

From the Editor's Desk: Someone Somewhere is Doing Something Awesome

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100 YEARS



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April 1, 2010

Baptist Bus to Visit Houghton



photo by Phil Morris

Lake of Grace's touring bus, with built-in communion equipment for 20, purchased with 2007's Lottie Moon's Christmas offering dividends.

by Snick Boynton

On March 20, Houghton students received a campus wide e-mail informing them that the Baptist Bus, a non-violent protest group and branch of the Lake of Grace Baptist Team, will visit campus in mid-October.

When they received the original letter from the Lake of Grace Baptist Team, the official response from the Houghton

administration was not to respond. "As a Wesleyan institution," said Sharra Hynes, Vice President of Student Life and the Houghton liaison with the Lake of Grace Baptist Team, "we felt that responding to the notification in the affirmative would have given a mixed message about our commitment to Houghton's Wesleyan heritage." At the same time, said Hynes, "we don't want to appear intolerant of people

with whom we have significant theological disagreements."

Hynes also said that Houghton did not ban the Baptist Bus because, given the nature of Houghton's campus, it cannot be closed easily due to the county roads running through it. "Oh, and we also think hospitality is important," said Hynes.

"Although the mission of the Baptist Bus is opposed to our community's theological commitments," said Hynes, "we need to be sensitive to the small group of students on campus who claim to be Baptists, as well as some students who have struggled with Baptist tendencies in the past."

"I experimented with the Baptists down South for a while," said senior Danielle Speelman,

Baptist Bus cont'd on page 2

Mullen Plans 7-Part "State of the College" Series

by Harold Peach

In a move that campus experts have called "thorough," President Shirley Mullen has announced that she will host a series of seven "State of the College" community meetings in the fall. "After three 'State of the College' addresses this past year, I felt that there were still some questions left unanswered," said Mullen. am confident that seven two-hour meetings will provide sufficient time for meaningful community dialogue to take place." meetings have been scheduled for seven consecutive Monday afternoons from September 6 to October 18.

Although details are not yet set in stone, Mullen did share that each session would be an intentional and metaphorical reference to the term "fiscal flexibility."

"Our success has been modest thus far," explained Mullen, "but through our very very intentional process of streamlining and standardization, we have been able to create a more flexible budget while still strengthening our mission-consistent programs."

Mullen went on to say, "we have sharpened our marketing focus to better reflect Houghton's distinctives and have been quite successful in drawing new students to our strengthened science program."

In a campus-wide press release sent on March 29, Mullen announced the working titles of the seven "flexibility" addresses: Introduction to Flexibility, Structural Flexibility (Administrative Structure), Muscular Flexibility (Program Enhancements), Range of Motion (Off-Campus Programs),

Connective Tissue (Community), General Health and Wellness (Liberal Arts), and Tension-Resistance (Dialogue).

After a two-hour introductory meeting on September 6, the second meeting, dedicated to "Structural Flexibility (Administrative Structure)," will address the re-organization of academic departments into more flexible academic "areas."

When asked exactly how many new Associate Deans would be named in the coming months, Vice President for Academic Affairs Ron Mahurin responded, "it's currently a variable figure, based on an understanding of what, in our current administrative structure, it will take us to provide the direction and the margins that we need going forward to operate on a model of sustainability organizationally. The figure

provides some sufficient margin or flexibility within that range."

The fourth session, dedicated "Range of Motion (Off-Campus Programs)," will be led by Vice President of Finance and Administration Efrain Rivera. Rivera recently stated, "This moment needs to be seen in the context of the wider financial crisis that is affecting everyone in the country, not just us." Rivera went on to say, "schools are being very creative about how they move forward right now," citing a recent New York Times article about a college in Ohio that has responded to the financial crisis by holding virtual swim meets in order to cut back on travel costs.

"We want to be very very intentional about how we act in

Series cont'd on page 2

EWORLDS THERE

by Anderson Blitzer

Johnny Depp Honored for Efforts off Somalia Coast

Actor and Musician Johnny Depp was granted the Change the World Humanitarian Award by the Hollywood Note Foundation this week for his leadership in a global campaign to end piracy off the coast of Somalia. Hailing Depp as a global miracle worker, analysts have expressed astonishment at his ability to quickly and thoroughly end consistent lawless action in East-African waters. Through an innovative intervention initiative. a team of Hollywood residents led by Depp, were successful in convincing modern pirate bands of the "futility" of their efforts. Depp explained, "Essentially, this program was designed to show our modern pirate friends just how obsolete they were becoming-in a world that threatened to leave them behind. They needed to know that they have better options than this!" The program consisted of educational forums on "the role of pirates in the present day," and panel discussions regarding "more profitable options for aspiring pirates." The program was coupled with a timely announcement by Walt Disney Pictures detailing its plans to produce a 4th installment in the film series titled "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides." Disney has offered film contracts to all Somalian pirates willing to pursue a "more promising" career in character acting-a deal it described as savvy.

Steve Jobs Unveils Apple's Latest: the iGod

In an unexpected press release, Apple CEO, Steve Jobs announced on Wednesday his company's intentions to produce what he described as "a technological achievement—nothing short of divine." This monumental release has conquered what many see as Apple's final frontier in communication technology. "It was the only next logical step," said communications specialist

Ronni Paine, who recalled previous breakthrough releases of the iPad and iPhone. She explained; "The iPad was introduced as a magical product that exceeded human capacity to understand... only the supernatural could surpass this." Experts claim that the Apple dynasty has been escalating to this point for a number of years now with its steady procession of flawless, revolutionary products. The iGod is expected to transform communication of all kinds, including electronic, interpersonal, and even supernatural. According to Jobs; "prayer is now obsolete, thanks to the iGod-which provides instant access to the spiritual, with better results and virtually no faith costs." The iGod has been prophesied to descend to consumer markets next Christmas.

County Legislators Debate Plan to House former Guantanamo Detainees

Curtis W. Crandall, Chairman of the Allegany County board of legislatures, has made public his recent presentation of an ambitious plan to revitalize the county's lagging economy. This plan, currently in debate, will initiate the transformation of the Allegany County Jail in Belmont into a state-of-the-art detainment facility for criminals formerly housed a the now closed Guantanamo Bay prison camp in Cuba. County officials have affirmed that the arrival of this facility is exactly what the area needs to provide jobs, attract tourists, and bring new economic stimulation. Federal inspectors have already expressed interest in the county's prime isolated location, offering to provide funding for further exploration of the prospect. The plan will be voted on later this year by Allegany county residents. and if passed will be submitted for federal approval. Government scouts are expected to visit Houghton College in the coming months to seek community opinion and study the effects of isolated living on the student population.

Baptist Bus cont'd from pg 1

"but I have seen the error in my ways. Disavowing the traditional creeds just isn't me anymore."

Some parents were reportedly surprised to hear that a conservative Wesleyan school like Houghton actually has students who identify as Baptists on campus, but Dean of Students Dennis Stack said, "as long as we don't catch the students baptizing each other or speaking in tongues, there's not much we can do."

A group of Houghton students opposed to the mission of the Baptist Bus has organized a t-shirt rally for the week of the visit. The group will wear white t-shirts, which represent the Holiness Movement, adorned with the message "I have died" on the front, and "but my identity in Christ can still be refused if I fall into sin without repentance" on the back. The group hopes to make it clear that, unlike the Baptizers who believe in irresistible grace, they believe that salvation must be accepted and lived out through sanctification.

According to Director of Public Relations Sharon Myers, once Houghton was notified that the Baptists would be visiting, a planning committee, of which she is part, was put together to decide how best to respond to the visit. As part of this planning, the group has been in contact with Houghton Security. The group has also identified a piece of literature that they are recommending to the entire Houghton College community. According to a campus wide e-mail sent by Myers, the planning group "feel[s] it would be beneficial for students, faculty and staff to read the Standards of the Wesleyan Church for Educational Institutions in order to better articulate Houghton's religious commitments when they are challenged by the Baptizers.

The month before the Baptizers' arrival will be filled with training sessions, forums, prayer groups, fasting, and a chapel service dedicated to the flaws in Baptist Biblical interpretation led by one of the many Wesleyan scholars on campus.

It is also believed that each Baptizer will be accompanied by two Houghton hosts, chosen from student and faculty leaders on campus. These hosts, who have yet to be chosen, will escort the Baptizers around campus, and will be responsible for keeping a tight grip on the leash.

According to SGA President Zachary Adams, hosts will go through a three-month informational session to "equip [them] with the proper information and rhetoric that will allow the hosts to successfully engage with

the Baptizers."

Some students criticized the idea of Houghton hosts, calling them "Baptist Babysitters," but Hynes has defended the use of hosts as standard procedure: "We're treating them like we would treat any other campus guest, honest."

Inadditiontothehosts, Houghton has drawn up a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which stipulates that the Baptizers can only be on campus from 11:00 to 11:15 on the day of their visit.

While on campus, the Baptizers will be restricted to the old board room on the third floor of the Luckey Building. The school will also request that each Baptizer wear "Methodist-looking" clothes so that they don't interfere with the daily routine of students who wish to have a normal school day.

Another parameter in the MOU states that Baptizers may only speak when spoken to and must keep their elbows off the table.

"We want to be very careful about this visit," said Dean of the Chapel John Brittain. "On the one hand, we are more or less obligated to defer to the folks in Indianapolis for any major decisions that are made. On the other hand, though, I think we should focus on the similarities between Baptists and Wesleyans, rather than the differences."

When they learn of the exact date that the Baptist Bus will be visiting, letters will be sent out to students, faculty, staff, parents of students, trustees, alumni, siblings of alumni, potential donors, all residents of Allegany County, and two of the Wesleyan districts with which Houghton works most closely, informing them of the visit.

Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes declined to comment. ★

Series cont'd from pg 1

this moment," reiterated Mullen.
"This is a time for strategic action."

"We covered in great detail what programs will be scaled back and streamlined to make our spreadsheets more limber." In contrast, next year's series will "explain our rationale for suddenly needing to become more flexible and how we plan to use our newly developed flexibility."

"I'm a little surprised," said faculty moderator Doug Gaerte. "After last year's State of the College addresses, I was under the impression that 'fiscal flexibility' just meant that we were postponing all decision-making until a later date. I guess I was wrong."

Vice President of Student
Life Sharra Hynes declined to
comment.

Houghton Adds Grad Program in Admin. Studies

by Theodore Gysel

After several tries at getting a graduate program going in an area other than music, Houghton has finally hit upon something that is causing widespread excitement in both administrative and faculty circles. The new Masters of Administrative Studies (MAS) is a program that combines class work and internship opportunities in a bid to groom future educational administrators.

In the past, graduate programs have been crippled by funding shortages. The MAS, however, is groundbreaking in that it earns twice as much money as it spends, by contracting those accepted into the program, and binding them to a mandatory ten-year period of administrative service to Houghton

While administrative positions for graduates of this program are salaried, income is based on a new plan, entitled "Unity of Purpose: Fiscal and Academic Responsibility" (UPFAR) which allows the college to dip into the salaries of employees on this plan and use it for such a time as whenever it is necessary. "Not only are we giving jobs, and getting customized employees," remarked Associate Dean of Institutional Research and Assessment Daryl Stevenson, "but we're able to halt their salaries at any point and contribute that money to a higher purpose, hopefully one that we all have in mind.'

Benefits to this position will include a catered lunch in the Dieter Board Room every day of the week, although directions as to the whereabouts of this board room will remain a secret,

in a bid to create a school tradition in which all incoming students must find the board room before they can eat with the older students. In addition, a health plan will be offered which gives constituents the cell phone

numbers of all Health Center employees, and a 24-hour "VIP" dialing allowance.

In a speech during the groundbreaking of the new Hynes Center for Favored Students (also known as JIHAD, the "Jesus, I Have A Doctorate!" Center), PresidentMullenexpanded upon the intent of the new program. "In recent vears we've seen hurtful division occurring in the midst of the administrative body here at Houghton College. While minor differences can contribute diversity, there is

always too much of a good thing. What the MAS will attempt to do is raise a body of administrators who can agree on pretty much anything, and whose fiscal flexibility and sense of community will be unmatched amongst administrative teams of our

Classes for this program will be offered by many Houghton faculty members. Since the students will eventually oversee the operations of the college, each faculty member is setting up a course that will (pending approval) shape an aspect of a student's life in a way that will be helpful when full administrator status is achieved.

Dr. Carlton Fisher, longtime

resident of the philosophy department, will be leading a seminar on the institutional, mental, physical, environmental, and educational benefits of junior varsity athletics, in his class entitled



"Musings."

"If there's one thing I could change about this college, it would be the restricted opportunities for money to be put into junior varsity sports. said Fisher, in an interview last week. "and you'd better believe students in my class will learn to fight this."

Professors Ben and Susan Lipscomb will be co-leading a class entitled "Decontextualizing with Wisdom."This course will explore the possibilities that are offered by, and strategies for taking soundbites from the classic works in philosophy and literature, and using them effectively in speeches, promotional materials, and press conferences. Emphasis will be placed on quoting with panache and charisma while remaining ignorant of authorial intent.

Other MAS classes to be offered "Board Room Etiquette:

How to Act When You Think You've Reached the Top of the Ladder" by Cameron Airhart, "Dress to Repress" with Douglas Gaerte, and "The Proper Function and Use of the Alumni Dining Room" with Wendy Baxter. An additional class on public speaking and language arts (entitled, "Grammatical Flexibility" with Terry Paige) will be "optional, with a strong suggestion that you take it," said Dennis Stack, Dean of Students

Further courses will provide instruction on courtesy of Houghton College family life, Wesleyanism, and how to administrate

"greenly."

One of the criticisms leveled against the program is its insistence that all students must maintain social and physical distance from current undergraduate students, events, and programs. According to Vice President of Academic Affairs, Ron Mahurin, however, this is merely a precaution. "Our MAS students are going to be heavily involved with administration from day one we want to help them succeed by keeping their attentions focused on what's important." Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes declined

Campus Program "Out of this World"

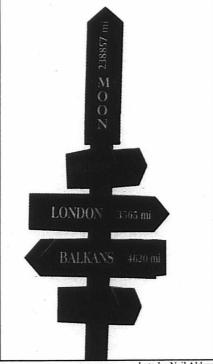
by Gilbert Berdstein

Houghton College campus is still buzzing after Wednesday's announcement of the new Houghton in Space First Year Honor's Program (HIS). Many were surprised at the unveiling of this ambitious educational endeavor because of all the cuts being made to off-campus programs, such as the London First Year Honor's Program (FYHP) and the sale of the Star Lake and West Seneca campuses.

announcement Wednesday's revealed that the reason for all the previous cuts was not because of financial problems, as commonly thought, but rather because of the necessity to free up funds for HIS.

First year students accepted into the program will spend their first semester at Houghton with a normal course load, allowing them to adjust to college life before blasting off from the secret launch pad located beneath the quad for the spring semester.

Construction of housing facilities



OCP sign salutes zenith of Houghton's recent spacial achievements.

at Houghton's secret moon base is scheduled to be complete by the end of the summer. Classes will consist of basic integrative studies requirements, leaving the program open to students of all disciplines. In addition to the regularly scheduled classes, there are excursions planned every other weekend. These will include camping trips to the Tycho crater, an intercultural experience on the International Space Station, as well as a fun space walk.

The Admissions Office anticipates enrollment to "skyrocket" next year due to the HIS program. Even though only 15 students will be accepted into the program each year, they expect the allure and mystique of being the only college campus in the world with an active space program is sure to bring in all sorts of students.

The only negative aspect of the new program is that Houghton's motto, "The World is Our Classroom," will have to be changed. Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes declined to comment.

Confused Freshman Sets Self on Fire for the Lord

by Luke Rowsey

In a press conference on Tuesday, First-year Daniel Shaull explained his recent actions following chapel on Monday when he ignited himself with a small lighter, resulting in severe burns, mass confusion, and dead spots of grass on the Quad.

Shaull said, "Well, the Chapel speaker said, 'It's time to set ourselves on fire for the Lord! Let's ignite this campus! Engulf it in the Lord's flames!' I was so pumped up that I went outside right after Chapel and did just that."

Shaull recently graduated from La Jolla High School, a large, public high school in La Jolla. California. Before attending Houghton, Shaull had never been to an evangelical church service or participated in a youth convention, so he is not familiar with some of the language used in evangelical communities. "I have lived near the beach all my life and I've never seen God's footsteps in the sand," said Shaull. "Maybe I'll find them over break."

According to Shaull, "The Biblical Literature professors are always stressing maximalist interpretations of Scripture. I thought it was natural that the same would apply to the chapel messages."

Ted Swaggert, the chapel speaker on Monday and youth pastor of the Pentecostals Assisting and Saving Souls in One Name (P.A.S.S.I.O.N.), youth group in Nicaragua, New York, said of Shaull's actions, "My

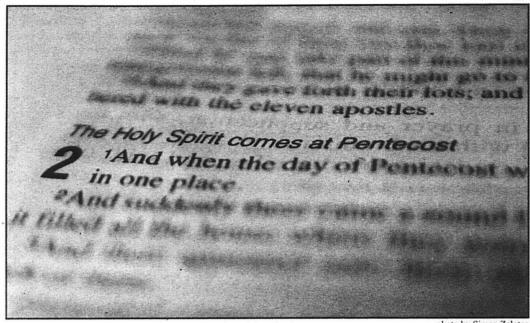


photo by Simon Zelotes

"I have lived near the beach all my life and I've never seen God's footsteps in the sand," said Shaull. "Maybe I'll find them over break."

first reaction was to condemn the act as a sign of spiritual one-upmanship, but after learning more about Danny, I know the Spirit will lead him to do great things. The Lord has obviously put something on his heart, and after he recovers from the burns, he will be a brave soldier on the front lines for the Lord."

Shaull's mother, Rita Jones-Shaull, said, "My dear Danny has something on his heart and now he wants to enlist in the Army? Don't they have medical tests on the East Coast?"

Blake Wade, a senior Bible study leader remarked, "Although the injuries sustained are of course unfortunate, you have to admire Daniel's dedication and authenticity. You know, the Bible says to have a child-like faith, and Daniel really took this idea to the next level. So many people nowadays have a tepid faith, it's really great to see that Daniel takes his journey with the Lord seriously."

A worker at the campus store, Kelsey Groves, commented, "Well, I remember him coming into the store at the beginning of the semester asking where he could 'pick up his cross.' I was a little confused, but I directed him to the necklaces and bumper stickers with crosses on them.

Since attending Houghton, Shaull said that he has learned a lot. "Like, I should only build my house on the rock. Although, I'm still not sure where 'the' rock is. Maybe they're going over it next chapel."

As the press conference ended, Shaull asked, "Now, where do I sign up for that race? Apparently, the Lord declared it."

The required repair-work as a result of the damage done by Shaull is extensive, and will include re-sodding a section of the Quad, planting 15 new trees, and cosmetic surgery for one first-year spectator.

Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes declined to comment.

Wal-Mart Trip Tests MK Moral, Cultural Superiority

by Ivan McPetrovic

Last week, a group of Houghton MK students, from all corners of the world, took a trip to Olean to visit the closest Wal-Mart, or as one participant called it, the "Den of Satan's Spawn." When asked about the excursion, Sophomore Myles Cooper commented, "While in Kenya, I would go out and hunt zebras with my bare-hands, kill them and skin them; my family would use the meat for food and my mom would use the hide to sew clothes. But when we went to Wal-Mart, and I saw clothing made in sweat shops, jewelry probably from the blood mines of South Africa, and processed food 1 felt physically nauseated. Americans make me sick."

This fastidious reaction, although common among the group, was not universal. Sophomore Jeremy Pearson, who has spent a large portion of his life on a medical compound in rural Guatemala, was thoroughly enthralled by the quality and quantity of goods at Wal-Mart. "It was awesome! I got some clothes. a nice set of throw pillows for my room and 18 varieties of chai." While scanning the tea aisle for the various chais, however, an MK wearing a flowery, silk head scarf screamed, "Americans don't even know what real chai is!"

Pearson responded to this outburst by stating, "Americans

may not know what real chai is, but they sure do know how to mass produce and package it in a huge amount of varieties." Considering the reaction of some of her MK friends. Esther McNamara went on to say, "While Wal-Mart may very well be an unethical company, it does provide a necessary resource for working class families in that it sells so much for so cheap." The group's mixed response to the getaway represented the extremes of the MK shopping dilemma. While some hailed the experience as "consumerist ecstasy," others pointed to it as "the work of Lucifer himself." Regardless of their position on the issue, the trip to Wal-Mart certainly challenged the MKs' understanding of how

they fit into North American culture.

Unfortunately, for some of the MKs, the trip to Wal-Mart was one step too soon in their process of acculturation. Two MKs, while browsing the candy section of the store, could not handle the enormity and variety of the products they saw before them. Both students were seen screaming and running back and forth through the electric sliding doors, over and over again. The two MKs were immediately taken to Olean General Hospital. Their status is currently listed as stable.

Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes declined to comment.

Amidst Criticism, President Defends Science Initiative

by Eldrich Woods

President Obama is scheduled to deliver a prime-time television address Saturday evening in defense of his new Science and Technology Initiative. It will be his third such address since last week's announcement of the initiative under the direction of new SciTech Czar Will Gaits. According to one White House "The President has insider, decided he needs to become more personally involved in defending his agenda" in the face of mounting criticism and incredulity.

Another aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, conceded that the decision reflected a White House fear that only additional speeches by the President could stave off a growing crisis for the administration. he obviously wouldn't be preempting Saturday's Final Four broadcast," he said. "Everyone knows he's a huge basketball

Critics have expressed dismay that the President is pursuing his agenda at a time of record deficits. "At a time when every private business in the country its tightening its belt," said Senate Minority Leader Max McDonnell, "President Obama has decided it's time to double-

Privately, many on Capitol Hill admitted surprise at yet another Obama misstep. "Once again,

CDC, and a major new facility for NASA--as necessary to maintain America's competitive edge. "We cannot remain competitive in



sis for the photo courtesy Malia Obama's facebook page "Otherwise, President Obama discusses his new science and technology proposal.

Obama has completely misread the public mood," said one. "No other president in recent memory has ridden into office on such a wave of public support and good

away through his disregard for public opinion.'

Obama has repeatedly defended his new program--which involves subsidies for Green Sustainability of new rounds Research. government hires at NIMH and the

will, yet Obama has thrown it all

such a time as this without major new investments in research and innovation. Investment in science and technology is a major indicator of the success for industrialized nations, and in recent years, our country has been falling behind," he said recently.

Butlamentshavebeenespecially loud at the NEH and NEA, which have seen their funding cut and staffing significantly reduced to fund the new initiative. Officials there expressed bewilderment in light of the president's repeated and firm expressions of support for their mission.

Opposition in recent days has focused on new details about Obama's initiative, which was developed through a process of highly secretive conversations among the president's inner circle of hand-picked advisors, with little input from affected agencies. Billy Kristoff, editor of The Biweekly Standard, blasted Obama for his approach. "This President thinks that if he just gives enough speeches, he can talk his own little reality into existence."

Many critics joined the burgeoning Hemlock Party movement, which has sprung up around the country in opposition to what it calls Obama's fiscal irresponsibility and contempt for freedom of thought. Former GOP vicepresidential candidate Sandra Poolin addressed the Party at its recent national convention. "How's that hopey-changey community thing workin' out for va?" she asked, as the crowd roared its approval. President is always talkin' about such a time as this. Well, someone better tell 'im what time it is!"

Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes declined to comment.

"Four is Not Enough"

Houghton Moves to 5 Credit System

by Raphael Romero

Houghton College's recently adopted four-credit system is to be abandoned beginning with the Class of 2014, next year's incoming students. Houghton will now be operating under a five-credit system. Under the new system most classes will be worth five credits instead of the usual four, or, if you are old enough to remember, three credits.

Not all classes will be five credits, however. Students can look forward to taking 1.666 credit classes as well. Each of these would take up the same classroom time as their five credit counterparts, but would only last a third of a semester.

Professors eagerly anticipate advising new students during the Professor Stephen transition. Woolsey views the change as "an exciting new challenge," and especially looks forward

guiding students already somewhat accustomed to the four-credit system through the maze of transition rules so that they will hopefully graduate with a diploma in hand after four years of classes.

Woolsey reminisced on the days of the transition from three to four credits and how much fun he had figuring out how to get students to finish their majors. "I was worried that course advising would be a bore without the transition to worry about. With the new fivecredit system. I'm guaranteed another four years of rich and complex scheduling. I wouldn't have it any other way.'

One of the reasons for the shift from three to four has also been brought up in this new transition. Houghton was behind the trends in higher education when it adopted the four-credit system. The fact that many schools had already successfully implemented

embarrassment to the institution and was a contributing factor to its adoption. Houghton has learned from its mistake, however, and now sets the trend in higher education by being the only school of its kind to move to five credits. "This is a way to be proactive, rather than reactive," said SGA President Zachary Adams.

Another advantage of five credits is that students will be able to be more focused in their area of discipline. The average student will take only three classes a semester, as opposed to the five averaged under the three-credit system. As President Shirley Mullen explained, "Houghton students now have the ability to graduate with a liberal arts degree without any of the limitations normally caused by a liberal arts

Although campus response has been mostly positive, there is some notable opposition. One a four-credit system was an response came from the newly

formed student group The Amish are Right (TAR), saying we have to get back to our roots in the antiquated three-credit tradition. Readers may be familiar with the actions of TAR after the recent abolition of Houghton's laptop

An opposing response comes from the Religion and Philosophy department. Dr. Jonathan Case explained the reasoning for their opposition. "The Bible is clear on this issue. Houghton should forgo this five-credit nonsense and just jump to a more theologically sound seven credit system. I worry that Houghton is forgetting its Wesleyan roots in this situation."

Some on campus speculate that the four to five-credit shift may be mirrored by a change from a fouryear to a five-year institution.

Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes declined to comment.

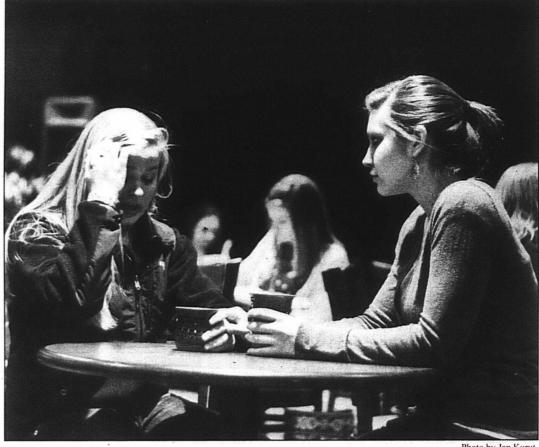
Study: Serious Discussions Happening in Java

by Calvin Broadus

In a report released yesterday it was confirmed, serious conversations are likely taking place in Java. The report is the culmination of a study that took place in Java between the February and Spring breaks. Researchers spent hours carefully watching and listening to every conversation that took place during that time. The work represents a major step forward in the study of the Java environment and the kind of social interactions that take place

Phrases like "I just really feel like God is telling me... "You know I've been through a lot but..." and "Before we go, can I just pray for you?" gave researchers strong reasons to believe a serious conversation was or just had taken place. Body language was also studied: the nodding head with a solemn face and the downward gaze while awkwardly fidgeting with the hands were clear indicators that something very important was being discussed.

The study determined that 20% of conversations were about defining potentially romantic relationships while a large percentage of the remaining conversations were between individuals and their spiritual mentors who were often no older than themselves but had reached a much higher stage of



Students discuss something serious in Java 101. A recent study confirms that these conversations are common.

spiritual understanding. An appendix was added to the work after a separate study of CAB coffeehouses in Java revealed performers talking about serious issues to an audience

that was too busy talking about their own serious issues to listen.

The formal release of the report is happening today at 3pm with a forum sponsored by the sociology club and

SGA directly following.

Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes declined to comment.★

Sophomore Couple Getting Really Into Role-play



A sketch by Jenny Simons to honor boyfriend Daniel Rutherford's birthday

by Roberta Joan Anderson

Prominent Houghton couple Jenny Simons and Daniel Rutherford

are seriously getting into Lord of the Rings and World of Warcraft roleplay, friends of the couple reported on Thursday.

"Jenny is always speaking in Dwarfish," said junior Melanie Jucewicz, "and when I talk to [Rutherford], I never know if I'm going to be talking to him or his Druid World of Warcraft personality. If he pretends to shape-shift into a great bear one more time, I'm seriously going to lose it."

Over Christmas break, the couple convinced their group of friends to visit Colonial Williamsburg. The friends were surprised and dismayed to discover that the reason for the visit was a massive LAN party, followed by a scene-by-scene re-enactment of Silmarillion.

In addition to taking on the characteristics of their favorite fantasy personalities, Simons and Rutherford often divide their friends into a Horde team and an Alliance team and force them to "do battle."

In February, Simons and Rutherford almost split up over Rutherford's desire to add some characters from George Lucas's

Star Wars series to their already multi-personality complex relationship. According to Jucewicz. Simons believed that the Star Wars characters that Rutherford wanted to imitate were "too one-dimensional and mainstream" to add any real substance to their relationship.

"It was actually pretty funny," said Jucewicz. "Every time Daniel started using the Darth Vader voice, Jenny would shoot an invisible elfin arrow into his chest. He had no choice but to fall over and re-spawn as a Warlock."

At time of reporting, the couple was unavailable for comment. According to Rutherford's latest Twitter entry, WoW4life is "on a quest to destroy a ring given to @ TokenTolkien by her ex-boyfriend, who will henceforth be referred to as the Necromancer of Dol Guldur."

Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes declined to comment.★

INTERCULTURAL FASION: Raising Awareness, Understanding in Style

by Henry Deutschendorf, Jr.

Last week, the Intercultural Studies department hosted a fashion show to raise money for "our favorite non-governmental and faith-based organizations or NGO's and FBO's," according to Leanne Bradley, senior Intercultural Studies major.

"Since the job market has been so bad lately, we're always looking for ways to make ourselves more noticeable to NGO's when we're looking for jobs, and this seemed like a great way to do just that," Bradley said. "Oh yeah, and we wanted to help the people in the countries eat and have water and stuff."

The models in the show, who are current Intercultural Studies majors, modeled clothes and accessories that they bought while "living in another culture,". said Katelyn Hogan, junior. "I'll be modeling my pashmina, an Eastern European scarf that I bought from an elderly village

merchant while living in Croatia last Mayterm. It's a great scarf, I think, because it's so multifunctional. It can be worn around the neck for style, but if you get cold in class, you can just drape it around your shoulders. You can even wrap it just so and it can be a headdress-perfect for visiting Serbian Orthodox churches, mosques, or even everyday wear!"

"I actually didn't have to dress up for the fashion show," said Betsy Hildabrandt, "because I usually wear a kanga or...let me translate that into English-a large piece of printed fabric traditionally wrapped around the body as a skirt in much of Eastern Africa."

"The cloak that I modeled was handmade by a woman who owned a micro-finance business that was sponsored by one of the FBO's that we'll be sending money to. The woman only made two of these cloaks a year and she just died, so no one else could possibly get one of these cloaks, even if they tried," said Bradley.

Many of the models enjoyed taking part in the fashion show because it provided at least a small. way of relating to the cultures in third world countries.

"The earrings I wore were bought from a merchant when I was on a short-term mission trip in a developing nation last summer." said Brittany Timmerman. "Those ten days in Mexico changed my life. I feel like I've been called to work with local villagers in Juarez.'

Kaleigh Beck, sophomore, said that she really appreciated this intercultural experience because she's been feeling like an outsider to American culture ever since her two week mission trip to Nantes, France in 2005. "I just don't fit in America anymore," she said. "The culture shock of integrating back into American culture has been pretty hard."

As advocacy is one of the eight tenets of the Intercultural Studies comment. * department, and key to studying and learning abroad, one of the most important elements of the

fashion show was the lessons learned by the spectators

"I think one of the key things people should take away from our show is a lesson in humility," said Hildabrandt. "Americans can be so cocky and don't understand the struggles of MKs and crosscultural learners. This was a great way to teach them about humility and understanding other cultures, at least as much as they're able to understand us.'

"This really was an incredible opportunity for non-Intercultural Studies majors to get at least a shallow understanding of what it's like to live in another culture," said Timmerman. "I mean, they couldn't possibly know what it's like to go through culture shock. but maybe this helped them to be open-minded and think more holistically."

Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes declined to



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SPD Epidemic Spreads Amongst Upperclassmen

by Robert Kroc

this week that there has been an outbreak of SPD on the Houghton College Campus. The effort needed to combat H1N1, commonly referred to as the "swine flu." in the fall left the College's Health Care Professionals helpless to combat the annual epidemic of SPD. The rate of infection with SPD rises dramatically during the spring semester and with only weeks left in the academic year. the administration is scrambling to find solutions so the entire student population will not be infected. President Mullen has charged the biology department with finding a cure for SPD, so that "no student will have to suffer ever again."

Dr. Daniel Brubaker, who is heading up this effort, describes the preliminary findings as shocking but does see some room for hope. "Our initial tests of SPD, Senior Pairing Disease, and its victims have shown that at the moment the only seniors are infected. We are worried that the disease could

become class mobile and at that point, it could get bad."

The symptoms of Senior Pairing Disease are fairly easy to spot. The most common are seeing every single member of the opposite sex you come in contact with as a possible lifelong mate. exaggerating an existing friendship so as to justify a dating relationship, and a general feeling of desperation in the pit of your stomach. If you have any of these symptoms, Brubaker insists you contact him immediately.

"If students feel they have any of these symptoms, even a hint of one, they should not hesitate about coming to the health center. This disease is a real threat. It can cause permanent damage. Students with this disease make bad decisions and often spend the rest of their life combating the major symptom: an ill-suited mate. The consequences are almost immeasurable."

Views on SPD, however, are not uniform within the administration. An administration source that wished to remain anonymous stated, "It's a well known fact that the college is looking to boost the student population. In the long-term, SPD could mean more students for Houghton and more sustainable enrollment levels. I mean, think about it this way, seniors pair up, get married, eventually have some children, where are those children are going to go to college? That's right, Houghton. If it works out, the college might even be able to spend less on marketing."

The future of the SPD epidemic is an uncertain one. While the disease has been constantly infecting more and more seniors, there are some who seem to be resistant to the disease. Business major and senior Susan Adams claimed that the disease has had no affect on her. "I've watched all of my friends become infected, so it's not like I haven't been exposed to it. It's taking hold all around me but it hasn't bothered me one bit. I think I might have a natural immunity or something."

Brubaker addressed immunity to SPD, "We've been working on a vaccine or some sort of treatment. As of now it seems to be made up of, and keep in mind this is in its early stages, a combination of selfconfidence, an independent spirit, and post-graduation plans."

Theories about SPD abound but the most popular is rather conspiratorial. When asked, student Antony Blare stated, "I think it's pretty obvious what they're doing. They're spreading it on purpose, man. It's a disease of the mind. The gift of singleness chapel? It's all part of their plan, man. They plant the idea that being alone is scary and everyone is supposed to be married. They just plant that seed in our heads and let our liberal arts educated mind implode. It's nasty stuff, man."

Any students concerned about Senior Pairing Disease and its possible spread should contact a medical professional. If you are suffering any symptoms, please go to the Health Center in the basement of Gillette. Students presenting with advanced symptoms will be placed in quarantine on the 6th floor of Lambein.

Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes declined to comment.★

Rival Bible Studies Compete For Humility Prize

by Donald G. McMannes

Tensions heightened last Monday as the nominees for this year's "Bible Study Humility Prize" were announced in the basement of the Chapel. The two finalists include Tuesday night's "Purity Gathering" held in flat 287, and Hazlett 52's Thursday night "Harmony Meeting." The two groups, which have been bible study rivals since 2007, are determined to outwit the opposition by displaying superior humility during their respective meetings.

Concerning the emerging competition, Nancy Stewart, cofounder of the "Purity Gathering," said, "This contest will provide motivation for us Purity members to practice humility at a new depth. Recently I've noticed that some of us have been seriously lacking in this area." Paul Shavitz, leader and acoustic guitar worship leader for "Harmony Meeting" responded to the finalist announcements by stating: "There's no way we're not going to win this prize. Our group has been meeting consistently since sophomore year, so we're firmly rooted in the Word, and we're always trying to show the greatest humility."

In an attempt to retain current

humility, practice outstanding both groups have incorporated different elements into their Bible study format. While the "Purity Gathering" has decided to maintain the basic structure of their meetings, it has opted to introduce a collective time of "popcorn prayer" immediately following the singing of three contemporary worship songs. "I think this new time of prayer will sharpen our humility, as we'll each learn how to restrain ourselves from excessive prayers concerning ourselves,' said Stewart.

Meeting," "Harmony the other hand, has elected to implement a few changes to its Thursday night routine. As opposed to their common arrangement of events, members of the "Harmony Meeting" will lead into a time of foot-washing before their postservice time of tea, coffee, and fellowship. "I think this idea is really neat, especially considering how this will affect our chances at winning the Humility Prize," remarked Shavitz. "Usually I'm not a big fan of washing someone else's feet, but since there's a prize involved, pour the water and take off your socks!"

Although certainly amplified

by the announcement of this prize, both groups are not unfamiliar to competition between one another. In 2007, these two Bible study groups clashed for the first time, as the "Purity Gathering" performed a controversial act in scheduling their meeting at the same time and on the same night as the "Harmony Meeting." Asked about this spiritually-charged fellowship feud, Matt Walters, fervent member and supporter of the "Harmony Meeting" exclaimed, "That was a low blow. Who does that?"

Animosity rose exponentially as each Bible study was suspected of infiltrating the opposition's meetings, and carrying out acts that were intentionally detractive to the group's time together. In what might be considered a deliberate act of sabotage, members of the "Harmony Meeting" accused participants of the "Purity Gathering" of coming to their Thursday night meeting and eating an excessive amount of the muffins that were baked for the post-service time of fellowship.

Not long after this incident was reported to the Spiritual Life Committee, Nancy Stewart of the "Purity Gathering," charged "Harmony Meeting" members of creeping into her meeting and purposefully trying to veer the group's discussion from the focus of the shared message. Speaking of this event, Stewart claimed, "The people, who we think are Harmony members, tried to spoil our Bible study by pointlessly babbling about personal trials and tribulations, and making authoritative statements that are not comfortably cliché."

When asked which Bible study had shown greater humility during the incident, junior Matthew Stewart, an occasional visitor of both studies said, "I don't know. I just go to Purity because I think the girl who leads worship is cute, especially when she reads Scripture." The Spiritual Life Committee finally put an end to the guerilla warfare by coercing the "Purity Gathering" to move its weekly meeting to Tuesday night.

This multi-year rivalry is sure to stimulate additional fervor in this year's competition for the Bible Study Humility Award. The two groups refuse to unite and form one big Bible Study, as members of both groups said that they like who they currently worship with, and see no reason to change.

Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes declined to comment.★

Art Department Adds Concentration in Spray-Painting



photo by Allen Konigsberg

Ryan Thompson noted "the natural affinity so many Houghton students seem to have for spray painting."

by C. Banks

In an attempt to attract a more diverse demographic of art students, The Houghton College Art Department recently added a new concentration to its major. After months of dialogue between Art Department faculty and the Academic Policies Council (APC), the implementation of the new concentration in "spray painting" is said to represent the first of many reforms being made to the Houghton

Jillian Sokso, Assistant Professor and Chair of the Art Department, explained the decision to introduce the new concentration by stating, "We [the Art Department faculty] thought it was necessary for the department to catch up with the times, and try harder to relate to the young adults of this generation." Sokso went on to say, "We've been noticing that students are no longer really interested in the traditional forms of art: painting, drawing, ceramics... They want to

and demonstrate art's interaction with public space."

On the night of Tuesday, March the concentration's focus was showcased to the Houghton facilitated an impromptu spray paint art show. Unlike traditional art shows, the students' work was displayed at several locations around Houghton's campus. "We thought it would be more in line with the mood of the concentration if the show was not confined to the Ortlip Gallery," said Gary Baxter, Professor of Ceramics. Baxter then exclaimed, "This major really embodies Houghton's 'Not all classrooms are the same' slogan!'

the work of two art majors who are currently enrolled in the spray painting concentration. Joey McNulty, sophomore from Baltimore, Maryland, received unanimous praise for his spray-painting exhibit. "To the

branch out, and actively experience juvenile, crude, rudimentary, obtuse or even senseless. But the meaning of his art does not reside in the simple words he paints...the meaning is found in the form and style in which the art is conveyed," said Jeancommunity when the Art Department Francois Petite, one of Joey's fellow classmates.

> Professors and students also expressed how impressed they were by Joey's ability to incorporate his faith into what he produces. "No matter what Joey is creating, there always seems to be a spiritual message lurking in the background," observed McNulty's academic advisor and spray-painting professor, Dr. Ted Murphy.

Also on display was the artwork The star-studded night highlighted of another up-in-coming artist at Houghton, junior Helena Eichmann. common theme found in Eichmann's work is the recovery and revitalization of symbols drawn from her cultural heritage. After creating and then presenting her artwork untrained eye, Joey's art might seem on the external wall of the library,

Eichmann explained the extent to which culture influences her spray painting: "Utilizing symbols from my cultural heritage allows me to actively experience the tradition of my forefathers. When I draw these symbols I feel connected, a part of something much bigger than myself." Art Professors and students of Art History were sure to recognize the commanding influence of German Expressionism in Helena's style and symbol use.

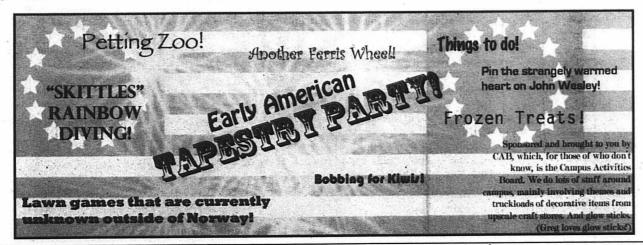
While Helena's art provoked passionate debate among viewers, the young artist is simply glad to create something that "challenges viewer." After several complaints from Houghton Community members concerning the appropriateness of Helena's images, Student Life is currently reviewing her work.

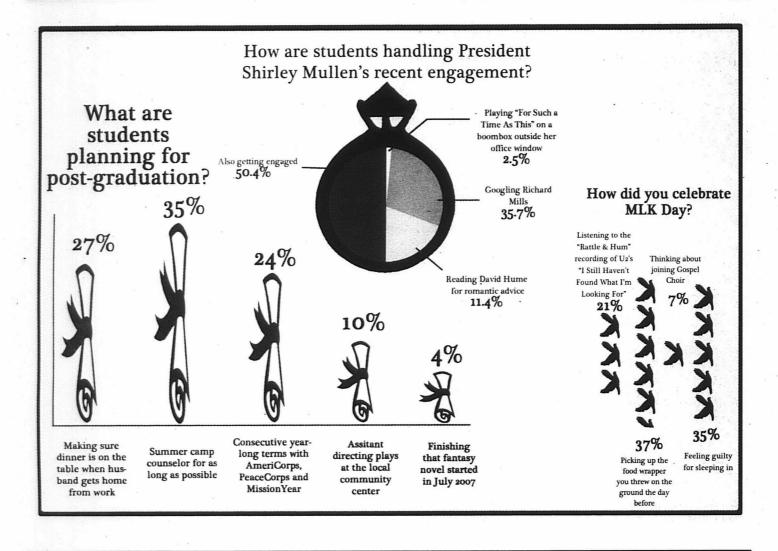
The Eichmann controversy aside, Professor Ted Murphy hailed the night as a "great success for the Art Department and its new concentration. We certainly got a lot of attention, and many students expressed interest in taking classes that are part of the concentration." First year Professor of Photography, Ryan Thompson, added to Murphy's encouraging sentiment, noting "the natural affinity so many Houghton students seem to have for spray painting."

On Wednesday morning, the spray paint was removed from its concrete canvass, as is common with this artistic medium. "Since spraypainting is usually only on display for a day or so, it's temporary nature represents the delicacy and transience of life," said Bill Buck, a freshman art

As much as the new concentration is expected to attract potential art majors, its influence on Houghton students is already being noticed by numerous members of the administration. Even President Shirley Mullen affirmed the concentration as preparing Houghton Students for life in the real world after graduation."

Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes declined to comment.★





Letters

Dear Editor,

You wouldn't happen to have a spare term paper for Professor Airhan's Western Civ. class, would you?

-Danny Cohen, Class of 2012

Dear Editor,

I'm not sure how I feel about atonal music.

-Dana Bremer, Class of 2013

Dear Editor,

After reading last week's news article, "Equestrian Major to Expand," I was, to put it mildly, livid. I've been an Equestrian major for three years, and I spend most of my free time at the barn, petting horses, cleaning up after the horses, and talking to other girls about the horses we ride. First of all, the article referenced the equestrian center as being located on a 380-acre farm. This is blatantly not true! If you take into consideration the corner piece of land in between the barn and the watering hole, the land's measurements come out to be 386 acres. Secondly, the article totally mistook one horse for another. Indian Ink, otherwise known as "Indie," is DEFINITELY not a jumper. The reporter must have mistaken Indigo Night, or "Indigo," as Indie. Anyone who knows anything about horses knows this.

-Melanie Fitzpatrick, Class of 2011

Dear Editor,

I'm deeply disturbed. I'm on the varsity men's basketball team, and ever since I can remember, the quadfacing side of the cafeteria has been where our team eats, jokes around, and enjoys quality time together. There's just this unspoken rule that we have that spot. I'm disturbed because lately, my teammates and I have been noticing that non-basketball players have begun infiltrating our eating location. We're really starting to feel surrounded on all sides. It's even gotten to the point where a music major couple was spotted eating in the back booth on our side last week. How are we supposed to spread out and take up three tables if our area continues to grow in popularity? I fear what will happen to our basketball community if our eating area becomes increasingly fragmented.

-Damien Blackwell, Class of 2011

Dear Editor.

I left my cape in the washing machine for too long on Sunday.

-Sarah Dickinson, Class of 2013

Dear Editor,

Stay cool, Fisher thinks I'm taking notes right now.

-Lisa Valia, Class of 2010

Dear Editor,

As I am a freshman philosophy major, I've recently been confronted with a lot of questions concerning what I believe to be true. What do you think is true? How can you tell if something is true or not? Also, what do you think about Jesus Christ being the only true way to salvation? Can we chat over coffee sometime?

-David Murray, Class of 2013

Dear Editor.

This past week we've been reading Dostoyevsky in my Literature class. I feel like so many of my classmates really enjoy his writing, but for some reason, I'm having a difficult time understanding why. I wish he didn't have to use so many long names and pay so much attention to Russian culture. Also, if he really wanted people to read his books, he shouldn't have made them so long.

-Taylor West, Class of 2012

Dear Editor,

My boyfriend said these pants make my hips look big. What do you think?

-Jenna Thompson, Class of 2011

From the Editor's Desk...

Practical Advice for Tough Love at Houghton

by Henry Huggins

After four years at Houghton, one learns quite a few things. For instance, I now know that Aldersgate isn't a pub outside of Sheffield, that there is a rigorous physical fitness component to the Houghton post office job application form, and that in the event of a nuclear holocaust, Professor Schultz will inexplicably be the last man

While all of this is valuable information, it is patently unhelpful when it comes to the

faces all Houghton students at one time or another. I am, of that sweet, nectarladen flower we call love.

It is sad that more information about dating and relationships not available on While campus. there are initiatives to make up-todate information readily available to students, it is

unlikely that they will gain any ground in the near future. When questioned about the recent the Houghton Board of Trustees, board member Chuck Tiler, '87 said, "we understand that in this accepted that didn't use to be. We every semester break affords for

also recognize that when, pardon my frankness, dating is happening on a regular basis without readily available information regarding dating, things can happen traumatic break-ups, hand-holding, even marriage before courtship. And these aren't things that we want, by any stretch."

However fellow board member Renata Blowen, '68, was quick to follow up, saying, "while these are undesirable things, we don't want opportunities for them to happen cropping up in the first place. As a Wesleyan institution, Houghton students should not be engaging perennially difficult issue that in dating behavior. While it is

difficult sometimes Don't assume to curb dating urges or thoughts, acting course, referring to that a huge crush, on these impulses is simply wrong. Besides, we gave them dancing - isn't that enough?'

Since information is scarce, I thought I'd give all of you wannabe couples out there a few musings that I've culled from years of walking quickly by Big Al's in the wee hours of the morning.

First, listen for the spirit. Don't just assume that a huge crush, an amazing friendship, or even "dating education bill" veto by perfectly matched goals and values mean anything when it comes to the mate God has chosen for you. Even after you have started dating, day and age, some things are don't miss the opportunity that

you to pray and listen for a different message from God. If he now wants you out of that relationship, the best way to break things off is to do so quickly. Find a private location, such as a high table in the cafeteria with only two chairs, and let your in a dorm room, or snuggle up

significant other know what's been placed on your heart. It is easy to feel that the more is, without question, guilty about breaking up a relationship, and eyes are upon be walking. Instead, Satan wants it this way. But stay strong. It's not you, the more if you feel as though the physical aspect you who is hurting that special person - it's

Secondly, have a "special place" to talk about deep things, stare into each other's eyes, or just enjoy a game of Dutch Blitz. Memories

are very closely tied to specific locations in our mind, and in order to have the most special memories possible, it is important that you don't choose any old, out-of-theway, romantic, private spot. Mix it up a little, and go for the exotic! What about that Big Al's booth with the rip in the seat that looks like a silhouette of Jerry Garcia? The hallway intersection in the religion and philosophy department where the light streams down from the skylight, and Laura Wardwell could walk around the corner at any moment? That couch which probably isn't in the Student Life Office anymore? Or just anywhere on the way to my flat?

Thirdly, and finally, it is imperative that you are kept

accountable for the physical aspect of your relationship. There are many ways to go about this, but none as foolproof as keeping the private sphere public. It can be very tempting to make out

together in front of a movie in a secluded Be aware classroom, but this thin ice on which to if you feel as though of your relationship must be explored, make sure others are accountable in your line of sight. you should Other couples can serve this purpose, but it is best to get physical in plain

sight of someone who is single, or, better yet, someone who has recently broken up with their girlfriend or boyfriend, and is still aching with hurt. Lastly, be aware that the more eyes are upon you, the more free and accountable you should feel.

Following these tips will ensure the success of your dating relationship at Houghton College. Try them each week with a different girl or guy, and eventually your patient waiting on the Lord will pay off, and you'll find the quad-mate of vour dreams.

Henry senior Communications major and is Relationships Editor

Don't be a Fool...

an amazing

friendship, or

even perfectly

matched values

mean anything

about the mate

God has chosen

for you.

Happy April 1st from The Houghton Star

The Gettysburg Address was 256 words...

The Houghton Star is semi-dedicated to the free exchange of ideas and encourages community members to participate in the discussion, but only privately. Ideas expressed in these pages reflect everyone's opinion of the writer. The editorial staff reserves the right to take any contributions out of context for any reason at all.

We want our readers to listen to the conversation.

...Lincoln was shot 2 years later

2009- 2010 STAR Staff

free and

feel.

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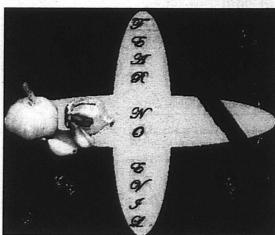
My art is about Truth. And the greatest Truth is this:
Vampires are not your friends. They are not cuddly, they are not cute. They are not here to help you or love you--they are here to kill you. They are real, and they are evil in human form. If you see a

destroys you.

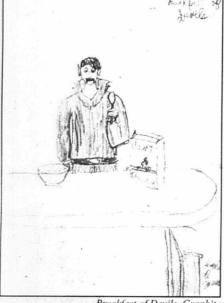
A note from the Artist:

Also, my art is about the Beauty I see everywhere in Nature.

vampire, destroy it before it



Death in Abstract, Microsoft Paint







Faux Amis, Image Editing

THIS DOT-TO-DOT IS

Prize: One moonshine jar full of dried corn circa 1980!

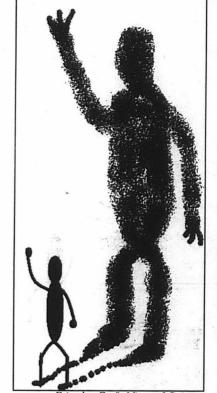
Bring your completed puzzles to the Star office to recieve your prize!

THIS DOT-TO-DOT IS

HARD

Congratulations, Peter Carpenter, winner of last week's coloring contest!

The Star will only accept one puz



Friend or Foe?, Microsoft Paint

PUZZLE CHALLENGE