

THE HOUGHTON STAR

The Student Newspaper of Houghton College

Volume 104, Issue 7

November 2, 2007

Mark Klink Visits Houghton For New Vision Week

By Sandra Stark

Featuring Mark Klink as guest speaker, New Vision Week encouraged the Houghton community to renew their focus on missions during a series of lectures and discussions. The event is held annually at the college. Historically, the purpose of the week was to put an emphasis on traditional missions and ways in which students can get involved in areas of evangelism and church outreach. Recently, however, students at the college have begun to focus on the relationship between missions and development.

This year's New Vision Week made an effort to recognize this growing trend among students and to emphasize both missions and development. Lainey Monroe, a member of the

student planning committee, stated, "It really is all about how we as students can help with God's kingdom through evangelism and development; but bringing the two together is really the key. It is difficult to serve someone's spiritual needs without touching on their social and physical needs as well."

Sponsored by GCF and planned by a subcommittee of students, the week started off at Koinania on Sunday night with worship songs focusing on the will of God being done in the world. Keynote speaker Klink then presented a series of lectures during chapel on Monday and Wednesday, as well as a lecture on Tuesday evening.

Throughout the week, booths were set up in the campus center where representatives from a number of

different mission organizations were available to talk with students about practical ways in which they can serve God's kingdom here on earth. These representatives also spoke in classes throughout the day on Tuesday and held five different seminars across campus on Tuesday morning. Charlotte Keniston, Houghton alumnus and representative from World Vision spoke on "How we can approach justice in a holistic way; in every area of our lives." Other representatives spoke on topics ranging from sports ministry to medical missions and teaching English as a second language.

A coffee shop was held in the campus center on Tuesday evening. Sponsored by the Intercultural Students Association, the event provided a time for students to come together and

interact with different representatives and professors in a less formal setting.

The chapel addresses highlighted of the week. Klink is the associate director of mobilization and training at Food for the Hungry, an international Christian relief and development organization that seeks to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the poor in a number of developing countries around the world. As associate director, Klink mobilizes and helps prepare Christians to study or serve overseas. He speaks at colleges and churches regarding the plight of the world's poor and the intense need for Christian holistic community development and transformation. He stated that "my heart is hearing what students' passions are or helping them to figure out

• *New Vision continued on page 4*

Student-Directed Opera Scenes Set To Be Performed This Week

By Elisabeth Wenger

Whether you are waiting with bated breath or with your fingers in your ears, opera is coming to Houghton. Singing: Preparation, Techniques, and Resources will be performing three scenes in the Recital Hall from three different operas: Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro," Giancarlo Menotti's "Old Maid and the Thief" and Aaron Copeland's "The Tender Land."

While many people stereotype opera as boring and inaccessible, replete with large women in horns, everyone involved in this project expressed a

desire to prove this conception false. "One of the problems with opera is the stereotypes," said Professor Eric Thomas, who is teaching the class, "and they are quite inaccurate a lot of the time. Opera is changing with the times." There have even been recent operas based on Star Trek and the Jerry Springer show.

Though neither of those operas will be performed any time soon at Houghton, those being done on Monday, November 5, are perhaps even more fantastical and raunchy. The three scenes are student-directed, with graduate students Daniel Black, Ashlee

Miller, and Elizabeth Thompson each taking a scene. They will be working with casts picked from the rest of the class, as well as one guest performer, Christopher Olsen. Thomas, after a few introductory lectures, worked with the student-directors to choose operas. Most of the class time has been devoted to rehearsals, and many students have given extra time to planning or practicing, all hoping to be able to present polished performances.

One of the most important lessons the directors learned in the course of the class was that the central consideration in making an opera work is the acting.

Bad acting would leave the audience bored and waiting for the performance to end, no matter how inspiring the music was. Black said the most challenging part of being a director was to "think through every second of the scene, [to] think through all the actions and give them a motive, because otherwise the emotion of the scene falls flat." Miller added that "helping the performers to get into character, and own [the] characters themselves" was one of the most difficult parts of the process. She didn't want the actors to be moving somewhere on the stage just because

• *Opera continued on page 5*

**Inside
this
Issue...**

**Art Exhibit Opening:
Aimee Hellen Koch**

Page 5



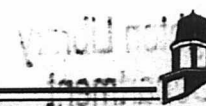
**Battle of the Bands:
BB4C event showcases
local Houghton talent**

Page 3



**Artist of the Week:
Kyle Horton**

Page 8



OUT THERE: SPECIAL EXTENDED HALLOWEEN EDITION

By Thomas Lerew and Jason Fisher

Concerns Over Beijing's Air Quality May Postpone Olympics

A recent report from the United Nations Environment Program criticizes Beijing's pollution clean up as "too slow," prompting the International Olympic Committee to announce the possibility that the 2008 Beijing games may be postponed due to air pollution. While special restrictions are being implemented on pollution emission, many believe that it will not be enough to improve Beijing's air pollution problem with just ten months remaining before the games.

Wildfires Continue to Cause Destruction in Southern California

Forest fires that have raged for over two weeks continue to force hundreds of thousands of residents to flee a growing portion of southern California being destroyed by wildfires. Authorities are investigating possible acts of arson that significantly added to what authorities believe began of natural causes. The fire is said to have caused over \$1 billion in damage and consumed over 580 square miles, an area larger than New York City.

Costume Of Top NFL Quarterback Comes up Lacking

Jon Kitna, starting quarterback for the Detroit Lions, showed up to a teammate's Halloween party dressed as a naked man. The costume was in reference to the Lions' defensive line coach Joe Cullen, who was convicted of disorderly conduct last year after driving nude through a Wendy's drive-through lane. While Cullen took the joke lightly, Kitna is catching heat from some of the local Detroit media and reportedly regrets all of the attention that his outfit (or lack thereof) has created. Of course, Kitna didn't attend the party alone. He came with his wife who, appropriately enough, dressed as a fast food drive-through attendant.

U.S. Imposes Sanctions On Iranian Revolutionary Guard

The Bush administration recently announced new economic sanctions upon Iran renewing the administration's belief that Iran supports "terrorism in the Middle East, exports missiles and is engaging in a nuclear buildup." The sanctions are directed at the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps. The sanctions, which come after a month of escalating rhetoric from both governments, are expected to significantly hurt Iranian business entities and create a ripple effect through the country's banking community.

American Dollar Continues to Fall

The American dollar is rapidly dropping in value as experts predict that U.S. interest rates will soon be cut again. The European euro was valued at €1.44 and the British pound at £2.06 at the end of last week. Economists believe that it is necessary for the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates in order to revitalize the economy. The meeting to make those determinations is set to take place over the coming week.

Democrats Debate...Again

The Democrats held another debate Tuesday evening at Drexel University. The debate proved to be the first real test for Democratic nominee front-runner Hilary Clinton. Barack Obama and John Edwards both heaped criticism upon Clinton for her "support" for the war in Iraq, her stance towards Iran, and her refusal to commit herself on key issues. Edwards, widely considered the winner of the debate, pounced on Clinton's apparent flip-flop on Eliot Spitzer's proposed legislation to provide illegal immigrants with driver's licenses. The most quotable line of the night, however, came from Joe Biden. Speaking of Republican leader Rudy Giuliani, he quipped, "There's only three things he mentions in a sentence: a noun, a verb, and 9/11."

Newspapers Giving Way to New Media: Blogging

Nearly 200 media professionals gathered last week to celebrate the 100th anniversary of United Press International. The hot topic was the future of print media in an increasingly digital age. Subscriptions to daily newspapers have dropped drastically nationwide in the last two years due to free online versions of newspapers and blogs written and maintained by private citizens. The industry will need to adapt as digital media continues to grow in influence and the work of private individuals becomes a more popular and acceptable form of news.

New Poll On Halloween Shows There's Still Believers

According to a recent poll released by the Associated Press and Ipsos, 34% of respondents said they believed in

ghosts. Similar numbers reported to believe in UFO's (Unidentified Flying Objects) as well. About 23% said they have seen or believe they have been in the presence of a ghost and 30% offered that they have waken up "sensing a strange presence in the room."

Dennis Kucinich Questions Bush's Mental Health

In an interview with the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, presidential hopeful Dennis Kucinich questioned George W. Bush's mental health, saying, "I seriously believe we have to start asking questions about his mental health... there's something wrong." Kucinich's strong remarks were in response to Bush's comments about a nuclear Iran possibly causing World War III. Later in the day at the Democratic debate, Kucinich claimed to have seen a UFO at actress Shirley MacLaine's house.

Fa\$hion Cents Fridays

HOUGHTON COLLEGE

SAVE 20%

Every Friday, any student, staff, faculty or community member wearing Houghton apparel into the store will receive 20% off one Houghton imprint item.

HOUGHTON COLLEGE CAMPUS STORE



Business Students Host Battle of the Bands for Charity

By Jeff Anderson and Micah Warf

On the evening of Thursday, October 25, a group of Houghton students hosted a 'battle of the bands' featuring performances from many Houghton students. Battle of the Bands for Charity (BB4C), the project of Intro to Business students Emma Franson, Dan Albrecht, Sarah Luna, Rhian Pearse, and Jon VerHow, kicked off this past Thursday with six local bands. Housed in Wesley Chapel, turnout for the event was fair.

All proceeds from the event went to the March of Dimes, which currently works to assist infants born prematurely. When all was said and done, BB4C raised over \$500 for the March of Dimes, and Ms. Franson was optimistic about reruns of this event. "I think that with the response we got from the student body, we should continue to host similar events," she commented.

Sweet Hollow Drive, featuring Houghton student Alex Glover on bass

and vocals, opened the show. The band, hailing from Long Island, zealously put on a pop-punk performance with some nice guitar work to boot. Next up was Fusion, a band that has its roots in the Fillmore Powerhouse, the youth group of Fillmore Wesleyan Church. Fusion put on a relaxed two-man acoustic gig, pulling some worship songs out their book, as well as performing a short Iron & Wine cover that highlighted the group's strong vocals.

Josiah Armstrong both emceed the event and sang vocals for Faust

Collision. With a classic rock feel, Faust Collision also drew heavily on the talents of Henry Langston and Andrew Dibble. Dibble even managed

a Hendrix-esque guitar solo played behind his head. Next up was the Woods Themselves, playing a hardcore set that drummed up quite a bit of enthusiastic

crowd participation. Broc Verschoor did lead vocals, Jon McKinley played (and danced) lead guitar, Brian Stein played kit, and a rather abashed Jesse Stevenson filled in on bass. Dan White even made a barefoot guest appearance during "Memphis Will Be Laid to Waste." Sophomore Naomi Wilson commented, "The Woods Themselves was amazing and did an excellent job of involving the audience."


Another participant was long-time Houghton favorite The Series. Headed up by Eric Stevenson on piano and

vocals, with Henry Langston behind the trap and John Buteyn on bass, the band delivered on its reputation of piano-based rock. The band was confident in

their music, allowing them to delve deeply into layered chords and driving rhythms. A lasting impression of their music is an honesty that is at once

reminiscent of both Ben Folds and Radiohead.

Steve Woolsey and his band closed out the show, and it was a real reward to those who stuck it out. Bassist Jesse Stevenson said of their style: "Steve was into coffee-shop rock, but I wasn't so much into that, but we combined them and got this coffee-shop-blues-folk rock, and I really like it." New band members Jody MacDonald on guitar and Mike Humphrey on drums gave the band a new edge and sound. A Ray Charles cover fit in well with several original numbers. The band hit a home run with the crowd, collecting enough final votes to win this year's BB4C by one vote.

Afterwards, the concert's organizers were pleased with the results. "I think the concert was very successful," said Franson. "I love hearing students talking about the concert ... it is kind of strange thinking that you were a part of that." 

BB4C raised over \$500 for the March of Dimes. "I think the concert was very successful," said organizer Emma Franson.

Houghton Students Participate in Apple's Insomnia Film Festival

By Kerry Brogan

Five Houghton students recently participated in the Apple Insomnia Film Festival, a contest in which participants have exactly 24 hours to write, cast, film, and edit a three-minute short film. The festival is nation-wide and is limited to high school and college students, each participating in teams of five. This year, the contest had over 3,000 participants. The initial selection process is measured entirely by the public. View counts and ratings determine the top 25 films that then go on to face a panel of judges who determine the final winner.

The idea for Houghton's participation came from Professor Dave Huth. After hearing about the contest, Eric Stevenson, Jimmy Dutton, Kerry Brogan, Wesley Dean, and Andrew

Vogan formed a team. Advised by Huth, they named themselves "You Just Don't Understand."


At 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 13, Apple released the secret elements that needed to be in the film, and the work began. Shooting lasted from 9 a.m. until 1 a.m. the next morning. Final edits, color correction and final music were all done around 6 a.m. on Sunday and the film was finished and submitted by 8:30 a.m.

The short film is about a young man struggling to portray his true self in life, while simultaneously displaying that truth on a stage. "My original idea for the theme of the film," said team member Andrew Vogan, "was about sarcasm. I wanted the film to bring up the question, 'How much of what people see is reality and how much is sarcastic fiction?'"

To create this effect, the team shot the film around campus and juxtaposed it against scenes shot on the recital hall stage. While the main character is truthful on the stage, he cannot help but lie in everyday life. This everyday life is signified in the scenes as events swirl around the main character as he remains at normal speed. Scenes shot at the recital hall stage remain at normal speed as well. Vogan emphasized, "The heart of the film is about identity, trueness of character, and reality."

The key to the successful completion of the project was teamwork. Every person on the team had a specific role to play that could not be performed by anyone else. Many people from the college community also pitched in and helped. Random people walking around campus became extras, roommates were woken up to play roles, and campus

security generously worked close with the team to provide all-night access to anything that was needed. Professor Doug Gaerte and his wife stopped by to encourage the team and offer food, the communications department offered use of the Macintosh computer lab, and Huth got up at all hours to answer questions and offer critique. The team set out to accomplish two goals: to make a good film and to be friends when all was said and done. The team managed to accomplish both.

The film is available for viewing at Apple's student webpage. Those interested in viewing the video and participating in the contest should e-mail one of the members of the team for more information. 



You are invited to hear two Christian authors
speak on issues related to Christian faith,
contemporary life and culture.

Bart Campolo & Ellen Charry



Bart Campolo

Monday, November 5, 11:00 a.m.

Monday, November 5, 8:00 p.m.

Wesley Chapel

*Love God. Love people.
Nothing else matters.*

Sponsored by the Houghton College Lecture Series

Ellen Charry

Tuesday, November 6, 7:30 p.m.

*"When Christians Speak of
Happiness"*

Wednesday, November 7, 11:00 a.m.

"When Happiness & Goodness Embrace"

Wesley Chapel

*Sponsored by the Woolsey Lectures in
Theology & Culture*



These events are free of charge.

art work: Ted Murphy, "Bottomless" Oil on panel.

• *New Vision continued from page 1*

what their passions are," and then finding "how those passions fit" into a larger conception of the world.

The theme of Klink's lectures was "Thy Kingdom Come." Klink focused on the kind of ruler that Christ is, how the kingdom of God has changed because of the fall, and how it will one day be restored to peace and justice.

"The main point that I [wanted] to get across is that God's kingdom is not just heaven in the future, but that God's Kingdom is wherever his work is done,"

he commented. "God's kingdom comes whenever his rule or his desires are realized. So, whenever we engage in acts of justice or whenever we show someone an act of love or an act of grace—that is God's kingdom coming to bear on earth." And because pursuing justice gives people the opportunity to have full lives and to have the opportunity to grow, he concluded, that is what we as Christians are called to facilitate.

Klink spoke of the false mentality that Christians sometimes harbor in believing that "our job is simply to save souls." He emphasized that in bringing God's kingdom to bear on earth, we need to not only look to the spiritual needs of the people, but that we should look to meet their physical and social needs as well. Christians need to focus on both, not solely focusing on one and overlooking the other, but realizing that they come hand in hand. To serve one's spiritual needs means that you need to serve their physical and social needs, and to serve ones physical and social needs means that you need to serve their spiritual needs. He summarized his belief by stating that the kingdom of God is comprehensive and not just spiritual. It is holistic and speaks to all aspects of life.

Ultimately, Klink emphasized that it

is important to get involved in the world around us. He stated, "There are many different ways to be involved in Gods plan for reconciliation in the world," but that Christians needed to realize that they cannot meet the needs of the world by themselves. Everything that we do is through the power of God.

"You don't need to go overseas to be involved in cross cultural ministry,

[because] you can go to Buffalo. Be involved in God's kingdom in your own community. There are many ways to do

that, starting with things as simple as prayer." It is important to realize, he went on, that you don't need to be an Intercultural Studies major or have a missions focus to do this. "Plug in with something that is already going on," he encouraged. He also suggested getting involved in local ministries, such as volunteering at Wellspring ministries, tutoring refugees in Buffalo with Journey's End, or joining different groups on campus such as Nehemiah's Restoration or Evangelicals for Social Action.

Klink repeatedly emphasized that there are multitudes of simple ways to get involved and to help bring God's kingdom to bear on earth. In his final address, Klink emphasized the importance of acting now to serve the needy and the poor. We need to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ through actions, prayer, and advocacy, he concluded, because "tomorrow may be too late: do it today."

**Interested in placing
an advertisement in the
STAR? Please e-mail all
inquiries to
STAR@houghton.edu**



Art Exhibit Review: Aimee Helen Koch, *Ladies in Waiting*

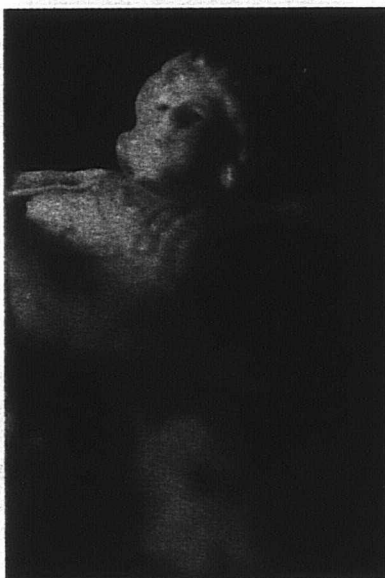
By Stefan Zoller

Having opened last Friday, the current exhibit at the Ortlip Gallery features a collection of digital prints by photographer Aimee Helen Koch, titled *Ladies in Waiting*. Some 30 pictures make up the exhibition, all of them depicting pincushion dolls made of porcelain and fabric at the turn of the twentieth century. Every doll is an object to behold, each waiting patiently for their suitor, presenting their beauty to the viewer. The pictures are presented without frames or matting; instead, they are nailed to the wall, suspending the images and providing a weightlessness despite their heavy subject matter.

Hatpins, shown piercing several of the dolls, symbolize women's "emancipation as wearing hats allowed women to adopt masculine attire, and thus, masculine roles." However, while challenging traditional gender roles with their practical function, the dolls also mark the beginning of marketed self-image. The marketing of the idealized female shifted what

were once internal qualities of beauty to those both external and unattainable. Pins stabbing into the dolls' bodies suggest self-hate resulting from "increased and encouraged self-scrutiny." Koch also notes that the pins carry a sexual tone due to their "phallic nature" and position on the dolls.

On a more formal level, the photographs do a remarkable job of utilizing a very shallow depth of field. Each of the dolls is photographed at near-human scale, which gives each image an intimacy with the viewer. The dramatic lighting and dark background gives the images a theatrical feel, putting the viewer in a voyeuristic position. Koch



Koch's "Pincushion #20"

Photo by Stefan Zoller

leads the eye in and around the picture using the play between in focus and blurred passages. Some of the photographs feature only one doll, standing vigilant in the encompassing darkness; while others have multiple figures, those in the background looming ghost-like and out

of focus—some to the point of pure abstraction. The pictures exhibit rich darks and lights, resulting from the glassy, reflective surface of the porcelain against the dense background. Flowing cloth of varying color and texture cascade down from the dolls' bodies to the bottom portion of the picture.

The cloth, in addition to creating the smooth polished features of the dolls, makes the images sumptuously tactile.

A standout photograph from the show, "Pincushion #20," is shot looking up at the doll. The lower two-thirds of the picture is made up of the doll's billowing dress, slowly coming into focus towards the upper portion of the doll, and finally resting on a small patch of gold trim leading to the head. Despite the serene expression on the doll's face, she is hopelessly drowning in her own clothing, taking a last look before going under.

While the photographs all draw collective strength from being exhibited as a group, the show as a whole is somewhat uneven. There is little variation in point of view and picture size, crippling some images to the point of banality. The show leans heavily upon the success of several excellent pictures, among them "Pincushions" #1, #7, #17, and #20. Despite the inconsistencies, Koch presents an interesting and thought provoking show that is well worth a visit.

• Opera continued from page 1

she told them to, but because their character would naturally be reacting to the events in the scene in a particular way. This was also "the best part," she reported, "because I get to see them grow as actors and actresses."

Two of the three scenes in the showcase are in English, something everyone

involved hopes will help make them accessible to the audience. The third scene, one from Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro," is in Italian, but English subtitles will be provided. This scene, Professor Thomas says, is going to serve as a sort of trailer for next semester's production of the full opera

of "The Marriage of Figaro," which will be sung in English translation.

Professor Thomas hopes that this chance for students to see several opera scenes will allow them to experience a new art form and perhaps discredit a few stereotypes.

"I hope that, even if some are dragged kicking and screaming to the performance, they'll come away with an appreciation of opera."

"I want these scenes to do three things for the audience members," he said. "First, to entertain them. I think entertaining is an art. I've always disliked shows where the snob-factor is so high and the directors are so bent on portraying their own individual interpretations of the work. Second, that they'll be moved in some way. Thirdly, I hope that, even if some are dragged kicking

and screaming to the performance, that they'll come away with an appreciation of opera."

Professor Thomas spoke about a survey he had taken of the audience at last semester's production of Anne of Green Gables, and noted that "it was very interesting that most people who said they didn't like opera had never actually been to an opera. I want to know how they know they don't like it."

Operas are not typically thought of as being amusing. In Black's scene, however, a situation arises when a boy (played by a woman) is forced to dress up and act like a woman. In Miller's scene, two old women sit and gossip about everyone in town, and then both swoon over a man who comes knocking at their door. "It's a lot like 'Desperate Housewives,'" commented Miller.

The Opera Scenes Production is also collaborating with the Houghton Wesleyan Food Pantry, and, while admission is free, people are encouraged to bring a food item for the ministry as a way of giving back to the community. Professor Thomas had the idea because he was trying to "think of something we could do to maintain the connection with the community." This way, audience members can come with food to donate to the food bank, or just to enjoy the performances.

The multifaceted nature of this kind of entertainment is particularly appealing to a wide range of people. The humor and pathos of each situation is augmented by the staging, acting, and music, and the performance promises to be truly entertaining, with nary a horn or wobbling soprano in sight.



Readers respond to last week's op-eds written by William Airhart and Meic Pearse regarding Jim Keady's chapel talk, *Behind the Swoosh: Sweatshops and Social Justice*.

Will and Dr. Pearse,

Thank you both so much for your insightful responses to *Behind the Swoosh* which were published in the Star. As I discussed Monday's chapel with other students, I was bothered by Keady's somewhat surface analysis of this issue, and looking for a deeper explanation of the political and economic angles of the sweatshop debate. I think that you both presented arguments that our campus needs to hear. I was so pleased to read your responses. Thanks for taking the time to write!

Rachel Calhoun

Dear Will,

Thank you for your considered reply to Jim Keady's campus visit. A man who has dedicated himself to the relief of the oppressed deserves our careful, respectful attention.

I imagine a world in which every corporation is held accountable by people like Jim Keady, and every government is held accountable by people like Will Airhart. I think this is the sort of world that Jim hopes for, too. He is just one person, and he told us he focuses on Nike thanks to his personal story at St. John's and the fact that Nike commands the US market in sporting goods.

Jim is angry that labor organizers in Indonesia are regularly threatened, attacked, and left for dead. As a publicly owned company, Nike's financial responsibility is not to its overseas workers but to its stockholders. The result: if it's in the financial interest of the stockholders that Indonesian labor organizers are beaten and killed as they agitate for workplace rights, then Nike is under no obligation to intervene. Jim thinks this is a sick economic system.

At lunch, after chapel, Jim said he has been invited to speak at an upcoming international symposium about labor rights in developing countries. He asked us to guess how many speakers will be actual laborers from developing countries. Answer: zero. He wants to live in a world where the oppressed are invited to have a voice. And I hear you asking for the same thing: you encouraged us all to educate ourselves in economics, politics, and ethics. I think this sort of education creates people like Jim, who is able not only to talk intelligently about systemic evil, government policy, and world trade, but also to recognize when it is appropriate to defend the rights of those who are not able to speak for themselves.

Yesterday, at church, we read through the ten commandments and paused between each to write down prayers.

Sometimes it feels like the murder of a labor organizer in Indonesia is far away, but it is only far away geographically. Morally, such murders may be closer than we think. At church, I invited God to help me see how close I am to murder.

Dave Perkins

Dear Editor:

I wish to voice my concern over what I believe is an unnecessarily negative reaction to the chapel message that Jim Keady gave. One of the first things that he said was that when he is asked to speak somewhere, he is usually given between an hour and a half to two hours with which he can address many of the concerns which were addressed in your editorials. To get a more complete understanding of his lecture, he directed us to both his official website and his Myspace site. Yet, he seemed to have been judged on the content of his message, which was much shorter than it would be normally.

The other thing I wanted to address is that I do not believe anyone is advocating paying third world workers the same wages that are paid in the developed world. Rather, from fair trade and social action activists that I have read, a livable wage is what they advocate. This might mean an equivalent of \$3.50 a day American in some places, or \$2.75 in others. I am not convinced that Mr. Keady believes they should be paid double those amounts per hour, but rather a wage that the workers can live on, and still give them a sense of dignity.

Christopher Cole

CORRECTION:

Last week's article entitled "Houghton Down Under Update" should have been credited to Scott Spear. We apologize for the error.

The Pencil

By Chris Stewart

One of my rituals at the beginning of each academic year is to drop by a Stuff-Mart and pick up a fresh box of pencils. Not just any pencils, mind you, but Dixon *Ticonderogas* — "the greatest pencils in the world." I love the classic yellow paint and the gleaming green lettering along one side of the hexagonal shaft. A green and yellow metal band cradles a traditional pink eraser. These pencils are real wood — none of your composite wood and glue "pencils" that bend like rubber. *Ticonderogas* snap when you bend them, just like in the movies. I love the feel of the paint and the lightness of pencil itself. I grip them hard as I stroke the page.

When I was in college, I often took notes in pencil. My wife testifies to having noticed this tendency from across the room before we began courting. We were in the same philosophy class. What puzzled her most was not simply the fact that I took notes in pencil, but that I would from time to time actually erase something I had just written down. I was a very efficient note-taker. Even more strangely, as we began to write letters to each other while apart during the summers, I sometimes used a pencil. Again, I would occasionally erase parts of a sentence, evidently not happy with my original wording, prompting speculation about what I had written the first time, and why I felt compelled to change it. Was I hiding something? There's no intrigue with a pen. You can run a line through something you've written, but you can't really obscure it without making a mess of the thing. And if you've ever tried one of those pen erasers, you'll know why they never caught on.

Ballpoint pens either make lines on the page or they don't, and in most cases you don't know when a pen is going to quit on you. They just dry up suddenly, mid-sentence. At least with a pencil you know where you stand. With a pencil you don't just write words

• *Pencil continued on page 7*

The HOUGHTON STAR is dedicated to the free exchange of ideas, and encourages community members to participate in the discussion. Ideas expressed in these pages reflect solely the opinion of the writer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit any contributions for reasons of length or decorum. Letters to the editor (signed) should be 350 words or fewer and be submitted by Tuesday at 12 p.m. to STAR@houghton.edu.

Names may be withheld upon request.



Pencil continued from page 6

on a page, you draw them. The shape and texture of the line changes as you vary the pressure and angle at the point of contact between the graphite tip and the paper. After just a few strokes with a freshly sharpened pencil, the tip begins to flatten, and with careful rotation the physical process of writing itself rises to the level of an art form. (Fountain pens, of course, are the exception.)

The expressive potential of a pencil sharply contrasts its simple design. Sure, there are lots of novelty pencils. I own a golden *Star Trek* pencil sharing my tin can of *Ticonderogas*. But most pencils are lovingly faithful to the archetype so nobly instantiated by the *Ticonderoga*. Contrast pencils in this regard with the dizzying variety of pen styles available in Stuff-Mart. Pencils challenge you to express your individuality in ways that can't be brought home in a sack.

My kids use pencils a lot, though not quite as much as they used to. It's the preferred writing implement in the grade school years. I'm not sure when the change generally occurs. I'd guess somewhere around junior high, when brandishing a stylish new pen can become a socially acceptable way to stand out in the crowd. By the college years, pencil use is limited to crosswords. (The very proud eschew pencils even then.) I certainly don't see many pencils in my classrooms, except during course evaluations at the end of the semester, when pencil use is compulsory. I suspect that standardized testing, which has burgeoned alarmingly in the past several years, is fostering a deep pencil-anxiety within the American psyche. Pencils are often associated in people's minds with filling in little bubbles under pressure. "Fill the bubbles completely, and remember to *completely* erase changes." I think of the pencil as an ally in such situations. I remember arriving for my second attempt at the GRE and remarking how many people were still cramming their heads with vocabulary words. I showed up with nothing in my hands but a small squadron of sharpened

From the Editors' Desk...

Dear Me, What's Up With Ol' Crusty-Brit?

When discussing Third World poverty, why isn't it reasonable to demand corporate accountability as Keady does?

By Timothy Bastedo

After reading Ol' Crusty-Brit's article in last week's edition of the *Star* railing against Jim Keady's anti-sweatshop talk in chapel, I was left feeling slightly disillusioned. Ol' Crusty-Brit is someone whose books and various presentations at Houghton have given me a great deal of respect for him, but I can't agree with many of the conclusions he draws from his critique of Keady's position.

At the heart of Ol' Crusty's article is the claim that *the poor* can't afford to have their wages raised. Their poverty is actually an *advantage* of sorts, since it is their poverty which draws corporations like Nike to their countries. Even if the wages of Nike's workers in developing countries are not ideal, they are a great deal better than what the rest of the population is getting. Raising their wages would merely lead Nike to pull out and invest elsewhere, leaving Keady's Indonesians unemployed and

pencils ready for action. We'd been training together. We were ready. With a pencil you can make quick changes neatly and efficiently, whereas a pen is much less forgiving. Imagine taking a standardized test with a pen. There's more pressure, if you ask me.

Lest you conclude that I'm suffering from some sort of pencil fixation, you'll be relieved to know that I composed this essay on my trusty laptop. Speaking of which, remember those standardized test questions that go "A is to B as C is to D" (represented "A : B :: C : D"), where you have to guess which word belongs in D? See if you can get this one: "pencils : pens :: Mac : ____." If you guessed "PC," you got it right, but that's a topic for another occasion.

Chris Stewart is Professor of Philosophy at Houghton College.

destitute, all in the name of a teenage-tinged, social justice "morality." So, the irony is that Indonesian workers can't afford to have their wages raised; if this occurred, the repercussions for Nike would actually put the Indonesians out of a job altogether. And let's face it, the factory workers *are* better off than their countrymen. So let's leave Nike alone, and do the rest ourselves.

Here's the real problem with Ol' Crusty-Brit's calculations. Granted, the factory workers' lives are bad, but they *are* better than the rest of their countrymen's. But if Nike's actions are good for these few people, maybe Nike should *lower* its wages so that they're just above what the rest of the country's workers normally make. Then Nike's prices would go up, accruing more equity, and enabling them to employ *more* Indonesians wholivemarginally better lives than the rest of their countrymen. We're left with the typical utilitarian dilemma: help a lot of people a little, or

help a few people a lot. Let's keep the poor almost as they are, but let's have just a few more of them, and make them a shade less poor. Three cheers for corporate responsibility! Never mind that the "marginally better" should still be read "awful," as long as the numbers still say it works. Crusty's economics leave him little recourse to say why this situation would be better or worse than the present one, though most of us would be inclined to call it worse. (It's also unclear how Ol' Crusty-Brit can credibly call Nike's presence provisional of a route out of poverty. If you can't afford soap and a meal, can you afford a savings account? And Nike has been in Indonesia for 20 years now? How far down this route

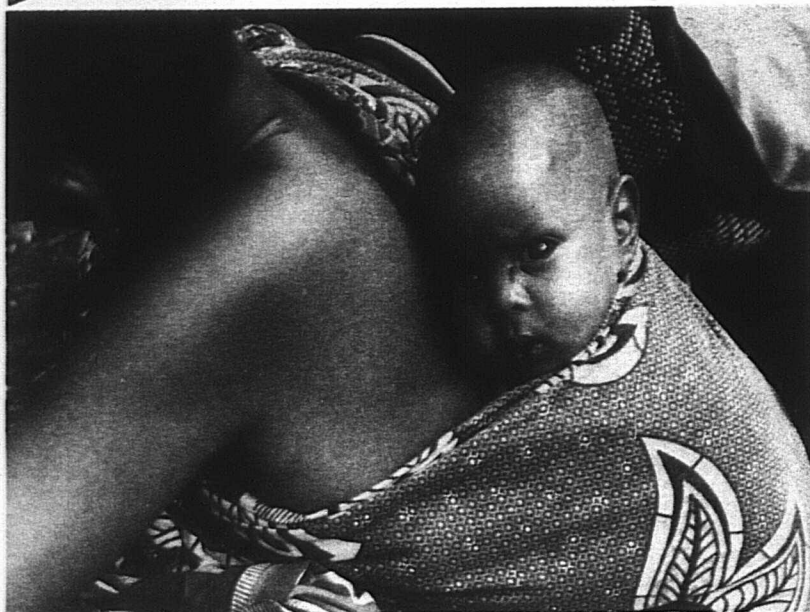
must we go until we get anywhere?)

Ol' Crusty is right to remind us that the obligation to help Indonesians is truly *ours*, since we can't slough off our own obligations to help others onto "abstract entities or legal systems." Which is, incidentally, precisely where William Airhart's similarly focused article entirely derails itself, calling readers to investigate microfinance and reflect on capitalism as a philosophy. Considered from the third world's point of view, this is only so much fatuous abstract moralizing. We can afford it: they can't. However, this should not stop us from exhorting each other to take up that responsibility, should it? If it's not wrong to send our own money to Indonesia, is it wrong to ask Nike executives to send some of theirs? Or do they get a special moral dispensation just because they are a corporation, and the obligations that pertain to the rest of us aren't as economically feasible for them?

Perhaps what Ol' Crusty is upset about is that, for so many Che Guevara-loving adolescents, they have taken up this exhortation *in lieu* of shouldering their own obligations. And this is, admittedly, incredibly obnoxious and hypocritical. But given all Ol' Crusty's points, it is unclear why we must choose between *either* demanding Nike's help *or* helping Indonesians ourselves. These are not exclusive propositions, and Crusty's treatment of them as such, for someone so intelligent and influential on many of my perceptions about the world, was the real shock for me.

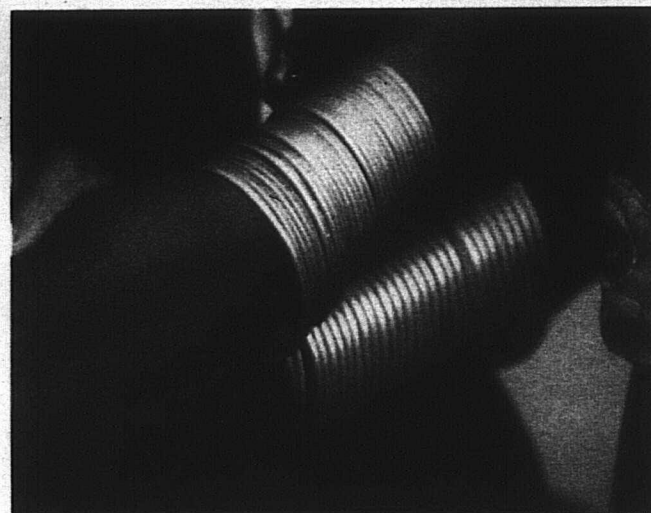
Tim is a senior Political Science and Philosophy double major and serves as news editor.

Let's keep the poor
almost as they are, but
just a shade less poor.
Three cheers for
corporate responsibility!



featured artwork

KYLE HORTON



Note from the artist: Spending a semester in Tanzania offered many exciting opportunities for photography. The country is filled with beautiful people and places. Some of my favorite pictures came from time spent with the Maasai tribe. It does not take long to gain an appreciation for the beauty of Maasai culture, filled with brilliant color and detail.

Kyle is a senior Intercultural Studies and Business double major.

College Intramurals Taken Very Seriously

By Joel VanderWeele

As the Houghton community has been girding its loins for the potential playoff runs of the men's and women's varsity soccer teams, the equally competitive and exciting world of Houghton College intramural sports has also been entering/exiting its playoff season.

Houghton's intramural program is a great opportunity for students who don't want to commit to the rigors of a varsity team yet want to be involved in competitive sports. Although intramurals are usually seen as a fairly casual time of friendly competition, this year's intramural teams are extremely dedicated to their respective sports.

William Airhart, captain of the men's intramural soccer team named *Team 3*, declared that his entire team took the season "very seriously," claiming that they "often e-mailed about games... we managed to win the championship, I think." When asked for the secret

of his team's success, Airhart replied, "Simple: clear eyes, full hearts, can't lose."

Nathan Forschler, a member of the *Unferocious Beasts* soccer team, allegedly took the season "fairly seriously" and recounted tales of a teammate attempting "a bicycle kick before one of the games." Clearly, the level of play seen in this year's men's intramural soccer league far surpasses conventional views of intramural competition.

The women's soccer league teams were also very competitive. Both teams scored multiple goals, and according to the league champion *Hurricane Charlie's* Emma Weigle, "it was probably the best season so far." Sandy Stark, fellow member of *Hurricane Charlie*, was also, "pretty excited about [their] win... we might even get t-shirts." Even though most of the intramural participants could undoubtedly compete at the elite level

of this, or any college, they choose to forfeit the glory of varsity athletics in return for the t-shirts awarded to the championship teams of the intramural league.

The intramural soccer season ended in mid-October – an obvious attempt to avoid any spectators being pulled away from varsity games – but the volleyball and football playoffs are still in full swing. Mitchell Edwards, well-respected member of the defending champion volleyball team *Boyz 2 Manifesto*, is "looking forward" to the playoffs and plans on "showing up twenty minutes before" their playoff games to "get warmed up." According to Edwards, the *Boyz* are attempting to fend off a "pretty good" freshman team to repeat their championship victory of last year.

Members of the intramural flag football teams were unavailable for comment.

2007-2008 STAR Staff

Editor-in-Chief
William Airhart

Editor
Timothy Bando
Margarita Bando
Jason Fisher
Katarina Jeffrey

Business Manager
Laura Bando

Re-write Staff
Amy Buckingham
Ailie Kilpatrick
Joel VanderWeele
Micah Warf

Advisor
Prof. Ben Lipscomb