

# THE HOUGHTON STAR

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**NEWS**  
in  
*Brief*  
by D. ELLIOTT TAIT  
Editor-in-Chief

## Chinese protest Japanese bid for UN Security Council

As a result of Japan's bid to be included amongst the UN Security Council's "Big Five" permanent members, anti-Japanese demonstrators took to the streets in China last weekend. Demonstrators marched from the capital building in Beijing to the Japanese consulate holding signs that said, "Say No to Japan in the Security Council," as they chanted "Japanese pigs get out!" The Security Council is responsible for deciding on any UN military action – a decision which requires unanimous support from every country in the "Big Five." These nations are the US, UK, France, Russia, and China. (From Source: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20050416/D89GJ7200.html>).

## Worst day in two years on Wall Street

Wall Street suffered its worst single day in nearly two years Friday, with the Dow Jones industrial average falling 191 points for its third straight triple-digit loss. Deepening concerns over economic growth and higher prices led to the worst week of trading since last August. Reasons behind the losses included a poor income report from IBM and announcements from the Federal

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## Musical "Fiddler on the Roof" Presents Sold-Out Performances

by LINDSAY YANDON  
Star Staff Writer

Students, faculty, and members of the community filled every seat in Houghton Academy's Tysinger Auditorium the past Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. The sold-out show was a performance of the *Fiddler on the Roof*, based on the book by Joseph Stein and originally performed in New York.

When the lights dimmed and the orchestra began its first tune, the audience was taken back to 1905 Anatevka, Ukraine. The plot centered on Tevye, a poor Jewish milkman, his family of a wife and five daughters, and the community in which they lived.

As the play followed its course, the most common and connecting theme was that of marriage. More precisely, the talk of marriage circled around the daughters of Tevye, played by our very own Dr. Benjamin

King. When his oldest daughter, Tzeitel, played by Jennifer Lucrezio is promised to a much older yet wealthy man in town, she expresses her deep love for the local tailor, an unheard of and widely unacceptable gesture for that place and time.

After Tevye sympathizes with his daughter

and allows her to marry the tailor, Motel Kamzoil, played by Drew Burke, he seems to be overcome with the talk of marriage. With little help from the family matchmaker and town busy body, Yente, played by Seanna Faley, every one of his daughters seems to be interested in choosing a husband, despite his disapproval of their choices. Tevye

is caught between tradition and the desire to see the happiness of his daughters whom he loves so dearly.

Aside from the enticing plot, the music and the orchestra really brought the performance to life. The Houghton orchestra, directed by Carl Irwin, deserves credit for aiding in making such a brilliant show come to life on the stage. As people filed out the door after the show and even the next day, they undoubtedly caught

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PHOTO BY ROBYN BAKER  
Jennifer Lucrezio, Selena Duroy and Sarah Mings star as the three daughters of dairy farmer, Tevye (played by Dr. King), who wishes to find traditionally suitable husbands for them in a world that is rapidly changing.

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**NEWS, from page 1**

Reserve that manufacturing and industrial production were down, as well as more bad news concerning the price of oil. (From Source: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20050416/D89G83882.html>).

**Oregon Court nullifies gay marriage licenses**

The Oregon Supreme Court on Thursday nullified nearly 3,000 marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples by Multnomah County a year ago, saying that a single county could not take such action on its own. The court said that while the county can question the constitutionality of laws governing marriage, they are a matter of state-wide concern, and thus, the county did not have the authority to issue licenses to gay couples. The court noted that last November, Oregonians approved a constitutional amendment that limits marriages to a man and a woman. The court also said that long before that vote, since Oregon became a state, state law had set the same limitations on marriages. "Today, marriage in Oregon - an institution once limited to opposite-sex couples only by statute - now is so limited by the state Constitution as well," the court ruling said. (From Source: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20050414/D89F96200.html>).

**Kasparov attacked with chessboard**

Garry Kasparov, who had been ranked #1 in the world for chess since 1984, was hit over the head with a chessboard in a politically-motivated attack last Saturday. Kasparov gave up professional chess last month to focus on politics. The perpetrator in the incident was a young man who first asked Kasparov to sign the chessboard before turning it into a weapon. "I admired you as a chess player, but you gave that up for politics," he said. Kasparov has been an outspoken critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was recently reelected President after a sketchy and deadly race. (From Source: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20050417/D89GSCJG0.html>).

**FIDDLER, from page 1**

themselves humming along to one of the ear-catching melodies performed.

Amid immaculate set designs and in amazing costumes accurately depicting the era, the cast did an excellent job displaying their ability. Performance director, Dr. Bruce Brenneman happily stated, "I'm delighted to be involved with such an exciting show and talented cast." Dr. Brenneman could not have been more truthful about the talent that was showcased on the stage of Tysinger Auditorium this past weekend.

The shows ran smoothly, and as the attendance suggested, it was one of the most popular activities of the weekend. The Houghton College Theater and Opera Workshops hit a home run with a performance that was a winner with the crowd this past weekend. It seems there is only one word left to be said: Bravo!



PHOTOS BY ROBYN BAKER

**Muslim Missionaries Offer Insight and Hope**

by ANNE MERRY  
Star Staff Writer

On Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, over Pioneer cafeteria food, two men ministering in Turkey and Tajikistan spoke from their hearts about their mission work in the Far East, reaching out to the unreached, preaching the Gospel with the opportunities afforded to them in these Muslim and Asian countries. As Houghton students and professors listened intently, the two missionaries fervently told of the vast needs in these and other nations, emphasizing Jesus' call for his disciples to present His message of redemption and salvation to those who have not heard of His death on the cross. According to these two warriors for Christ, it is not easy to get through to many of these people because they simply do not know the extent of Christ's love. They are either too familiar with garnering good works for eternal life or a promising karma or they are crusaders for the jihad or holy war, which is the case in many of the Muslim countries.

In response to a student's question, one of the missionaries confirmed the significant amount of persecution towards Christians, particularly in the Muslim nations, a fact that renders their ministry that much more difficult. He mentioned a case in which the administration at the school he serves in had to eliminate all Christian Ethics programs from the academic curriculum because government officials had discovered that it was being taught illegally. The missionaries still manage to find ways of reaching out in love to their

see MUSLIM, page 5

## Business Students Place 3rd in Regional Meet

Just last month Houghton's student chapter of SHRM (Society of Human Resources Management) received their official charter and were commissioned at the March meeting of the Buffalo chapter.

Each year student SHRM chapters from colleges and universities from around the country send teams of students to participate in something called the *HR Games*, a jeopardy-style competition focused on the human resources knowledge database. (For further background on the games, check out: <http://www.shrm.org/students/hrgames/04overview.asp>.)

This first-ever team was hurriedly assembled and went on April 9th to the 2005 Northeast Region HR Games hosted at the UB School of Management. The Houghton team did remarkably well...no, unbelievably well!

Out of 14 teams, Houghton's team, Lindsay Kanski (Jersey Shore, PA), Jon Davidson (Westwood, MA), and Kyle Crocker (Akron, OH), placed third! Their head-to-head record was 4-1. They competed directly against SUNY Oswego, Marist, Penn State White (they had two teams), UB (one of their two teams), and Temple. Houghton's team lost to Penn State White in the first five rounds and then

again in the playoffs. The two Penn State teams were in the finals.

After the first five rounds each team's points were accumulated and then ranked. The top four made it to the playoff round. After five rounds, Houghton was number three, behind

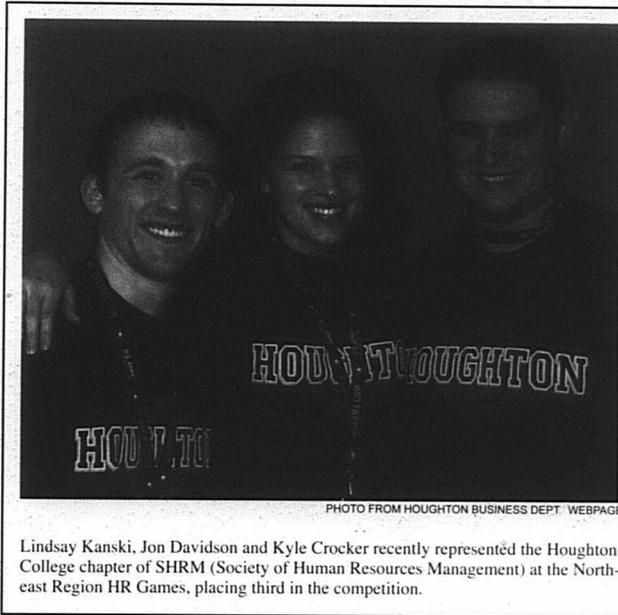
and especially among the professional volunteers (HR professionals and professors). They could not believe that the Houghton team was doing so well considering: 1) they had just started a chapter; 2) they did not have an HRM major; 3) they did not

have an HRM minor; 4) they only have one HRM class; and 5) the entire school is only 1200 students. For comparison purposes, the next smallest school has 4000+ undergraduates.

Houghton's chapter advisor and business professor, Ken Bates, said, "This competition provides an excellent opportunity for our students to not only compete against other schools...it provides impetus to stretch them even further as they prepare for futures of influence in the field of human resources management. We're extremely proud of the performance of students. Lindsay Kanski, has

already passed the professional certification (PHR) exam in the human resources field and Jon and Kyle plan to sit for the exam in May."

--Source: Houghton College Business Department Website



Lindsay Kanski, Jon Davidson and Kyle Crocker recently represented the Houghton College chapter of SHRM (Society of Human Resources Management) at the Northeast Region HR Games, placing third in the competition.

Penn State Blue and Penn State White. Even in defeat, the team was very competitive and, of course, very considerate and professional.

A buzz continued all day long at the games among the other teams,

## Houghton Honors Winners of Juried Student Art Show

Nine Houghton College students were honored recently for their artwork at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Juried Art Exhibition awards ceremony. Following are the award winners with their year and hometowns:

**Best of Show** (The Ortlip Memorial Award) goes to *HiUan Kang* (Junior/ Loures, Portugal) for a sculpture titled "Sphaera," an unusual piece that hangs from the ceiling of the gallery, consisting of about 60 ceramic balls suspended from a disc.

**First Place** (The Paul Maxwell Memorial Award) goes to *Ian Kanski* (Senior/ Jersey Shore, Pa.) for "Selfish Portrait," a self-portrait drawing in graphite.

**Second Place** (Alumni Award) goes to *Josiah Harling* (Senior/ Spring Valley, Calif.) for an "Untitled" triptych, a series of three beautiful and sensitive abstract drawings in graphite containing portions of the human figure and other shapes.

**Third Place** (The Moss Award) goes to *Mary Gibson* (Junior / Grosse Point Park, Mich.) for her photography series titled "Unmotion," pictures of the human body taken close up that they look like abstract shapes.

### Honorable Mentions:

*Amanda Benton* (Junior/ Wilson, N.Y.) for "Catch and Capture," an abstract painting displayed in a shadowbox.

*Rachel Brask* (Junior/ Seekonk, Mass.) for "Still Life," an oil painting containing oranges, a purple cloth and other objects.

*Jonathan Hnatiuk* (Senior/ Preston, Conn.) for his five piece textured ceramic piece "Nesting Bowls."

*Sandra Hodgins* (Junior/ Belleville, Ontario, Canada) for her triangular side table that she built in a furniture-making class.

*Sarah Richards* (Junior/ Ithaca, N.Y.) for "Dimensions of Quiet," a very large abstract oil painting.

David Higgins, painter and art professor from Corning Community College, judged this year's event

---Source: [www.houghton.edu](http://www.houghton.edu)



## THE FACTS:

**Country:** Republic of Ghana

**Capitol:** Accra

**Languages:** English, EWE, GA, TWI

**Population:** 19.7 billion

**Religions:** Christian (60%), Muslim (15%), traditional African religions (25%)

**Government:** Parliamentary Democracy

**Head of State:** President John Agyekum Kufuor

**Major Industries:** Mining, lumber, cocoa, light manufacturing

**GDP per capita:** US \$1,310

(<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/africa/ghana/>)



# WORLDVIEW: GHANA, AFRICA

## INTERVIEW WITH SETH RING

by HEIDI SPRUNGER  
Staff Writer

**How long did you live in West Africa?** That's a good question. I've never actually counted it out, because I was born in Silver Spring, Maryland, and went to Ghana when I was, like, knee high to a short duck (I was short, ha ha, I was small). I lived there for four years-ish, came back and did kindergarten and first grade in America, went back to Ghana... lived there for a while, moved to California where I lived for three-ish years—I was in fourth, fifth and sixth grade there. Then I moved back to Ghana for seventh and eighth with a brief stay in Texas (my seventh grade year). Lived in Ghana for a while, it was actually on the Ivory Coast at a boarding school, for half of ninth grade. There was a coup in the country, so I had to go back to Ghana, and then my parents decided it would be better if all the kids did schooling in the US. So I came back to the US in tenth grade, and I've been here ever since.

**Wow, so you've never really lived anywhere very long.** Yeah, I've been in 13 schools including this one.

**So would you consider Ghana your home since that is where you always return back to?** It was definitely the most constant home I've had. For a long time I thought of myself as Californian because that's where a lot of my development happened... but I think Ghana was probably the most stable and continuous home I had.

**What were some of the main political issues in Ghana while you were there?** Well, the only ones that I was really around for were the beginning of the coup in the Ivory Coast, which is still kind of going on now-a-days. There was that, and then Ghana had just had their second peaceful election—something they were immensely proud of because peaceful elections in Africa are few and far between. Other than that Ghana was a very stable country, so there wasn't really any big politics. In second grade we went through a tribal war and we were all evacuated to the capitol city, so I actually didn't do second grade. I started it, and then didn't finish it.

**Do you see a big difference in your values and the way you act from Americans?** Yes. I've been discovering that my idea of the way things should be are slightly different than most people. For instance, I'm in favor of more authoritative rules. Most Americans that I've met are all for personal rights, which I really don't think that their actually that necessary. So there are political and cultural views like that. As far as Christianity goes, my basic theology is different because I never had to deal with all of the questions that Americans raise.

**What do you think is the biggest cultural difference between the US and Ghana?** It's starting to lessen, but the way people behave in public, and in private to a certain extent. For instance, in Ghana you

will not see (and like I said this is starting to change as Western influence comes in more and more with television and Western culture is imported), but you will not see a guy and a girl walking down the street holding hands, whether their friends, whether they like each other, whether they are madly in love, whether they've been married for 70 years. They do not walk down the street together. They generally don't even walk together... guys will walk in a group, girls will walk in a group—the only people you really see mixed company is young, fashionable, up-to-date Ghanans and white people. You will see guys walking down the street holding hands, or girls walking down the street holding hands, and that means that they're friends and they like each other. Physical contact in between two males is perfectly acceptable. Physical contact between two females is perfectly acceptable. Physical contact between a male and female is not. And so that's very different from the US, where if you see a guy and a guy walking down the street holding hands, generally you defer from that that they are homosexual—that's not the case in Ghana.

**You were talking about how you would see rich Ghanans holding hands. Is that because of American influence?** Yes, because they are rich, they have access to luxuries that other people don't, and the only luxuries that they have are imported from Europe, from America—so what they see as fashionable and cool is what America's media tells them.

**Do the other people of Ghana resent that?** No they just think that the young people are stupid and don't know what's good for them... because the other thing that is very very important in Ghana, and not nearly as much so here, is the family dependence and the incredibly defined pecking order that exists in all families. In Ghana what will generally happen is the father will have children and put the oldest one through school. The point of that is so that when the father gets too old to work, the oldest one can work and take care of all of the younger children, and put them through school. It's his job to make sure his siblings are taken care of. In return, they afford him a very, very high degree of respect. That doesn't happen in America. Everything is very individualistic.

**What is one thing you enjoy about America?** Generally... money is easier to come by, so getting comfort is easier to come by. If you don't like the temperature, you just go inside and change it. That's something you can't really do in Ghana. The material wealth is definitely a positive. I also like the way America works, because as much as I'm in favor of a totalitarian state, it's only really ever good if I'm the one in charge.

**Haha.** And so, I like the way America is set up because it prevents everyone from having too much control, and I think it's a very successful system.



Seth Ring

## Faculty Profile: Dr. Brandon Johnson

by RACHEL MORAN  
Staff Writer

**What is/are your official job title(s)?** Assistant Professor of Vocal Music & Conducting, Director of Choral Activities

**Give us some background information on yourself.** I am originally from Minnesota. I went to Concordia College, which is a Lutheran College, and then I did some graduate work at Westminster Choir College. I taught high school for 4 years in Duluth, Minnesota. Then I went and got my Masters and Doctorate degrees at University of Arizona. I have a wife whose name is Danielle, and I have one daughter who is about 20 months old- her name is Marit. We have twin boys on the way and they're due any day now - any minute actually. And we have a miniature greyhound named Peanut.

**When did you first start singing?** I didn't start singing until I was a senior in high school - I got sort of pulled into choir by a friend, and I had no anticipation of enjoying it. I turned out loving it. I was a percussionist before then, so I was involved in music without singing it. That year, my senior year, I got involved in an all-state Lutheran choir, and I learned the spiritual aspect of music, which is what got me hooked. It was my first experience where the spirit of God was obvious

through the music, and that was what drew me to choral singing.

**What has been your worst stage experience ever?** My freshman year in college. My voice jury was not pleasant. I got halfway into a song and forgot all the words, and just stood there. Of course all of the voice faculty were looking at me and waiting for me to sing something. When I walked out of that room, I had all my music in my hand and I just threw it in the air and kept walking and went home.

**How'd you get to Houghton?** In all honesty, I'd never heard of Houghton. It only came up because I was looking for a small, Christian liberal arts college with a good choir program. The job came up at Houghton at the same time I was finishing my doctoral degree. That's really the job that brought me to Houghton. This is the end of my 2<sup>nd</sup> year here.

**What have been the best and worst surprises since coming here?** The students are the best surprise. Much better than I anticipated. They are smart and hardworking and so willing

to sacrifice for the greater good, for the mission of the choir and the college, and I think that is really refreshing. Coming from other secular colleges, so much about them seemed selfish. These students really wear the scholar-servant hat well. And I decline comment on the worst surprise - I can't really think of anything off the top of my head.

**Do you think music students at Houghton are as overworked as many of them consider themselves?**

I think that the Bachelor of Music degree (music education or performance) is among the most difficult degree you can get as an undergraduate, whether at Houghton or anywhere else. I don't think it's advertised as such, so it comes as a surprise to many. There's always more practicing to

do, there's always another concert coming up, or something. It never slows down. You can't possibly do this well unless you absolutely love it, because it's just too hard.

**The College Choir just finished its annual spring break tour. Any exciting stories from this year's tour?** One of the most memorable experiences for me was singing in the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. It's just a wonderful cathedral. The Houghton College Choir tends to draw students from non-denominational backgrounds who are used to churches with a very different architectural structure. It was very special and unique to perform this music that was written specifically for performance in cathedrals - I think some of this music resonated with students for the first time because it was sung in the environment for which it was composed.

**What's the very first thing a budding conductor needs to learn?** That there is no one right way to do it. The best advice I could give students is to be themselves.

**Imagine a life devoid of music. What would you do to compensate for that void?** I would probably do something else artistic, either paint - but that would be a horrible disaster - read literature, or act, or something different that is in the arts.

**The College Choir sweaters - will they be purple and gold next year?** Oh, man. Only time will tell. I'm also thinking of brown and pink.

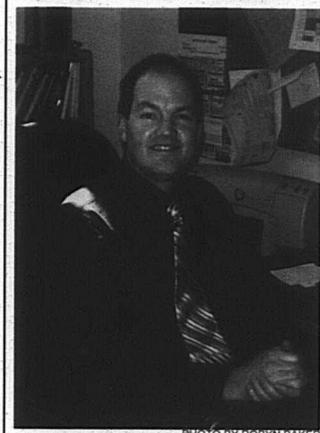


PHOTO BY ROBYN BAKER  
Dr. Brandon Johnson in his office.

### MUSLIM, *cont'd from page 2*

Muslim neighbors, a method that is affirmed as effective because of its power. Demonstrating love, kindness, and a nonjudgmental attitude is fundamental to winning these unreached people for Christ, as other methods, especially persuasive speech, rarely gets through to them on account of their firm religious tenets, which they do not easily stray from.

Showing a revealing video of the situation in the Buddhist, Muslim and Hindu countries of the Middle East and East Asia, the two missionaries spoke of the hardships endured by the untouchable cast members in Indian society and the extreme poverty and economic depravity in Turkey and Tajikistan. Individuals have been attempting to convey business skills that will help the Christians there to manage

Christian bookstores and reach out to their own unsaved people. Teaching business savvy to these people is just one way people have been opening venues of ministry in these countries. However, transmitting various proficiencies has been deemed an excellent way of connecting with people, paving the way for farther interactions and eventually, the opportunity of speaking to them about Jesus' saving grace.

Christar, the mission organization that these two missionaries are a part of, is searching for willing, passionate, and committed individuals who desire to serve the Lord wherever he calls them. Short-term mission projects are available for students during the summer, and there are other ways of serving from the United States. Most importantly, Christar needs the prayer support of anyone who is willing to serve in this manner. Without the prayer of God's people, they asserted, none of their ministries would be possible.

# MOVIES with Adam Kline

## Fever Pitch

Grade: A-

There are not many films that realistically portray both men and women both in love and in life while stilling genuinely entertaining us. Usually films take one of these subjects and find it a challenge enough to portray it realistically, in *Fever Pitch* however, the latest film directed by the Farrelly brothers (*Dumb and Dumber*, *There's Something About Mary*) both a man's passion for the Boston Red Sox, a woman's passion for her career and their growing love for each other is told spectacularly in one of the best movies so far this year.

Jimmy Fallon plays Ben, a high school math teacher whose life revolves around his life long passion for the Boston Red Sox. Ben does not care about any other team or sport for that matter, his real life begins during spring training and ends somewhere in the summer every year. Ben meets Lindsey however, played by Drew Barrymore, who is a very successful career woman whose work never ends. They hit it off nonetheless in October of 2003 and begin a very endearing

## This Week's Review: Fever Pitch

relationship. When Lindsey first introduces Ben to her girlfriends and their husbands at a casual party the women eventually move themselves upstairs as the men take over the living room.

What takes place here during these scenes is both hilarious and true.

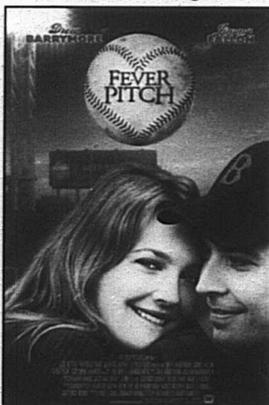
The girls fixate over Lindsey's new boyfriend and begin to pick him apart as they begin to fear this Ben guy might be, "too perfect." While the men downstairs are captivated by Ben's knowledge of the Red Sox and the fact that he has season tickets right behind the dugout as one guys says, "If Lindsey ever breaks up with you I'll kill her."

The months go by as the relationship grows when finally Ben confesses to Lindsey just how big of a Red Sox fan he is as he gets down on one knee and

asks her to Opening Day. As the 2004 season draws closer to the playoffs Ben is faced with an important decision when Lindsey, on a whim, asks Ben to go to Paris with her for the

weekend, little does Lindsey realize that the Red Sox are two games out of first. Ruining the moment, Ben discovers why Lindsey really wanted him to go with her; she's almost two weeks late, and could possibly be pregnant. The scenes that follow are "pitch-perfect" as the subtle and

truthful acting done by both Fallon and Barrymore with these tough issues is done so authentically. The heart and soul of this story lies in the decisions these two people must make when they are faced with a love more real then they have ever



experienced, even a love greater then Ben's love for the Red Sox.

As great as the story and acting is I do however have one personal issue, and it is not necessarily a problem only present in this particularly movie, the relationship Ben and Lindsey has is so real because they are real, everything these obsess over and how they obsess is totally relatable but in these movie relationships that develop so authentically it always bugs me how late in the film they finally save, "I love you." In the case of *Fever Pitch*, when these two people are faced with the possible reality of a child they still have not said the big "L" word, but that is just my quandary with relationships in the secular world.

That is however almost the point, *Fever Pitch* is honest and real, while still being hilarious and largely entertaining. Big laughs come the sheer stupidity that come from men and their "silly" obsessions and heart felt moments are portrayed from the authenticity of two people struggling to compromise for the sake of love. This movie is a winner so make sure you catch it in the theatre.

*This brief article is not necessarily an opinion it is more of a concerned observation.*

Now I will be the first to admit that movies can manipulate people, a good filmmaker can create a mood with a film and as a result stir up certain emotions within us. But what happens when the mood of a film sweeps us

## Romancing the Stone

off our feet so much that we do not even pay attention to things we morally disagree with? In many "chick flick" viewers are romanced by a love story and get so caught up in the story, the characters, and the humor that they do not even pay attention to the sexual immorality that is taking place on screen. I know this happens because I am one of these viewers.

*Notting Hill* is probably my favorite chick-flick, it's authentic, it's funny and it's romantic but the main characters, just like in most date movies, seem compelled to sleep with each other in order to make their relationship authentic. Now I know this is how most of the world lives, and so this does

not bother most viewers, but the truth is what do we have to say for ourselves when we do not even make note of the things that would stop us in our tracks if we were there in person?

I do not think we should throw all of these movies away but as authentic as some of these love stories are they are not willing to carry this romance all the way through. Just think about *The Notebook*, or *Maid in Manhattan*, these are good movies but they gloss over their immoral sexuality with pixy dust, like we are too stupid to realize what is really going on. Instead of a sex scene we see the couple kissing by candle light on a bed and then cut away to

the next morning where they wake in the same bed and are perfectly covered by the sheets. We need to be careful of movies that romantically win us over to the point that our moral conscience is turned off.

Now do not get me wrong I want film, and art in general, to depict life as it really is, I also enjoy a good date movie even though they almost always include sex outside of marriage. But we do need to be aware of why a director is fixing our attention on one thing instead of another, is it because it honestly has to do with the story development or is it so that they can receive a PG-13 rating? What do we do? What do we say in the face of our morals being romanced by a good love story? Do what you like with it, it is just my concerned observation.

### 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, April 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - The Interpreter* starring Nicole Kidman
  - A Lot Like Love* starring Ashton Kutcher
- On DVD Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Blade: Trinity* starring Wesley Snipes
  - Lemony Snicket: A Series of Unfortunate Events*

## SPORTS: Track & Field Messiah College Invitational

by KRISTEN NIEMI  
Sports Writer

Messiah—On April 9, 2005, the Highlanders set their mark at this meet, as the women's track and field finished 6<sup>th</sup> out of 18 teams and the men's tied for 8<sup>th</sup> out of 17 teams at the Messiah College Invitational. The rank of 8<sup>th</sup> place for the men's team served as a special feat as only eight men competed in this meet.

The performances of Ryan Fadden in the 800 m (with a time of 1:54.29) and Kerri Koch in the 1500 m (a time of 4:45.20) stood out among others, as both gained provisional qualification to the nationals in Louisville, Kentucky at the end of May, and both set personal and school records.

Furthermore, the women's 4 x 800 m relay team, composed of Katy Sykes, Audrey Seldomridge, Koch, and Mary Gibson, provisionally qualified for nationals with a time of 9:41.92. Gibson, in the 800 m (time of 2:17.71), and Meghan Radimer with the javelin (distance of 130' 5") similarly qualified provisionally for nationals. Additionally, Fadden and the women's relay team set new Messiah meet records.

### The Houghton Star Staff

#### EDITOR IN CHIEF

D. Elliott Tait

#### MANAGING EDITOR

Sarah Allen

#### DESIGN EDITOR

Rachel Brask

#### BUSINESS EDITOR

Kyle Crocker

#### ADVISOR

Prof. Ben Lipscomb

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

Rachel Brask

Kaitin Wilson

Kimberly Barnett

Kristin Niemi

Robin Baker

#### STAFF WRITERS

Josh Miller

Kristen Niemi

Heidi Sprunger

Virginia Wheaton

Ben Walker

Rachel Moran

#### COLUMNISTS

Kathie Brenneman

Adam Kline

Elaine Tooley

Mike Mordenga

#### COPY EDITING

Kirstie Chen

Jayne Van Wormer

Linnea Landin

## Letter To the Editor

*I am writing in response to the "Houghton College's Top Five Eligible Bachelors" article from the April Fool's edition of the STAR. I am writing because I am offended and insulted about how the author wrote about several of the people, but especially Bob White.*

*Bob White is a great, kind, caring man of God. He sacrifices for this community all the time. In addition to being an RA for two years, he also has been involved in SPOT, CAB, plays, and working around campus.*

*Although I am a fan of good satire, and well-delivered jokes, I was disturbed and upset over the comments made in the article. Bob has to be one of the most considerate men I know when it comes to treating women. He has a desire for God's Will that covers all aspects of his life, including dating. Although he has never had a girlfriend, it is not because he hasn't had opportunities. Bob has a high level of ethics and morals that have caused him to wait until he feels like he has met the correct girl.*

*Although a comment like the one about him being a "Pillsbury Doughboy" maybe funny and appropriate within a group of friends, it is uncalled for in a publication that reaches 1,200 students and also all of the faculty and staff who see Bob on a day-to-day basis. The "He is white, after all" line also was inappropriate. Although I think this was meant as a play on words (Bob's last name being White), it had too much of a racial denotation.*

*Ultimately, I found this article tasteless and unwarranted. It should not have been published. On behalf of all those who know what a great guy Bob White is, I say that the comments couldn't be further from the truth and are completely false.*

*Sincerely,  
Jonathan Davidson*

### Note from the Editor:

The Star formally apologizes to all of those hurt and insulted by the article entitled "Houghton College's Top Five Bachelors" found in the April Fool's edition of The Star. The article was distasteful and insensitive, and both the Editor in Chief and the author regret its printing.

### 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.

# "Much Ado About Nothing" was Something Else

by Mike Mordenga  
Staff Writer

I have little or no experience with Shakespeare plays. I vaguely know the plots of *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Macbeth*. When Houghton decided to come out with *Much Ado About Nothing*, the only background I had was through viewing the movie adaptation starring Keanu Reeves and Denzel Washington. I wasn't planning on going until I found that my good friend Jesse was had a key role in the play. But to my great and pleasant surprise, what I found in sitting through the play trying to make sense of the plot is that the movie was nothing like it. Houghton's *Much Ado About Nothing* was much funnier. Every scene was expressed with hyperbolic feeling and wacky dramatic lines.

The story is set in Messina between the courtship of Claudio and Hero. Claudio (Jonathan Vergara) and Hero (Danielle Bowers) fall in love with one another but they are worried about their feuding friends Signor Benedick (Blaine Willhoft) and Beatrice (Laura Paseika). The main part of the plot is Claudio, Hero, and friends trying to get Beatrice and Benedick to realize that they are truly in love with each other, though their relationship up to the moment has been largely characterized by biting humor. The antagonists of the play were Don John (Dan Fesseden), Borochio (Kurt Croft) and Katherine (Abigail Hunt) who were bent on ruining Claudio's wedding with Hero by telling Claudio that Hero was disloyal. The other main characters are Hero's father Leonato (Ryan Mayers, who also directed it), Claudio's comrade, Don John's brother Don Pedro (Jesse Ryals), and the head security guard, Constable Dogberry (Julie Waltz).

The play was funny for many reasons. Director Ryan Mayers obviously spent great time in working out details of language and the delivery of the script. My favorite laughable aspect was the body language on

stage. All movements were hyperbolized into extreme melodrama, whether it was a love sigh or a depressed cry. The lines, while confusingly Shakespearean, were delivered well in creative ways. The crowd's favorite was when Don Pedro turned to the audience after a great spiel about romance and said heroically, "We will be gods of love!" When Constable Dogberry is referred to as a 'donkey' (I can't say the real word in the *Star*) she would turn to the audience and make note that she was called a 'donkey' many times. The mockery between Beatrice and Benedick was filled with comical jokes about courtship and true love. If one of the scenes was serious, then the actors would just talk loud in an angry voice or cry dramatically, setting the mood in an unconventional way.

I have to say that Julie Waltz did a better job than Michael Keaton in the role of Dogberry. Ryan Mayers played a convincing role of Leonato and the chemistry between Benedick and Beatrice kept things interesting. Hero and her friends were decidedly mild, but they fit well in with the charismatic characters. Being a western-cultured bumpkin, I got tired of the Shakespearean language and sometimes wanted to yell, "Just say what you mean and get over with it!" I wished that some of the scenes were shorter (it was over three hours) like the movie, but overall the play was a smooth ride.

The scenery was extremely simple with nothing more than a lightly colored backdrop of a field and a few window decorations, which fit the silly demeanor of the play. The clothing was modeled toward the modern period with army fatigues, leather jackets and modern wedding dresses. Overall, I would have to say that this Shakespearean play was one of my favorites and the Shakespeare Players helped me realize this.



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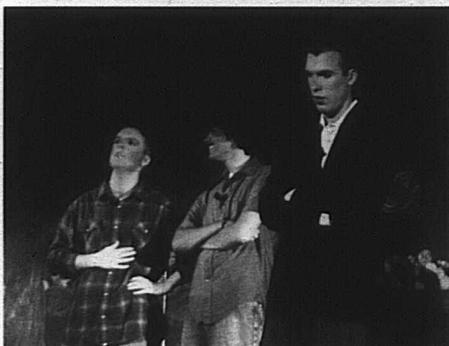


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