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YEARS



# THE HOUGHTON STAR

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November 13, 2009

## Panel Discusses "Art that Confronts"

by Courtney Coiro

On Thursday night, November 5, the Artist's Guild sponsored a panel presentation on "Art that Confronts" in response to the recent debate over the appropriateness of the Bazaar magazine artwork in the chapel's open alumni gallery.

Erin Carr, moderator, said that the purpose of the presentation was "to address the wider question about how a Christian community responds to unnerving or offensive artwork."

Panel members included professors from the departments of art, communications, religion, and philosophy and a member from outside the Houghton community, Marlene Hamann-Whitmore from the University of Rochester's Memorial Art Gallery.

All the speakers affirmed the value of art that confronts in challenging conventions that should be thought through more carefully. Philosophy professor Chris Stewart, opened by saying "the value of the arts" is not only to soothe, but to challenge the way we see things, and the latter cannot happen without some degree of offense.

Religion professor Jonathan Case echoed Stewart, saying, "There is a place for art that is offensive and dangerous...in a good sense." The point of such artwork is to expose a

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courtesy of Amanda Benton

"Art that Confronts" was presented in response to the recent discussion of Bazaar's placement in the Wesley Chapel Art Gallery.

problem, and bring about a change. Each artist has a responsibility to make sure that offense does not overshadow the work's point. The artist should not just expose a problem but invite the audience to a conversation.

Ryan Thompson, professor of art and communication, contrasted two examples of confrontational art - Richard Serra's Tilted Arc and Maya Lin's Vietnam War Memorial. Serra's work failed to have its intended effect because it did not balance its offense with an invitation to dialogue. To avoid such breakdown, Thompson said that the intention of a work needs to be

clear, the artist's own complicity in the problem needs to be acknowledged, and solutions need to be offered in addition to admonitions.

Consultation was presented as a good way to ensure the effectiveness of art that purposely offends. Whitmore even shared an example from her work with temporary displays at the Memorial Art Gallery, in which, a pair of displays planned to juxtapose Russian Orthodox icons with images of Lenin - a difficult parallel for some, but a reality that needed to be

Art cont'd on page 2

## Resizing hits Music, Religion, Science

by Joel VanderWeele

One week after the official program, faculty, and staff reductions were announced to the community, several areas of the college are learning how the specific reductions will affect them as Houghton moves past this moment of financial rigidity.

Mullen emphasized the importance of seeing the college as a single entity rather than several disparate parts. "Whatever brings [students] here, when they graduate they won't say, 'well, I graduated from this department.'"

In the past, the school has tried to address falling enrollment numbers by increasing the number of programs offered at Houghton, said Mullen, but "enrollment has remained remarkably stable in the last 10 years," forcing the college to support numerous programs without a wider tuition base

to draw from. "The very deliberate goal in this moment is to try to limit the number of programs to those areas that we really think describe Houghton's character."

The specific faculty reductions were largely based on an analysis done by the Austen Group which compared department spending with academic load. "The two areas of the college that had the highest differentials between percentage of academic budget that they called on and the percentage of credit hours sold," said Mullen, "were Music and Religion.... In Music, that difference was even higher than in Religion... I know that in a moment like this, people assume that there is a sort of arbitrariness. I'm saying that there is pretty strong data for the fact of the two areas where those decisions were made."

In Music, the reduction of one

untenured faculty is particularly difficult because the department was "asked to reduce their budget by \$100,000 last year, and that included the reduction of one position," said Mullen. She also pointed out that, "there are times in the history of the college where there were more music faculty than there are now, full-time faculty, when there wasn't an endowment."

Professor Ben King, the Director and Associate Dean of the Greatbatch School of Music, Houghton College, was contacted for this story but declined to comment.

Regarding the reductions in the Religion/Philosophy department, the Graduate Program in Theological Studies as well as two faculty positions, drew on historical perspective, saying, "in other times in the college's history,

Reductions cont'd on page 2

## Houghton Switches to Online Course Evaluation

by Monica Sandreczki

Houghton will perform course evaluations online in the coming semester.

According to Daryl Stevenson, Associate Dean for Institutional Research and Assessment, our traditional method of completing course and teacher evaluations with pencil and paper is over. This semester, evaluations will be completed online.

The new system, Individual Development and Educational Assessment (IDEA), which was developed in 1975 at Kansas State University, focuses on student learning outcomes, rather than student reactions to teacher behavior. The online program will be faster and will evaluate two things: how well a student accomplished the goals of a class and how well the professor taught the course, using a 1-5 scale rating system, focusing on several objectives.

When the school was deciding between five possible systems, Stevenson said that IDEA "emerged as the strongest and best," in part because of its relatively low price. IDEA is 25-40% cheaper than the other systems, which could cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000, which is too steep for the school.

Last semester, Houghton performed a trial run of the online course evaluation, which involved 200 students in 16 class sections, and the reaction, according to Stevenson, was very positive. He said the students appreciated the short time required to complete the evaluation, which is one of several benefits of the new process.

According to Stevenson, a paperless evaluation process is in accordance with Houghton's goal of being a green campus. Second, the actual evaluation focuses on the degree to which students have accomplished course goals. Also, IDEA has had this system in place for long enough that they have a large database of other professors and colleges throughout the country, allowing Houghton to benchmark itself against hundreds of other schools.

Research cont'd pg. 3

# THE WORLD IS THERE

by Derek Schwabe

## EU Recommends Budget Cuts

The European Union has determined that 13 of its member nations have amassed budget deficits beyond its acceptable limits. These demands were made based upon an EU standard which currently states that no member may hold a deficit exceeding 3% of its Gross Domestic Product. Due to the recent financial crisis, many nations have been struggling to adhere to this rule. The nations were told by E.U officials to make the necessary budget cuts to reduce deficits below the 3% mark. Varying deadlines have been set, based on the intensity of the situation in each country. Nations such as France, the UK, Spain and the Irish Republic have been granted more than 4 years to meet demands, while Belgium and Italy have been allotted fewer than 3 years. The deadlines for Germany and 6 other nations fell in between this range.

## Hezbollah Expresses Disappointment with President Obama

President Obama received heavy verbal criticism this week from the influential Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah who claimed that the president had not lived up to his earlier promises to constructively engage with Muslims in easing tensions with Israel. In a poignant speech given on Hezbollah's Martyrs' Day, Nasrallah stated that Shia Muslims originally

held high hopes for the president's promises to initiate many changes in favor of the Islamic world. He went on to express his disappointment at yet again having witnessed what he perceived as a full US commitment to Israel's interest and security and a continued disregard for the "dignity and feelings of the Arab and Muslim people and governments." Israel and Hezbollah fought a war in 2006 during which more than 1,200 Lebanese, mostly civilians, were killed. Some 160 Israelis, most of whom were soldiers, also died.

## NYC Purchases 7 Acres of Coney Island, Hoping for Revival

The Bloomberg Administration took a first step toward restoring a NYC historical landmark this week with the \$95.6 million purchase of 7 acres in the heart of the famed Coney Island. The purchase was made as a part of the city's recent objective to breathe new life into the commercial zone by remaking it into a more dynamic and diverse year round destination. The city, in cooperation with commercial developers, hopes to not only add new amusement areas, but residential living space, retail outlets, casinos and hotels. In the early 20th century, the seaside district of Coney Island was the nation's amusement capital, attracting hoards of thrill seekers, especially in the warmer months. However, since WWII, it has become a sight of continued neglect, with more and more attractions closing each year.

## Reductions cont'd from page 1

the Religion department has had fewer people than it does now."

Addressing the concern that the reductions in the Religion department may be indicative of a move away from the spiritual heritage of the school, Mullen said, "it's hard to make the case that the spirituality of the campus is inherently linked to the number of faculty in the Religion department... One of the historical hallmarks of the Christian liberal arts tradition is that the Christian foundation of the college was never intended to be carried by the Religion department alone."

The reductions in faculty will mean that "many courses now offered annually will be offered on an every-other-year basis. This is going to make it necessary for students to

get good academic advisement and to plan ahead," said Professor J. Michael Walters, professor of Christian Ministries. Walters also noted, "It's possible that the newly implemented four credit majors will need to be re-visited, and perhaps adjusted since they were done with current faculty personnel in mind. This is particularly true in the Bible major, which, in addition to taking on a four credit system, has also 'inherited' the Biblical languages, and added Biblical Theology and a Bible Capstone to their loads."

Although the department would have liked to maintain the graduate program, Mullen argued that the cancellation will allow them to devote more time to the core mission of undergraduate instruction. Mullen also said that the cancellation of the graduate program was not at all connected to a lessening

of the importance of the theology and religion program. According to Walters, one position in Religion was tied to the graduate program, but for almost five years of full-time teaching, "every dime of [that] salary has been paid for by Graduate Theological funds."

"The reduction of one [of the two] position[s]," confirmed Mullen, "is directly linked to the funding for the grad program."

The announcement of faculty and staff reductions was also accompanied by the announcement of a hire of Dr. Keith Horn as the Associate Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The hire coincides with an increased focus on the sciences in general. "Our science faculty is smaller than it was in the seventies and for a number of our programs, we have barely enough resources to keep them going," said Mathematics professor Kristin Camenga. "You look at overall numbers, we have about 18-19% of all majors at Houghton and yet we only have 14 out of almost 100 faculty. So the numbers don't match there."

According to Mullen, Horn will be "working to facilitate the interdisciplinarity of the faculty, working to facilitate programs that help people who want to enroll in graduate programs as well as those looking to enter the health professions." Horn's job will also include crafting a five-year plan for the sciences and raising money to fund that vision. "It takes a lot more money to run a science program than it does to run a humanities program," said Mullen.

"It's likely we're going to build something," said Camenga, "but we don't know exactly what. We want that space to be usable and flexible for the next forty years, the way Paine has been for the last forty years so that means we're going to need a sense of where we're going... What different sorts of programs are we going to need to develop, what sort of strengths are we going to develop, that we will need space for."

Camenga also pointed out that when "you look at the number of science faculty vs. the U.S. News and World Report ranking, there's a strong correlation between more science faculty and a higher ranking... As we're building up the sciences, we don't want to pull away from the rest of the college."

Physical Education and Recreation and Leisure will also experience

## Art cont'd from page 1

seen. The staff consulted a Russian Orthodox pastor on how to display the art without making it too offensive to do any good.

Communications professor Dave Huth, said that such consideration "makes the pain [of hard questions] possible without fracture."

Thompson qualified the need for consultation by saying its application is case-specific for the different types of public audiences.

significant cuts. Increased academic requirements for certification in recreational therapy, as well as Professor Andrea Boon's volunteer reduction from full-time to part-time, have resulted in the cancellation of the recreational therapy program.

Thom Kettlekamp, professor of Recreation & Leisure Studies, also hopes that increasing boarding and lab fees, and more actively marketing Houghton's horse shows "will increase our revenues by \$40,000" in the equestrian studies program. "At the same time we're going to reduce our heard from about 27 to 17, that way we can cut our expenditures by about \$40,000. I'd rather do this than lay off another faculty member... We can do this and still offer an excellent program."

According to Kettlekamp, "the Recreation & Leisure program is the fifth largest major at the college and the equestrian program link is the most clicked link on the Houghton website," said Kettlekamp. "It's a niche, meaning very few other Christian colleges can offer this type of program."

"It is kind of disheartening to hear when you look at the Houghton College website and you see all over the place, 'Transforming People, Transforming the World.' I would safely say that our Recreation program is one of the programs that transforms lives as much or more than any other program on campus." Kettlekamp also argued that the word "Leisure" often confuses people, but assured that for the past 30 years he has tailored the program to fit the liberal arts approach of the college.

In Physical Education, the loss of the fitness major and sports ministry minor will lead to a greater focus on health and certification programs.

The reduction of one athletic trainer position will also result in the loss of six teaching credits and a probable reduction in training services. "Athletically, I think it is going to be a reduction in services because what happened this year with our trainers was that they added JV women's basketball and JV women's soccer," explained Professor Trini Rangel, Chair of the Physical Education department. "And those are two teams that will require service with one less certified trainer on staff... they've increased the number of teams that need this service while reducing the number of trainers." \*

Art-viewers also have a responsibility, so that a work can serve its intended purpose. Whitmore explained art in terms of its time, intended audience, and artistic significance.

Case said we should not shut down conversation, as Christians are especially prone to do, using violence which, according to Case never works anyway, or a Biblical text as an "automatic veto."

Art cont'd on page 2

# World Music and Theology Masters to Begin May 2010

by Clara Sanders

This coming May and June, Houghton College Greatbatch School of Music will offer a new M.A. degree in World Music with Theology and Intercultural Studies.

The new degree requires 33 hours: 18 hours focused on global music, 12 hours of integrated theology and intercultural studies, and 3 hours of an interdisciplinary thesis project, in addition to a cross-cultural musical experience.

Course listings include offerings such as "Globalization and Music History," "Music, Spirituality and Religion Across Cultures," "Transcription and Analysis of Diverse Musics," and "History of the Global Christian Movement," among others.

Professor Mark Hijleh, who has spearheaded this project, will be the resident music professor and director of the program. Guest music faculty will include Scott Robinson (recently on-campus with the music group Mandala), Houghton alum Frank Fortunato (global music coordinator for Operation Mobilization's Heartsounds International), and world percussionist and educator Glenn McClure from Geneseo. Other Houghton faculty who will teach courses in the program are Paul Shea, Jonathan Case, Kristina LaCelle-Peterson, Jon Arenson, Marcus Dean,

### Research cont'd from page 1

With our traditional, "homegrown system," according to Stevenson, Houghton could only be compared to itself and other professors within the institution.

The new system will offer two possible course evaluations — one short and the other diagnostic — both of which allow the student to rate the teacher on several objectives, and both of which include a free response section. The diagnostic is longer, however, and is "good for teachers who want specific feedback from students — more than a thumbs up or thumbs down."

Faculty members decide for their own classes which form to use, but

### Art cont'd from page 2

The panel did not include a strong dissenting voice. All members agreed that offense in art is necessary to confront problems, the appropriate level of that offense depends on each situation, and conversation is the essential element to ensure that such offense is not wasted.

Application to specific situations was left to the audience to work out. No set of rules was decided upon or attempted. Instead, the panelists held that effective and permissible confrontational methods vary with culture, time, and place.

Huth explained how social limits are developed within different

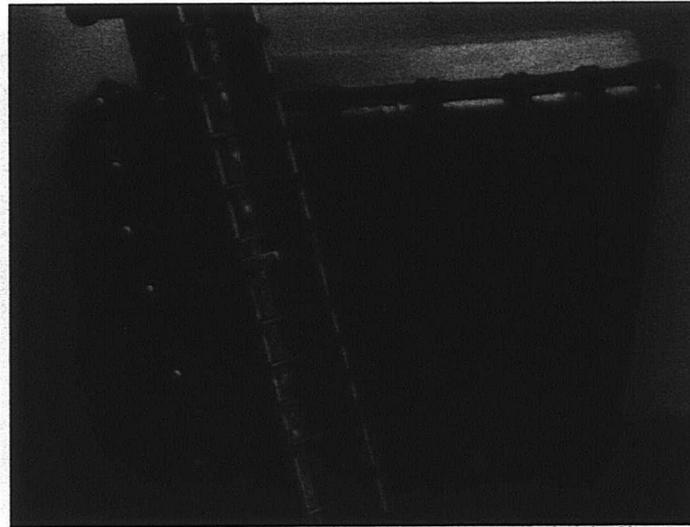


photo by Olivia Butz

### The new M.A. will be 33 hours and will be offered starting May 2010

Ndunge Kiiti, and possibly Meic Pearse.

The program is non-traditional and unique, strictly part-time, and offered through intensives in May, June, and possibly July. It is completely tuition-based, and the courses are not part of the College's regular offerings nor part of any faculty member's regular load. While this degree is listed among the Greatbatch School of Music graduate degree programs, it is not supported by any financial aid and is coordinated separately.

Hijleh sees this not as a limitation, however, but as an opportunity to cater to non-traditional students,

non-tenured faculty are required to use the diagnostic form for every course, each semester. Tenured faculty, however, can choose either the short or the diagnostic form and do not have to be evaluated for every course they teach.

The reasoning, according to Stevenson, is that the college is "trying to help younger faculty, with less experience, become better, so the diagnostic form is specially designed for that."

Aaron Sullivan, professor of biology and an untenured faculty member, said that he thinks the new system will provide a better way to get student feedback than the traditional pencil and paper method. ★

communities through conversation and group consensus. The reality is that these judgments change, even though "we don't like the moral relativism that would imply."

Stewart pointed out the special difficulty Christians face in translating the New Testament commands "to be" a certain kind of people into specific actions.

The event left tension in the working-out of the presented principles to stimulate further discussion, but that was the intended point—not to come to a conclusion about a specific issue, nor to set out a clear template to apply to each situation, but to discuss how Christians should approach controversial art. ★

and missions. Under New York State guidelines, the degree qualifies for the required Masters degree for Professional Certification in music education, and global musicianship is of increasing relevance in the classroom. Knowledge of music across cultures is important for worship leaders, especially, as the church is more influenced by global Christian perspectives.

"We expect graduates of this program to help their communities with the transition to thinking about music in a broader, more global way," said Hijleh, "because that is going to be critical to effective musical advocacy in this century."

This new program responds to the increasing necessity of a background in world music for educators, ministers, and missionaries in a rapidly globalizing 21<sup>st</sup>-century world. As a school that has strong programs in music, theology, and intercultural studies, as well as a consistent engagement in mission work and global Christianity, Houghton is well-suited to offer such a program.

This new degree fits well within the Greatbatch School's mission to "produce graduates who...can be effective musical practitioners and advocates in the Christian community and in the broader world," as well as Houghton College's goals of equipping "students to lead and labor effectively in the changing world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century" and transforming students to "be Christians and citizens with a world-wide perspective." ★



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## 33 Miles: Instrumentally Talented, Musically Shallow

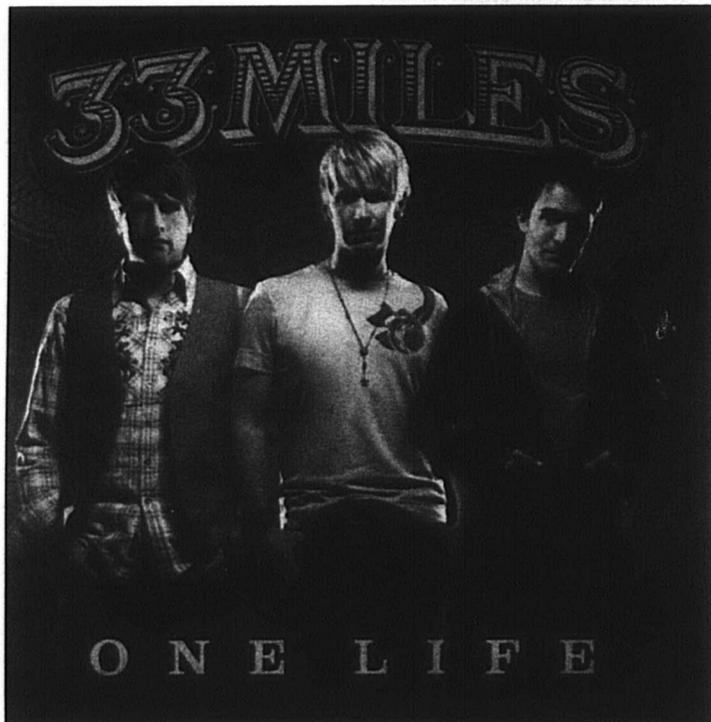
by Micah Warf

33 Miles had great chops. As a matter of fact, out of all the "emerging" (read: taking that first big step out of Mom's garage) musicians that have graced Wesley Chapel's stage, 33 Miles was by far the most skilled. Rhythmically solid, vocally impressive, and with excess stage presence—collecting in puddles around their feet, they were quite good at what they did.

But macaroni and cheese can be made expertly. It can be baked to perfection, a symphony of cheesy harmony, with a vivacious, devil-may-care white sauce. But it's still macaroni and cheese.

In this respect, 33 Miles ranks very high on my instrumentalist list, but they fell the bottom of my musician list after the first set of lyrically shallow, riff-laden feel-good ballads, punctuated by "let's give a hand for Jesus" moments, as though he had just taken the solo.

Great artists in any genre are recognizable from the very first note. They gain standing and popularity by



doing new and innovative things, as in any field of the arts. It's a shame that 33 Miles missed that memo, because I would be very interested in

seeing where vocal and instrumental talent like that could go if it was backed by actual musicality.

If I was interested in something

other than attending a great concert, things would be different. I might feel differently about the 20 minute spot in the middle of the concert which the lead singer used to talk to us about the third world (Did you know that some people don't have clean water? Who knew?), and encourage us to sponsor a child, all to the tune of a mellow, worshipful acoustic guitar backing. I might also be glad that instead of going to a concert to hear music, I would have been graciously catered to with a heaping platter of the kind of entertainment that started when Brown Bannister crawled out of the sea, and has devolved steadily ever since.

This music and this mission has a place. I also respect, to an extent, the work of 33 Miles, and I'll admit to the occasional envious glance in the direction of their lead guitarist, who was shredding like I can only dream of doing. But if I was a prospective student looking down at my free "not all the classrooms are the same" t-shirt, I would have hoped that Houghton's concerts would be a little less predictable. ★

## Students Organize Benefit Show for Invisible Children

by Alex Glover

What do rock and roll, Presser Hall, folk, and Uganda all have in common? To the casual observer, probably not much. However, as any Houghton College student familiar with the Invisible Children movement could tell you, these four things were brought together to create an exciting event this past Saturday, November 7. Put together by Sophomore Cameron Chase Thibault, the event raised over 200 dollars to support Invisible Children, an organization started by three independent filmmakers to open the eyes of the public to the plight of war-affected children in East Africa.

While a small private school in upstate New York may seem to be too far removed from East Africa to help this cause, finances are both a great help to the Invisible Children foundation, and easily transferable. Keeping this in mind, Thibault worked hard putting together and promoting his second Invisible Children event (the first took place last semester) which cost only three dollars per person.

The event began with a few remarks about the Invisible Children cause from Thibault, and then took off with indie-rock/post-hardcore band We Are Wonderers. The group, composed of Fillmore locals Jamie Woolsey, Sam Craig

and Seth Young, had a creative sound including a notable lack of a bassist, yet shook the room regardless. Their moving finale included a sample recording of the hymn "Come Thou Fount" playing as the three members beat drums. Regardless of how well this fit into their genre, it was quite obviously a passionate display of talent.

The next band to take the stage was The Wolf Explosion, who took a softer, more folksy approach to music. The Wolf Explosion recently released their EP, *Send Your Rope*, and plans to perform in the near future in Houghton and surrounding towns. Despite the absence of guitarist/singer Keith Kristich, the band delivered a joyous performance awash with soaring harmonies and hooks. Jeremy Raff and Meghan Wehrle shared lead vocals while Bryan Overland switched between saxophone and accordion. All of this in combination with Jon Spear's drumming provided a great musical aura in which many audience members not only enjoyed themselves but felt led to worship. A memorable chorus included only one word, Yahweh, which was eventually repeated over and over by the majority of the people standing in the room.

Contrasting with this mellow finale, the next group, The Woods Themselves, took the audience in

a different direction. Frontman Broc Verschoor delivered his lyrics not in the form of melodies and harmonies, but rather as screams over the intricate guitar work of Jon McKinley and pounding double bass of Brian Stein's drum set. Some other

guy played bass as the hardcore/metal act played a seven-song set of originals. The music provoked dancing the likes of which Presser Hall had never seen before, including spin-kicks, flailing arms, and two-stepping. "I got kicked in the head," says Sophomore Nate Pember, "it was awesome." Freshmen Tom Schrage had a different take on the situation. "I

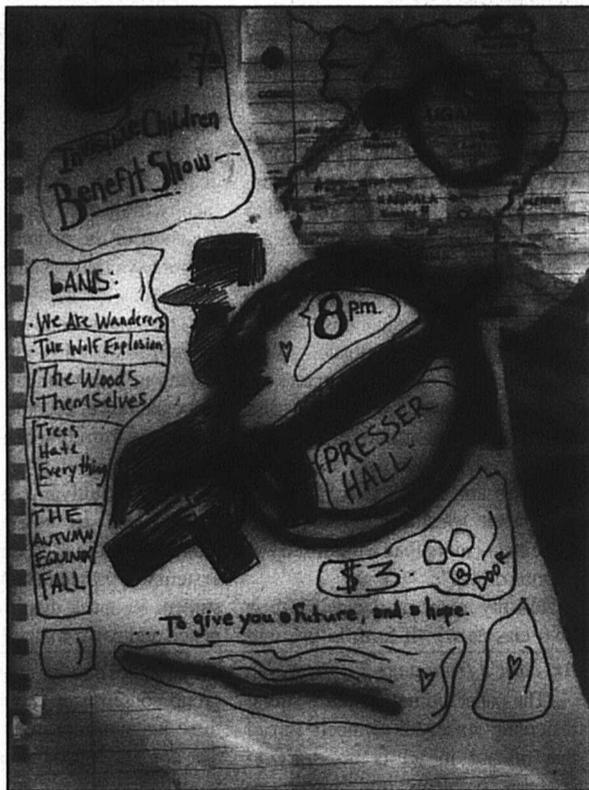


photo courtesy of Cameron Chase Thibault

kicked Nate Pember in the head," he says, "it was awesome." The Woods Themselves have played several shows around campus and released their CD, *I Can Hear You Through the Walls* last spring.

At this point in the night, things took a turn for the minimal. Right

*Invisible Cont'd on page 5*

# Gallery Preview: Monumental Ideas in Miniature Books

by Jessica Hozjan

On Sunday, the Ortlip Gallery proudly set up its display of the exhibit "Monumental Ideas in Miniature Books." This body of work is the result of the vision of Hui-Chu Ying, curator of the exhibit and professor at the Mary Schiller Myers School of Art at the University of Akron. She imagined the long-loved book in miniature form to force a more intimate connection, not only with the designs on the pages, but with the shape of the book itself. During its four-year tour, it will be showing in 45 sites, ranging from Adams House Gallery at Harvard University to Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture in Karachi, Pakistan. MIMB is showcasing between November 8 and December 21. At 7 p.m. on November 13, Hui-Chu will be holding an opening talk and reception at the Ortlip Art Gallery, including live music and special desserts. There will also be a public lecture by Hui-Chu about her own works in mixed media in the Recital Hall at 1p.m. on November 13.

This exhibit is comprised of 142 hand made books by artists worldwide. Korea, Finland, Sweden, the USA, Germany, Spain, India, Pakistan, the UK, Canada, Mauritius, and Argentina are some of the several countries represented. The

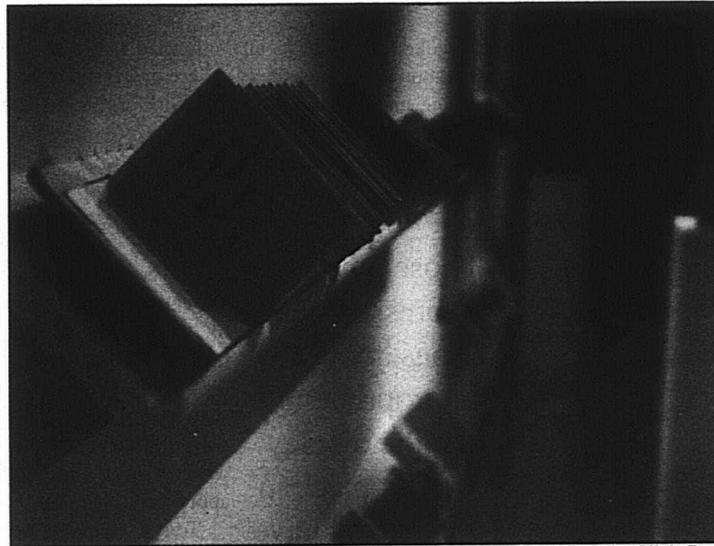


photo by Olivia Butz

## Monumental Ideas in Miniature Books opens at 7 p.m. on November 13

international aspect of MIMB is what gives it such potency. Jillian Sokso, assistant professor of art at Houghton, states, "It is so powerful that there are such a variety of different cultures, nations, and peoples represented in this exhibit. The potential for diversity and richness in ideas expressed is huge".

Visitors to the art gallery should expect the variety in the themes and designs of the books to reflect the different places from which they each originated. Ying states that "the range of MIMB books' ideas and mediums

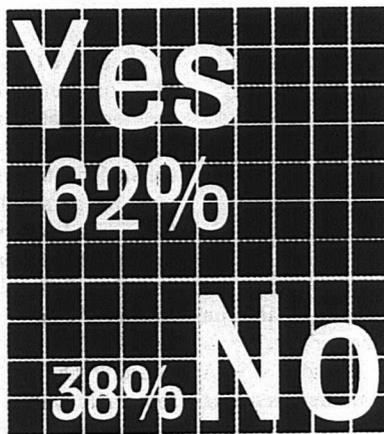
are incredible from complicated structures, beautiful poems, humorous texts, intricate drawings, and some of the greatest ideas one could imagine. Many of the books use unconventional materials and innovative bookmaking techniques."

A few of the titles within the exhibit include *A Wonderful Toy*, *Where's My Bus?*, *Congo Rhapsody*, *The Chicken Box*, *Your Life in Two's*, *Stargazer*, and *Endangered*. A special piece titled, *As A Woman I Want No Country*, created by Sokso is one of particular interest.

For many people, bookmaking is an indispensable art form. Sokso said that "bookmaking is an important art, because it deals with and borrows from many different disciplines, not solely fine art. It integrates textiles, sculpture, print making, graphic design, and literature." Melanie Lippert, senior art student, states, "I think that so many people overlook book making as an art for multiple reasons, but in reality a tremendous amount of work and skill goes into it. The planning of the paper, the sewing... It is truly a labour of love".

Hui-Chu Ying's vision has certainly become a reality in her unique exhibit. Take a break from studying and experience what Sokso states, "anyone with eyes and a brain can appreciate." This exhibit offers something for everyone, despite each person's background. Sally Murphy, junior art student, stated that "this is the perfect opportunity for art to meet other parts of humanities. There is something for the sciences, literature, communication...and literally every other major in this exhibit. It brings all those things all together into the art world". Come see, touch, explore, and discover one of the most renowned art exhibits in the history of Houghton College. ★

### Online Poll: Should Bazaaro remain on display in the basement of Wesley Chapel?



Results from 110 votes

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-New Poll: Do you think homosexuality is appropriately addressed at Houghton?

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### Invisible Cont'd from page 4

after The Woods Themselves delivered their last chord, Trees Hate Everything, a solo acoustic act featuring Josephine Stawicki, took the stage. She played a small selection of her 200 original songs as audience members gathered around on the floor and clapped along to the beat. An interesting addition to her music was her merchandise. Her self-packaged CDs all had different covers, with diverse artwork custom created by Stawicki. "They were made out of...maps and cool things like that," said fellow musician Broc Verschoor.

Closing out the evening in style was The Autumn Equinox: Fall. The band comes from Pulaski, NY and features none other than the event coordinator, Cameron Chase Thibault, on lead guitar/vocals. Backed by Ethan Claffin on the drums, Adam Sternberg on the rhythm guitar, and Casey Beattie on the bass, vocalist Travis Bartlett led the band through a nine song set, highlights of which included a heavier version of the classic song, "I Want it That Way," and another song specifically about the event's cause. Audience members rushed the stage for Thibault's blazing

guitar solos and danced during other energetic parts of the set. The band's punk/metal sound was an exciting way to end the evening, and the audience wasn't about to disagree.

After about two month of planning, and making sure all the pieces were in place, Thibault was happy with the results. "I think the eclectic mix of genres brought something for every member of the audience to enjoy," he said. Plans for a similar event next semester are already beginning to take shape, and this time he is hoping to raise money for To Write Love On Her Arms.

One word to describe this concert? According to Junior Emily Cronk, "Epic. But don't quote me on that!" ★

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## Bazaaro: Responding to Misconceptions and Bringing Clarity to Confusion

by Kyle Johnson

The piece of artwork entitled Bazaaro has generated much conversation on campus in recent days. Unfortunately, there are some misconceptions based on incomplete, or in some cases, false information. As a result, there is confusion about what happened and what has been said by those raising questions about the display of this piece in the chapel. The following will shed some light on what transpired and provide some important clarifications.

A few things regarding *what happened* needs first to be addressed. Several Houghton students were visiting with New Vision Week guest missionary representatives after an evening orientation meeting. The representatives noticed what appeared to be a sexually explicit magazine on a pedestal outside the prayer chapel. It is worth noting the representatives' children were present as well. The "magazine" had the headline, "Top 10 Sexercise Moves of the Season." Inside the "magazine", among other images, was a picture of a man in his underwear with a woman grabbing his crotch. The representatives were confused about why a sexually charged fashion "magazine" would be on a pedestal in the chapel where art was being displayed. Not knowing that the "magazine" was being displayed on purpose, several students from the New Vision Week planning committee concluded that it was most likely a prank, and were embarrassed. The students wondered if someone had replaced what was supposed to be on this pedestal with a fashion magazine, purporting it to

be a part of the exhibit, as a joke. It should be noted that although there are *now* signs identifying and explaining this piece, this signage was not present at the time and was added subsequently.

This was an easy mistake to make, and it's not the first time it's happened. As Prof. Murphy's online article in the Star, dated October 30, 2009, made clear, a similar mistake happened earlier this semester when the "magazine" was removed by a custodial staff. At that time it was handed to a member of the chapel staff. After consultation with Student Life, the "magazine" was discarded. When the mistake was discovered, the artwork was replaced. As Prof. Murphy wrote, "the artist when to great lengths to make [it] hard to determine" whether this is a magazine or a piece of art.

In this most recent situation involving New Vision Week committee members and missionary representatives, the students were uncertain exactly what to do, and one of them sought out Dr. Brittain, who was unavailable (it was fairly late in the evening). So, she next went to Safety and Security. Since the security officers could not identify the "magazine", she was instructed to leave it with them until it could be determined what the "magazine" was. The student then e-mailed Student Life to inform them of the incident. The student was

subsequently informed that Bazaaro was actually a piece of art, and would be replaced outside the prayer chapel. She was then instructed to meet with someone in the Art department. After the confusion was cleared up, it was at this point that the student, as well

as myself and many others began to make the case that this piece of art would perhaps be more appropriately displayed elsewhere, such as in the Ortlip Art gallery. These questions were raised through appropriate channels.

To be clear, at no time did anyone ever knowingly remove a piece of art.

After the confusion about the piece was cleared up, it was then suggested that the piece be moved to a better location. No one has requested the complete removal of the art, only its relocation.

The students asking questions about the display of the piece in the chapel have not advocated that the piece be relocated simply because of personal taste, or how comfortable or uncomfortable they are with its challenging message. Those things have nothing to do with this question of relocation. The question that has been posed is whether or not it is appropriate for this piece to be displayed where it is.

We each individually and regularly make decisions about what is appropriate for different situations. Such conversations occur all over the world all the time, and not just

on issues involving art. In the same manner, individuals on our campus make such decisions regarding our community. Regularly there are conversations that determine where lines will be drawn. Lines have been drawn as to what music can be played in the work-out room in the PE center. Lines are drawn about what is or is not proper for a chapel service.

Those who have expressed questions about the appropriateness of the display of this piece in the chapel have simply attempted to find a place in this conversation. And they have entered this conversation by asking some important questions. Is it okay for this piece, regardless of what it communicates, to be placed in a location where guests will see it out of context? There have been at least two known instances where children encountered the magazine and an adult intervened to keep them from seeing too much. Is it okay for this piece to be displayed where children could possibly see it? Does the fact that a piece presents a controversial or challenging message make it appropriate for every time and location? Does the fact that the piece is satirical make it okay to be there? Would the piece be better understood and less likely to cause such confusion if it were in a different location? These are the sorts of questions being asked and that hopefully will continue to be discussed. Much should, however, be done to avoid turning this discussion into anything else.

- Kyle Johnson is a sophomore Humanities major

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,

I am Amanda Benton's cousin and wish to make a comment to all this craziness over her magazine. I have been a Christ follower since I was 7 and I am now 25. The message Houghton is conveying over this artwork is ludicrous. I don't agree with everything in the magazine but I do agree with the message. I think the administration is sending a message that the audience is, quite honestly, dumb by saying people wouldn't understand what this magazine is conveying. Clearly it is conveying how sick, twisted and delusional our society has become, with out Christ as the center. It really isn't

that hard to figure out. I'm really disappointed with Houghton.

The funny thing is, the more they try to hide the piece the more interest the public has on seeing it. Wondering why there is so much uproar over this magazine. Houghton seems to me as legalistic in it's way of thinking if they are so "appalled" by this artwork. The piece makes me think right away, how can I help influence my community to help change society in it's way of thinking towards beauty and the answer I come up with is to love my God more so that it overflows to every facet of my life. That is how this piece of artwork has changed my spiritual life. I think this piece should be the first thing people see (especially for young women and even girls, as long as someone is there to explain the contents). I am beyond proud of Amanda because she has made something that is thought

provoking and controversial. Jesus Christ was controversial and still is.

- Brandi Leary

Dear Editors,

Last week Henry Langston responded to Suzanne Derksen's comments during Monday's SGA chapel. He said her remarks were "extremely offensive" and "inappropriate". For those who don't remember, those remarks were, "...and maybe I risk something when I say this...I also wonder if there was spiritual oppression just because I lived under the roof of a homosexual couple". I fail to agree with Mr. Langston that these remarks were made with "a lack of respect for her audience and great insensitivity to those on our campus

who struggle with this issue". This is, after all, a Christian community. This, of course, is not to dismiss the fact that Christians struggle with homosexuality. Aside from the students for whom this struggle may be personal, there are also those students with friends or family members who are gay. What about my father's close friend who pastors a church which welcomes homosexuals and is a homosexual himself? Or my brother's former roommate who is both a Christian worship leader and a homosexual? I am sure that I speak for many when I say that, as a Christian, I do not yet fully understand the relationships between sin, homosexuality, the Spirit, and a Christian life. I think that we can all agree that this is a sensitive and, for most of us, unresolved subject.

However, I cannot agree that Ms.

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From the Editor's Desk...

# Not Everything is Permissible, but is Nothing Beneficial?

by Mitch Edwards

This past Saturday marked the final fall tournament for Houghton Community's Ultimate Frisbee team, otherwise known as the "Roaring Sheep." Over the past few years I've had the pleasure of participating on this team, and I must say that I've developed a deep appreciation for certain aspects of the sport that make it unique from others. Besides emphasizing the importance of complete teamwork, the sport encourages a strong sense of camaraderie between competing teams. The one aspect of Ultimate Frisbee that I value and respect more than any other, however, is its structure as a self-regulated sport.

Some first-time observers of the sport are taken aback by the lack of referee presence on the field. Instead of relying on the rulings of a referee, players are responsible for making the rulings themselves. Of course, there is an overarching set of rules administered by the UPA (Ultimate Players Association), but the enforcement of such regulation is left up to those playing. This onus to make rulings based on individual assessment fosters the practice of integrity on the playing field. Players are expected to make rulings fairly and objectively.

In many ways, I think Houghton, and the greater Christian community, could learn a few things from Ultimate Frisbee and its structure as a self-regulated sport. Instead of allowing students to wrestle with the unclear rulings or "gray areas" of the Christian faith, rules prohibiting the experience of spiritually contested areas are enforced by outside and largely disconnected sources. While one might think otherwise, the Christian faith is full of areas devoid of God's explicit ruling. Unfortunately, one does not have to look hard to find how Christians

have manipulated scripture to convey an explicit condemnation from God, even when its fairly obvious God had no intention of doing so. If you're drawing a blank, take for example the consumption of alcohol, smoking, or premarital sex. Those who make and enforce the rules barring students from encountering these areas are convinced that they are performing a great service for the students, by protecting them from the dangers of this world. In reality, I believe such outright banishment thwarts

students' spiritual growth.

By completely banning the possibility of students engaging with these gray areas, many students are left sheltered from the areas' very existence. Some might applaud this as an achievement, but I see it as a grave disservice. One does not develop spiritual maturity and integrity by hiding from the messy areas of life. Christians must engage in life, and work out their own convictions for themselves. To do so can only be profitable to the strengthening of one's personal convictions.

**Living a life that is Christ-centered contradicts the notion of there being black and white answers to difficult questions**

To be clear, when I say engagement of gray areas I certainly do not mean Christians must actively participate in those areas in order to reach some personal conclusion. I'm merely stating that the possibility for engagement within these gray areas must be present if we really are to work out what we truly believe. After all, belief without choice cannot be.

Taking this into consideration, what better place to wrestle with the gray areas than within the context of a "Christian Community" like Houghton? Here at Houghton we

are surrounded by those who claim to follow Christ. If this is so, why are we so fearful of what could happen if such gray areas were opened for engagement? Sadly, many students will leave this place not having faced the gray areas of the Christian faith, and therefore, many will not have even considered what they truly believe concerning issues of obvious relevance. Do you have just a couple more beers at the party? Do you sexually go a little bit farther with your significant other? After Houghton, there will be no Community Covenant dictating what is black and white. From my experience, living a life that is Christ-centered contradicts the notion of there being black and white answers to difficult questions.

The overarching guidelines have been supplied to us. We mustn't hide from the gray areas in our faith. Instead, we must engage the gray areas by discussing with one another, and finally reaching our own "best perspective". To solely rely on the rules administered by others would be to reinforce the spiritual immaturity that currently haunts our faith.

*Mitch Edwards is a senior History major and is Commentary Editor*

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Derksen's comments themselves were insensitive or "reckless". She prefaced her remark with an awareness of the controversy, and she never spoke in absolutes. Her words held no condemnation, only questioning. As a member of this Christian community I welcome Suzie's uncertainties, and I think that the intention behind expressing them was to foster honest dialogue and not to criticize or offend. In our culture which is increasingly more accepting of homosexuality, it is imperative that we can discuss this issue with Christians and non-Christians alike in a way that is humble and open, but firm in the Spirit's guidance, instead of defaulting to attacks.

-Caitlin Cleland, Class of 2010

Dear Editors,

I would like to take a minute to remind everyone of the theme of New Vision Week: Liberation. Slavery. Emphasis on human trafficking. Call it what you will, but the main idea as I perceived it

was that people are in bondage and need to be set free. Which is why I'm a bit dismayed by the report in last week's article, *Bazaaro Art Piece Sparks Controversy*, that members of the NVW council and GCF are so opposed to the placement in the Chapel of said art piece.

Interest piqued by rumors of controversy and the article in the Star, I paid a visit to the Chapel Art Gallery on Saturday to see *Bazaaro* for myself. What I found was a very honest and eye-opening exploration of the traps and lies put forth by the fashion industry. Lies which have their vulgar arms wrapped around people a lot closer to home than many human trafficking victims - indeed. I think it's safe to say that many Houghton College students are in paralyzing bondage to these lies.

So here's my question. Why is it okay to talk about victims of trafficking, sold into the sex industry or other forms of slavery, and to open our eyes to this dreadful mistreatment of human beings - important things to talk about and act on, I agree - while remaining blind to the slavery happening in the room across the hall or a few

floors down from us?

I don't know if the Chapel is an appropriate place for *Bazaaro* to reside, having seen it and being aware of some of its content. But the Chapel is definitely an appropriate place for the conversation whose opening lines

*Bazaaro* is screaming. We need to stop arguing about silly things and heed its warnings. And if *Bazaaro* is successful in starting this talk, then by all means, sign the Chapel up for a monthly subscription!

-Tierzah Faulkner, Class of 2011

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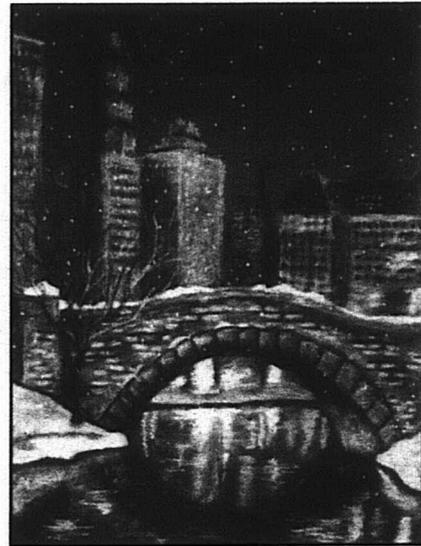
**Wesley Dean**  
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# artist OF THE WEEK



# KENDRA INGLIS



THIS SUDOKU IS EASY

2		3			1		8	
9	5	7	4				6	
4				3				
	7		1	4			2	
			2					8
6			5	8			3	4
1	3			5				4
5	8	9					2	
				9	6			

# sudoku CHALLENGE

Bring your finished sudoku puzzles to the STAR office clearly marked with FULL NAME.

The Star will only accept ONE puzzle per semester from each student.



Congratulations to David Jorgensen, Last week's Sudoku Challenge Winner! Stop by the Star office to retrieve your prize

THIS SUDOKU IS HARD

8	3	1					7	4
	7	2						
			4		1			
	5		3		8			
							8	
1	4		5					2
3		6	8	2			5	4
					6		8	
9								

Prize: Leroy Townes and the Lone Stars' album!