consistency. Although five freshmen see significant minutes, do not mistake this as a rebuilding year. By taking full advantage of their strengths, particularly conditioning and depth, this underrated Houghton squad may surprise powerhouses like Geneva, Daemen, and Notre Dame in the NAIA AMC North Division.

Through an emphasis on pre-season conditioning, Coach Lord has installed a system to make the most of the team's stamina and bench talent. The Highlanders feature a 'controlled break,' expect Houghton to push the tempo and beat the opposition down the floor. If circumstances are not conducive to a fast-paced attack, the

women have developed an efficient half-court offense as well. Thus far, Coach Lord is pleased with the offensive strategy: "We are excited about what we are seeing so far in terms of good balance on offense, with as many as four players scoring in double figures."

Dictating the pace of this offense is a backcourt of speedy point guards and powerful three-point shooters. Lisa Skrypnik has eagerly accepted the daunting task of directing the offense as a freshman; the transition from high school basketball to the college level is challenging, not to mention the additional demands of the point guard position. With her ability to handle the ball and pressure opposing guards, Skrypnik has already made an impact and will improve with each game. Joining the freshman in the backcourt are juniors Cassie Merrill and Rebecca Kallal. Whether they are hustling for loose balls, diving into passing lanes, or calmly drilling threes, these two provide smart defense and

accurate shooting. Athletic guards Hillary Brower and Jody Tripler are tenacious defenders off the bench.

Despite the potential of the guards, Houghton's success depends on the contributions of a blossoming frontcourt. Entering her third year, Ashley Scudder possesses a soft touch around the hoop and remains a solid source of rebounding. The impact of three freshmen is encouraging; forwards Leah French, Erika Forland, and center Jessica Smith have performed admirably in three games against formidable opponents. French, a small but athletic forward, often beats her defender off the dribble and has emerged as a lethal scoring option. Forland and Smith are double-double threats; Forland posted 14 points and 13 rebounds against Southern Wesleyan, while Smith tallied a team-high 17 points versus Malone. Like Skrypnik, these freshman post-players will only improve as the season progresses.

Despite the arrival of many

new players, the Lady Highlanders are united by an emphasis on 'full-time Christian service.' Coach Lord encourages his players to serve Christ not only by helping a teammate off the floor after drawing a charge, but also in other areas of life. "We want our athletes to be their best spiritually, academically, socially and athletically. We talk daily about the ministry we want to have to those with whom, against whom and in front of whom we play," the head coach states. Although this young squad may experience growing pains, they remain optimistic and focused on improvement each game. "Fans should not be misled by what may appear to the untrained eye as a slow start," says Coach Lord. "We have played three very strong teams and have improved with each game. This strong early schedule should have us ready for the upcoming stretch." AMC North Division opponents should not take the Lady Highlanders lightly.

Can't Wait Until March?

NCAA Men's College Basketball season preview

Ben Tsujimoto, sports writer

More than eight months after Joakim Noah and the Florida Gators snipped the nets in Indianapolis, NCAA men's basketball has returned. As memories of Tyrus Thomas' rapid emergence, J.J. Redick's sweet three-point stroke, and Jordan Farmar's heroics begin to fade, a new group of athletes yearn for their 'one shining moment' in the 2006-2007 season. Will another mid-major program duplicate George Mason's impressive Final Four run? What highly-ranked team will fail to meet expectations? Can anyone steal the crown from those pesky Gators?

Here are some bold predictions for this year:

Favorites: Four teams who are expected to reach the Final Four in Atlanta:

Florida Gators: The defending champs return all five starters that defeated UCLA last April. Led by Noah, the rangy power forward who postponed his NBA career to pursue another collegiate title, Billy Donovan's Gators boast a balanced offense and a stingy defense. Taurean Green, Corey Brewer, and Lee Humphrey patrol the perimeter, while Noah, Al Horford, and Chris Richard control the paint. Without a glaring weakness, the Gators

appear poised for another deep tournament run.

UCLA Bruins: Despite the loss of star point guard Jordan Farmar to the NBA, the Bruins will take advantage of their athleticism and size to run Coach Ben Howland's defensive system to perfection. Like the Gators, UCLA features many scoring threats; junior sharpshooter Aaron Afflalo sinks open shots, Luc-Richard Mbah-a-Moute returns after a tremendous NCAA tournament, and lightning-quick point guard Darren Collison adds energy and pace to the backcourt. Fully recovered from a hip injury, Josh Shipp will need to contribute if the Bruins wish to overtake the Gators.

North Carolina Tar Heels: After bowing out to 'Cinderella' George Mason in the second round, the Tar Heels will continue to develop their young talent. Tyler 'Psycho T' Hansbrough hopes to add a national title trophy to his hardware after earning national Freshman of the Year last season. Fellow returnees Reyshawn Terry, Bobby Frasor, and Wes Miller should continue to progress, but will also shoulder the responsibility of mentoring an elite recruiting class. Brandan Wright, Tywon Lawson, and Wayne Ellington enter as Roy Williams' blue-chip recruits; the Heels will advance as far as Hansbrough and the freshmen can take them.

Ohio State Buckeyes: Reminis-

cent of Steve Fisher's 'Fab Five' at Michigan, Ohio State Coach Thad Matta presents the 'Thad Five.' Amidst these five contributing freshmen, the Buckeyes have a 'Troy Smith' of their own, center Greg Oden. Denied entry into the NBA Draft because of a new age limit, Oden will unveil his deft post-moves when he returns from wrist surgery in December. Hyped as the second coming of legendary Spur, David Robinson, Oden faces lofty expectations in his freshman season, likely his last at The Ohio State University. In the meantime, Jamar Butler, Daequan Cook, Mike Conley, and David Lighty need to overachieve to compensate for Oden's absence.

Ben's All-American PTPers (prime time performers):

PG: Dominic James, Marquette: This sophomore point guard is the most impressive player you have never heard of; expect great things from this electric Golden Eagle.

SG: Alando Tucker, Wisconsin: The next Josh Howard; Tucker combines tenacious defense with an improved offensive game.

SF: Jared Dudley, Boston College: Plays with an uncommon nastiness; he can fill it up on one end and shut you down on the other.

PF: Joakim Noah, Florida: Ridiculous shot-blocker. Opponents

hesitate to enter the paint with his 7'3 wingspan lurking nearby.

C Glen Davis, LSU:

'Big Baby' shed twenty pounds this off-season- now he's a trim 290. Still a handful for opponents, Davis' improved agility and quick feet may prove to be unstoppable.

Freshman Worth Watching: Paul Harris, Syracuse; Kevin Durant, Texas; Chase Budinger, Arizona; Darrell Arthur, Kansas; Greg Oden, Indiana.

Honorable mention Diaper Dandies: Hasheem Thabeet, UConn; Wright, North Carolina; Thaddeus Young, Georgia Tech; Spencer Hawes, Washington; Bill Walker, Kansas St.

Ben's Probably Perfect Predictions:

Sweet Cinderellas: Butler, Wichita State, Missouri State

Final Four: Florida, Kansas, Arizona, UCLA.

Final: Kansas vs. UCLA
Champs: Kansas Jayhawks.

If the Saturday, November 25th game between Florida and Kansas is any indication of what's in store, this year's NCAA tournament will be a memorable one. This early season gem proved to be the best college game I've seen in years.

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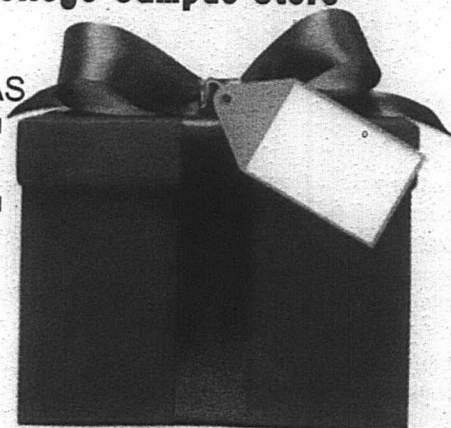
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Houghton College Campus Store

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS

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Wednesday December 6
9:00am-9:00pm



THE HOUGHTON ENQUIRER

Christmas banned at Houghton

Houghton, NY-- The new administration headed by President Shirley Mullen announced yesterday that Houghton is banning Christmas. Citing concerns regarding materialism and greed, they released the following statement, "We have deep concern over the increasing influence of the pagan culture we live in. We forbid anyone to desecrate the name of Christ by link-

ing it to that festival of idolatry and tree worship."

Campus Security is working closely with Student Life and Tech Services to isolate breakouts of "The Christmas Spirit" in what has come to be called "Operation Burn the Tree." Tech Services launched a new monitoring program this week designed to monitor the content of e-mails and phone

conversations. The Student Life office is working hard to get several students outfitted with undercover cameras and microphones. These students will appear to be confused visitors, but their blue folders will be secretly recording offenders.

The Houghton community is surprisingly supportive. "I'm all for it," said Wesley Dean. "My mom taught me to trip Santa when

I was eight." Stephan Harms noted, "If you re-arrange the letters, Santa spells Satan. Clearly that should be banned." The Dean of the Chapel, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said, "John Wesley took drastic measures in his day and so must we."

Here's to you, Facebook

In 2004, the world as we know it changed. No, I'm not talking about the 2004 presidential election, in fact - lets be honest with each other - in retrospect the world should have changed much more in the American governmental sphere. But the brainwashed status of the Christian evangelical community aside, I am talking about something far more life changing than mere politics. I'm talking about Facebook. In 2004, Mark Zuckerberg of Harvard University founded that internet confection of a social utility that is Facebook and ...The whole world changed. Where would we be without Facebook? What would we do without those hours of tweaking our profile quotes and "about me"s? How could anyone make judgments about what kind of person I was if they couldn't read my achingly witty profile, see my picture I took hours to choose, or see who I'm friends with? And how else could I prove to all my high school friends how hot and popular I am now at Houghton College (which churns out all that is hot and popular, if I do say so myself).

Back in 2003, when I was a freshman, I had no friends. I have reason to believe this is because Facebook had not yet been invent-

ed. In fact, this year I had freshmen inviting me to be their Facebook friend! This is probably because I stood next to them in the salad bar line and said "Sorry" when we both reached for the cucumber. Friendships did not used to get birthed out of such encounters. But now, thanks to Facebook, they can! Every single random encounter in our collegiate lives can now lead to deep, multifarious Facebook friendships. Now that really weird kid who pretends he's Gandalf who sits behind you in Lifetime Wellness can be your friend! Where normally you could have completely avoided and ignored him, he now has a platform in which he can befriend you. And then after you accept him as your friend (because you'll never say "no," as you pretty much have to collect friends to prove your social status, right? Facebook friends, the POGs of today), you two will exchange awkward smiles in class because well, do you speak to each now or not? Well, hopefully you two start speaking about Facebook as a social utility which connects (connect (verb) 1. to create deep, life long friendship between two people) you to people around you. Heck, now you and Gandalf will probably end up getting married when you graduate! Or if your gen-

der is that of the male persuasion, I guess he can be the best man in your wedding.

You know what else is amazing about Facebook? People can invite you to events! Its great; although my roommate and I used to talk to each other, I now send her invitations via Facebook to things like "Dinner at 5:30" or "Library study session." Oh, and those geniuses at CAB are on to this too! I love having my mailbox filled with invites to CAB events as if I haven't seen the 5 dozen posters for the CAB coffeehouse around campus. So helpful!

To close, my Facebook friends, how 'bout that news feed? Who doesn't love that? Where I used to have to painstakingly click on people's profiles to see who they've added as friends, now it's all laid out for me from my first click! From letting me know who has poked who or who has added pictures, friends, or maybe had a change in relationship status or just changed their underwear, Facebook has helped us all in turning stalking from a stereotypical, eerie "Misery"-esque pursuit to a kinder, gentler brand of voyeurism which we now view as "Facebook friendship."

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