



# THE HOUGHTON STAR

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## SGA Hosts Panel Discussion, Forum to Address Chapel Issues

By Clara Sanders

Last Sunday evening, about 35-40 students gathered in Wesley Chapel for the SGA-sponsored forum on chapel. Panelists Meic Pearse, Micah Warf, Naomi Smith, and Carlton Fisher each offered their views on the varying purposes of chapel before moderator Benjamin Stanford opened the floor for questions.

Professor of History Meic Pearse opened the panel discussion, pointing out that if one is to apply the Bible, one must know the Bible. This seemingly obvious and yet often-overlooked truth, he suggested, can translate directly into chapel purpose and content. He

appreciates the new chapel curriculum that the Committee on Spiritual Life has implemented, as it has seemed to ensure that important theological principles are addressed throughout the academic year. However, he offered, Houghton as further to go in guaranteeing that chapel talks address doctrine. Doctrine entails teaching; the term "doctrine" comes from the Latin word "docere"—to teach. "We are a Christian institution...we must teach the faith," he emphasized. Although Pearse believes that personal testimonies and "moral crusades" have their place, most chapels should be equipping students with ideas of faith, and "clear Bible exposition

and explanation...are at the heart of chapel."

Sophomore philosophy major Micah Warf concentrated on the importance of chapel as a catalyst for spiritual growth. People must realize that they change over time; and chapel is a part of this process, as it can both strengthen and challenge faith. He emphasized his view of chapel as a classroom in which students consume content that is of both sacred and secular value, but is first and foremost spiritually formative. He insisted that the ideas students hear in chapel shape them in similar vein to concepts taught in an academic lecture.

Naomi Smith, a 2005 alumna who

now works in the advancement office, spoke about the element of chapel participation. As a staff member, she is able to attend one chapel a week, but she loves to see students swarming around the quad and up the chapel steps. "It's like a reverse Exodus," she commented, "forcing us to share space and oxygen" as a community. Smith emphasized that chapel is an opportunity for all community members to encounter God together. This can serve as a witness to the "present nature of the Creator" by allowing the Spirit to stir the community collectively. "In chapel we are present to each other and present to him as a whole community," she

• Chapel Forum continued on page 3

## Business Department Plans Construction of Trading Room Facility

By Benjamin Tsujimoto

The Houghton College Business Department has recently decided to construct a 'business trading room' on the third floor of the Chamberlain Center. Because of the academic success of business students and the financial contributions of six donors, the department has chosen to upgrade its technology. While the Student Investment Group will benefit the most, other business majors will find valuable information from this resource.

The new facility, which will be completed by the fall of 2008, will feature cutting-edge technology and real-time data provided by the

information services Reuters and Bloomberg. Other software to be introduced is Financial Analysis and Securities Trading (FAST), First Call, MultexNet, Morningstar, Data Stream, and Market Guide. These resources deliver current stock information and investment research that will allow Houghton students the opportunity to work with the same tools that professionals use. Business Professor Richard Halberg commented, "The room will serve as a laboratory for business students in the same way that science students have labs to conduct their research."

What will this research involve? A descriptive statement regarding the new

trading room explains that the addition will "provide a firsthand look at the intricacies of risk management, asset valuation, investment and portfolio construction and other financial concepts." In addition, these tools will benefit students in understanding "the role of private information and expectations in pricing securities and the impact of market making and price taking."

The group benefiting the most from the Business Trading Room is the Student Investment Group under the direction of Halberg. Once the room is completed, this group of upperclassmen will be granted access to a subscription service offered by Reuters that "allows students

to receive more in-depth information on potential stocks." Jonathan Mindrebo, a senior business and accounting major, explained the group's activity, stating, "We meet almost every week and discuss potential stocks to buy or sell. We only purchase stocks if the entire group agrees, and we usually buy the stock right in class."

The Student Investment Group was formed in January 2001. It began with \$25,000 and was quickly supplemented with another \$75,000 from the trustees. Professor Halberg comments, "The ideal size (of the group) is 4-8 and the group is intended to be a select group of students who have shown ability

• Business continued on page 2

**Inside  
this  
Issue...**

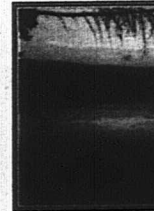
**Snow Day:  
"Really Cool"**

Page 3



**SGA Elections:  
Presidential Platforms**

Pages 4-5



**Artist of the Week:  
Timothy Chen**

Page 8



## OUT THERE

By Thomas Lerew

### Fatal Shootings at Northern Illinois University

Last Thursday, 27-year old Steven Kazmierczak entered from behind the front screen of a lecture hall and indiscriminately fired into a classroom, killing five people and injuring sixteen before killing himself. Authorities say that the killer had "done a stint" at a mental health center in earlier years and had stopped taking his medications two weeks prior to the attack. While observers noted that his behavior was becoming increasingly erratic, it is unknown what actually motivated the event. No suicide note was found.

### Terrorist Mastermind Killed in Syria

Imad Mughniyeh, accused of the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner and the deaths of hundreds of Americans and Israelis, has been killed in a car bombing in the Syrian capital of Damascus, Hezbollah leaders reported last week. Mughniyeh has been linked with the bombing of the U.S. Embassy and Marine base in Lebanon. The FBI had offered a \$25 million reward for his death or capture – the same amount that would be awarded for the death or capture of Osama bin Laden.

### 2008 Campaign Update

This week saw primaries in Wisconsin for both parties, as well as contests in Hawaii for Democrats and in Washington for Republicans. Obama won both Democratic contests, solidifying his lead over Clinton both in pledged and overall delegate counts. Tuesday marked the tenth straight primary loss for Clinton, prompting speculation that she must win upcoming contests in Ohio, Texas and Pennsylvania. McCain received an endorsement from former President George H.W. Bush on Monday and secured enough delegates to make a Huckabee comeback mathematically impossible, though he may still be prevented from gaining

enough delegates needed to clinch the nomination. Huckabee and Ron Paul have stated they will stay in the race. No candidate in either party has won enough delegates to be called the official party nominee.

### Death Penalty Sought for 9/11 Hijackers

At the first military tribunal since 1947, prosecutors will seek the death penalty of six individuals for war crimes in al-Qaeda's September 11 attack that left nearly 3,000 Americans dead. Military leaders say there will be "no secrets" and that the individuals will have the same legal rights as "U.S. service members have had when charged with murder, rape or other war crimes in Iraq." The tribunal is expected to begin sometime in the next few months.

### Kenyans Formulate Plan for Peace

Talks led by former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan have led way to a ten-point plan for peace in Kenya whose post-election turmoil has left over 1,000 people dead. The two rivals have been under immense international pressure to share power and the actual terms of power sharing have yet to be decided. The plan also states that the country will draw up a new constitution within the year. Both of the competing Kenyan political parties claim that even with increased international awareness, this domestic crisis is far from over.

### Kosovo Declares Independence

Early Sunday, the Kosovo parliament voted to declare its independence from Serbia. The U.S.- and European-backed measure defined Kosovo as an "independent and democratic state." Already, Serbia is rejecting the claim, and Russia has asked for an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council to discuss Kosovo's violation of "Serbian sovereignty." While Serbia has promised not to respond militarily to Kosovo's actions, it is already "downgrading" relations with nations that have recognized Kosovo's claim.

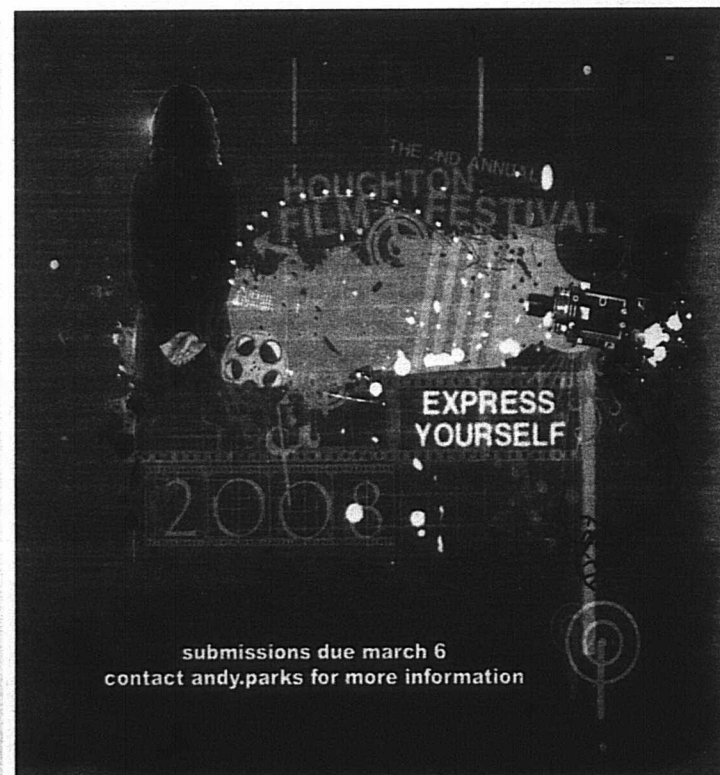
### Business continued from page 1

and special interest in accounting and finance." Since then, through scrupulous attention and research, the value has risen to \$180,000, once peaking at \$196,000. When the Business Trading Room is operational, the trustees plan to give further financial support to the group. Mindrebo, a current participant in the Student Investment Group, envisions success for future members. "Better accommodations for the students involved should lead to more quality research and decision making."

While the Student Investment Group may find the addition of the room to be the most advantageous, regular business students or those interested in stock trading will benefit as well. Professor Halberg noted, "The research database may prove helpful to students outside the investment group to research companies and macroeconomic information." Professor Ken Bates echoed Halberg, remarking that those interested in management, marketing, and economics will gain another valuable

resource in the trading room. The news of the Business Trading Room has received a warm reception from undergraduates as well. Sophomore business and accounting major Brian Johnson was "thrilled that he will have use of this facility for his final two years of classes."

Without a doubt, Houghton's business students deserve the upgrade. According to the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, Houghton is the leading school in active portfolio management by undergraduate business majors. Even more impressive is the performance by senior business and accounting majors on a nationally standardized exam; Professor Bates stated, "Our seniors, once again, came in the top five percent in the nation, an amazing accomplishment for Houghton." By adding the Business Trading Room, Houghton will be the first Christian college to possess one besides Cedarville, whose students are not responsible for managing real money. The room will be located across from the elevator and adjacent to the third floor seminar room.







# Community Snow Day Features Lots Of Sledding, Minor Injuries

By Joel VanderWeele

For those of us making our abode in the snow-belt of New York, the words "Snow Day" invariably conjure up fond childhood memories of sledding, skating, sipping cocoa, sprawling by the fire, and most importantly, skipping school. Although there was no school to be skipped and the pond had not frozen properly, on Saturday, February 16, Houghton Community Snow Day went swimmingly.

The event was jointly hosted by Nehemiah's Restoration and the class of 2009. According to junior Lauren Gauzza, who coordinated the event, the goal was "to facilitate community and raise money—and have fun doing it." The hosts encouraged students to come out and connect with community members for a day of fun, friendship, and fellowship. The proceeds from the event went to the scholarship fund for underprivileged children to attend Houghton sports camps.

Highlighting the event were discounted ski and snowboard rentals, provided by Coach Webb. Although the event was scheduled from 10a.m. through 2



Photo By Wesley Dean

Two budding young scholars share a sled with sophomore Clara Sanders.

p.m., there were still several students careening over the carefully crafted ramp at the bottom of the ski hill late into the early afternoon. Community youths were spotted "snowplowing" down the bunny hill while daring adolescents perfected unorthodox methods of landing the jump. Freshman Bryan Overland was particularly impressive in his performance of a picture-perfect 'inverted landing.'

Winter sports, however, are not for everyone. Some prefer to watch skiers and snowboarders from a safe distance (200 meters, minimum). These reasonable people choose to avoid accidentally losing control on a black diamond resulting in a bruise that would last for 4 days, making one wonder whether or not it was possible to break one's pelvis at the age of 14. The sagacious coordinators of the

Community Snow Day did not forget about this demographic. At the top of the ski hill (far from any injury-inducing slopes) was a blazing bonfire and a table for hot cocoa and s'mores. Sophomore Sonja Mindrebo exclaimed, "I was relieved of my regular Saturday routine when I received the reminder for the Snow Day." Despite the event being held on a weekend, instead of the traditional school-cancelling weekday, Saturday was a snowy blast, providing flurries of excitement for all who attended.

Junior Tirzah Cook, who helped organize the event, believed the event was a wintry mix of success and disappointment. Cook commented, "We didn't have an overwhelming turn out, but there was a good mix of students and community members. We hope this event encourages students to actively connect with members of the community and build relationships outside of the college."

Gauzza seconded Cook's positivity, proclaiming, "Money was raised, relationships were built, and there were many fun moments, so I think [our] goal was definitely met."

*Chapel Forum continued from page 1* noted. This convocational nature of chapel points to God's common grace. "Our individual lives are never greater than the sum of our community," Smith summarized.

The final panelist, Professor of Philosophy Carlton Fisher, began by stating that chapel is essentially for students: for worship, for life development, and for curriculum purposes. Chapel can and should serve as a bridge between the life of the mind and the life of the soul. These claims are more or less self evident, Fisher insisted, but many students may not realize a less obvious political function of chapel, as well: having a scheduled chapel differentiates Houghton and other Christian campuses from secular institutions.

The floor was then opened for questions, with most inquiries centering on one of two concerns: differentiating between chapel and church, and required attendance. Senior Marc Smithers asked the panelists to differentiate between a lecture and a sermon, as Pearce has emphasized the importance of doctrine teaching in chapel. Pearce responded by acknowledging that the line between the two can often be hard to articulate, but that most people are able to intuitively assess the boundaries. Another student later brought up the oft-mentioned student concern that chapel attempts to "legislate personal spiritual life." Fisher responded by emphasizing that chapel was never intended to serve as a substitute for church. He insisted that the closest chapel gets to church is when the Eucharist is served, and

he feels as if those are the only times it would be appropriate to waive the chapel requirement.

None of the panelists, in fact, opposed the current chapel requirement policy. Junior Joshua Nolen challenged Fisher on his statement that chapel was for students, wondering whether faculty and staff should be required to go if students are required, and then asked the panelists' opinions on chapel requirement in general. Pearce stated that he had no strong opinions either way in regard to requiring any part of the Houghton community to attend chapel. "I chose to tolerate [certain aspects] of this institution when I chose to come," he said, and challenged the students to ruminate on that thought. Fisher reiterated the pedagogical function of chapel, condoning student requirement

and stating that if faculty and staff were required to go, the community would not be enhanced in any meaningful way. Smith encouraged students to think of chapel as a discipline, saying, "It helps when people outside enforce [attendance]." Warf, the only student on the panel, freely acknowledged that he, though sometimes only grudgingly, was thankful for the requirement, as he would not attend very many chapels if it was not mandatory, citing deadlines, assignments, and papers as typical student motivations for skipping.

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## HOUGHTON VOTES

2008

Student Government Association (SGA) elections are scheduled to take place on **Wednesday, March 5**. Positions being contested include President, Vice President, Commissioner of Communications, Commissioner of Finance, and Chaplain. Eight college senators will also be elected to the SGA Senate.

Each candidate has produced a short platform outlining their goals for the 2008-2009 academic year. In this space, we've reprinted the platforms of the three candidates for **SGA President**.

A full list of candidates for all positions is available on the SGA's website, and all candidate platforms will be distributed by the SGA on **Monday, March 3**.

A presidential debate, sponsored by Shen, will be hosted on the evening of **Tuesday, March 4**. More details will be forthcoming.

## Real Experience: Results and Ideas

Amidst institutional transition, experience is required to achieve real change.

By Joshua Nolen

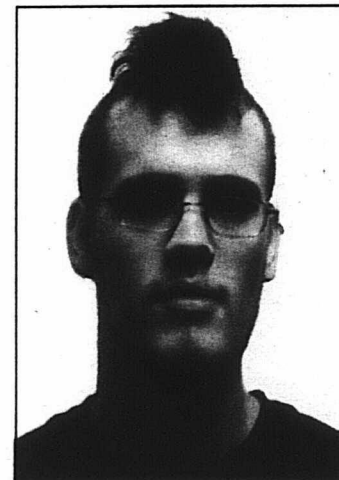
Next year's SGA President faces a difficult task. Student reforms instituted in the past two years must be preserved and extended. I commend the work performed by the core of outgoing seniors in this year's SGA Cabinet – Elyse Drum, Kate Hamilton, and Chris Krowka – for all of the effort they've put forth since their freshmen year to build and expand the SGA.

At Houghton College, you must know the system to get results. My track record demonstrates that I am the most experienced and qualified candidate running for President. I've been a senator in the SGA for three years, and have served on numerous vital committees, including the Green, Judicial, and Student Life committees. Through this work, I've developed working relationships with a number of administrators. No one else can match these credentials, and I'm confident that I can utilize my experience to garner results for students.

My aims for next year look to build on the momentum gained by this year's SGA. First, I am a fiscal conservative, and will craft a more responsible SGA budget with fewer perks for the SGA elite. Tuition is high and rising, and I believe that SGA can set a responsible example of fiscal priorities that the college will be forced to emulate.

I will work to reopen the Houghton radio station online. Just as we broadcast chapel, we'll record and broadcast all SGA Senate meetings. By building a radio community, we'll increase dialogue and discuss relevant on- and off-campus issues. Students studying off campus will also more easily be able to stay connected to Houghton.

We'll host more *open* forums about topics that matter to students. To further increase dialogue, we'll create and expand an Aggregate Assembly of student organizations so that we



can meet to share ideas. The SGA Cabinet will be available at weekly mealtimes to talk about your concerns over a delicious Pioneer dinner. Better communication is not simply a desirable outcome, but a necessary means to making progress on the issues that matter most to students.

Additionally, we'll work to reform student judiciary policies by creating the Student Advocacy Group. This organization, already in the planning stages, will provide students with counsel on college rules and policies to ensure that every student receives a fair judicial hearing. I'm currently involved in the planning of this organization, and next year we'll work to strengthen and extend its reach.

I could go on. Please don't hesitate to ask me about my plans for next year. Let me be clear: I will not represent the administration to the students, but instead represent the students to the administration. Strong leadership requires a proven track record of independent thinking and decision-making. I have never feared standing up for my own beliefs, and I will work tirelessly to defend the values and opinions of the student body as your President.

*Joshua is a junior Philosophy and Biology double major.*





## Patience, Courage, and Wisdom

Leadership requires an ability to know when the fight is most effective.

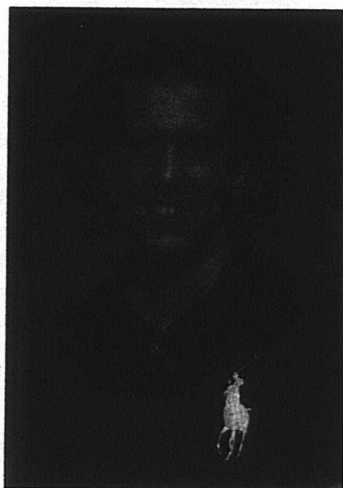
By Peter Savage

To a Christian Political Science major, William Wilberforce is a remarkable role model. Wilberforce fought strongly for what he believed in, and he never compromised his values. I will not pretend to say that I am somehow a modern version of Wilberforce, but I will attest that his example provides something great to which one should aspire. Houghton itself embodies many of his values. But there are many areas where this campus struggles. The common values upon which we agree are important: morality, justice, leadership, and service. These principles are met by many of our student organizations.

But how can these groups be more effective in communicating the principles for which they stand? There is a great deal we can do to unify our purpose. Improving communication, unifying our purpose, and fostering a spirit of cooperation are all desperately needed if we are to be more effective in reaching Houghton, Allegany County, and the world. But where do we start?

One answer is the creation of an assembly of club leaders. With the overall goal of increasing communication, this body will allow clubs to talk to each other in an open forum. It will help coordinate the planning of joint events and will allow the Student Government to provide valuable resources directly to club leadership. But this is only one solution to the problem. Raising important issues such as chapel scanning, student apathy and financial responsibility are only a few of the issues I would like to continue to raise over the next year.

There is one question, however, that I am able to answer now. How can the Student Government best meet the needs of its constituents? One answer is knowledge: knowledge about academic and judiciary policies. To raise awareness and promote the



protection of student's rights, I will create the Student Judicial Advocacy Committee. In addition to promoting general knowledge, this body will be willing to counsel students when they face charges of misconduct. Beyond training in judicial policy, I would like to see more students actively invest in their fields of study. I will look into the creation of a fund independent of tuition, supported by alumni and investments, with the sole purpose of helping send students to conferences and training seminars. If Houghton is truly attempting to create scholar-servants, the school should create a new generation of well-educated Christian leaders.

In closing, I would like to offer a word about my style of leadership. General George Patton offered the following advice, "Take calculated risks." The college environment is also a business environment, and while the Student Government is a separate entity from the administration we must remember that we will accomplish very little through rash action. We must fight for what we believe, but we must use our heads to know when and where the fight will be most effective.

*Peter is a sophomore Political Science and International Relations double major.*

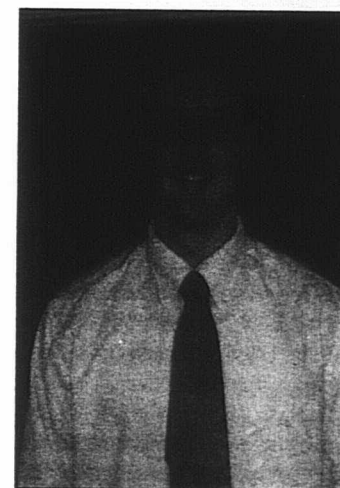
## Leadership and Excellence

The next SGA president must strengthen student clubs to effectively lead.

By Matthias Williams

As a candidate for SGA president, I hold a diverse array of goals for the Houghton student body. A few of those goals include: fostering inter-club communication and unity through approving the Aggregate Assembly proposal now being discussed in Senate, creating a Leadership Seminar sponsored by the SGA that will work to facilitate leadership on campus and student body programs. As a firm believer in club involvement, I want to create a comprehensive information packet for all groups, informing them of many of the practical tools that clubs uses. As President, I would work tirelessly to sponsor stronger student leadership and student organizations. My own extensive experience with on campus clubs such as Imitators of Christ, ROTC, Swim Club, Intramurals, and SGA gives me the understanding necessary to implement these plans.

As SGA president, I would also work to represent the larger student body. In regards to larger committee experience, I currently serve on the Committee of Student Associations and Organizations, the Student Emergency Fund, the Christian Life Fund, as well the Aggregate Assembly ad hoc committee. I enjoy the input and creativity that comes from working with groups and relish the various committee meetings that the SGA president attends. Recently I observed the direct impact on campus that committees and groups can have, by co-chairing Project Hunter with Audrey Gillette. Seeing the level of student involvement and dedication in helping Hunter, a five-year-old with cancer, break the world record for most paper airplanes received, illustrated to me what can be accomplished when Houghton students unite around a common cause. I think that same unity and vibrancy will be further developed by projects I would implement as President, such as the Aggregate



Assembly proposal, allowing clubs and student organizations to meet and work together on their shared interests.

I can be confident of accomplishing these goals because of my leadership ability. This skill is attested to by the positions I currently hold in both SGA and ROTC. In my Army leadership positions, I've worked in a demanding environment leading other cadets. Receiving and giving orders, executing successful missions and receiving feedback evaluating my own leadership style allows me to constantly test and enhance my leadership abilities in a dynamic manner. My work as a senator brings me into contact with an array of students at Houghton, instructs me in how to implement their goals for the Houghton campus and instills a deep passion for student organizations and the student body of Houghton College.

Together, these qualities of passion for student interest, and skilled, motivated leadership, distinguish me from other candidates in the field. A vote for me on March 4th is a vote for stronger unity among campus organizations, development of student leadership on campus, and dedication to student interests in the SGA. A vote for me is a vote for leadership and excellence.

*Matthias is a Philosophy and Psychology double major.*



Dear Editors:

I'm writing to congratulate you on your core curriculum proposal, which I believe I could support.

There is some ambiguity, it seems to me, in re your approach to For Lang. If the expected "proficiency" is the level of ability that would typically result from completing the second of two four-hour beginning language courses in a given language, and students who don't place out of the requirement also don't place into the second semester and so have to start with the first semester, then their foreign language coursework will be 8 hours, not 4 hours, raising your theoretical maximum to 50 hours. If what you mean is "whether you place into the first or second semester of a language, you just take one course," then 4 hours is the max for foreign language, but then the "proficiency" standard isn't the same for everyone.

Also, the presence or absence of "fancy section headings" has nothing essential to do with eliminating "unnecessary student requirements." Nor does it have anything to do with whether the approach to the core is infused with "common sense" or not. What is important is being able to explain the point of the core curriculum as a whole, and also how each element in the core contributes to the point of the core curriculum as a whole. If there is no point of the core curriculum as a whole, and it's just about breadth, then a grocery list approach is fine, and there's no need to create any sort of structure for talking about how the various elements of the core fit together into a coherent package with a view to some specific expected outcomes in the lives of students.

What I'd like to see vis-à-vis the fine arts (and your proposal creates room for) are some 2 credit hour visual art options that would enable students to take one of those and add a couple of semesters of ensemble participation (or a 2 credit hour music appreciation course) to satisfy their 4 hour fine arts requirement. That probably won't happen, but it'd be nice.

Chris Stewart  
Professor of Philosophy

Dear Editors:

My thanks for your integrative studies proposal (February 15); it sounds like the product of a lot of careful conversation. But like all such proposals, it focuses on "required courses that encompass information" (I'm quoting you) that all graduates should have. I understand this, as it is the approach we have taken here for years.

I call this approach into question. While I am sure that a single course in literature, a single course in history, and so on, is better than none, I am not at all convinced that requiring single courses in various disciplines is the best we can do. In fact, if we are stuck with this approach, I would axe the word "integrative" from the title and replace it to get: "foundational studies". But I want to rescue "integrative", and if you do too, then I wonder if you might think outside the box and develop an alternative proposal that will truly be distinctive. (I'd invite you to argue that proposals like yours are "integrative", but I have no hope for that argument.)

Dave Perkins  
Mathematics Department

Dear Editors:

As I perused last week's edition of the *Star*, I was surprised to find that there was almost no commentary on last Saturday's SPOT, which included what I at least thought was a disturbing performance of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody." Allow me to begin by saying that I have nothing against the song itself or against the students who took part in the performance; kudos to the latter's musical prowess. That being said, I have spoken with at least a dozen people who, like myself, were deeply perturbed by the exhibition, which involved a decent bit of provocative writhing and discarding of clothing, and ended with one member of the group twirling the dove-flag above the audience's heads. Perhaps this only means that I have surrounded myself with the twelve stuffiest, most small-minded people on this campus,

but, if I may be so bold, I find that unlikely. Rather, I think that those whom I have spoken with were rightly troubled by the performance for a variety of reasons, and that the incident has now given us the opportunity to query, "How far is too far?"

If we haven't asked ourselves that question recently, now is a good time to do so. The current review of the community responsibilities has brought many formerly taboo topics to the fore and we have begun to experience changes. The Board of Trustees has very recently approved the recommended changes in the dancing policy; Houghton's drinking policy is being reconsidered; even the smoking clause has come under serious and thought-provoking scrutiny. Those discussions are good; on occasion we, both as a community and as individuals need to reconsider why we have certain rules and whether or not the justifications for those rules are good enough for us to keep them. But I wonder if perhaps we have become so enamoured with our recent changes and challenges that, in a fit of hubris, we have convinced ourselves that we are the epitome of open-minded, tolerant, and edgy. If we are such creatures, then everything becomes permissible, including waving a symbol of the Holy Spirit during a shady performance.

The trouble is that symbolism matters. Our actions and policies indicate who and what we honor, respect, and hold sacred. These symbols are, to a great extent, the outward expression of our identity as an institution and as individuals. The dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, a symbol of God; who are we if we take that symbol too lightly? Are we still "Houghton"? Do we remain the same institution that was founded in a tradition that so deeply valued the movement of the Holy Spirit in its revival and prayer meetings? That tradition was also characterized by a high moral standard that eventually included abstinence from tobacco, alcohol, dancing, gambling, and a host of other entertainments, including the movie theater. Can we remain in that

tradition if we disregard, or even alter, that standard?

Please do not misinterpret my argument; I do not think that we have abandoned the Wesleyan tradition nor do I think that we ought to take our symbols overly seriously. The latter can quickly lead to idolatry, and last I checked, we won't be rewriting that bit of the community responsibilities any time soon. I do not think dancing is inherently wrong, nor am I anti-alcohol or anti-smokers, or fixedly against anything else that has been lately editorialized. I do not think that we need more rules, or even stricter rules, and the last thing that I want to encourage is any sort of legalism. I only think that we need to be humble and careful. It is just fine to acknowledge that we are a community grounded in a tradition that says that some things are not permissible; there is nothing small-minded, intolerant, or fuddy-duddy about that. It is, in fact, all right to affirm that certain actions are still wrong—which is a good thing because we continue to do so. We still maintain that drunkenness is not something we will condone, nor is promiscuity of any variety. Neither is smoking (thus far) or stealing (be it crabapples or pears)—or plagiarism, for that matter.

Still, I fear that there is a very real temptation to continue to 'reform' ourselves and revise our policies to the point that everything is permissible because we can't think of trendy reasons why anything shouldn't be allowed. If trends continue unabated, we may someday find that we have compromised some part, if not all, of our identity as a Wesleyan institution and as Christian individuals. What then? Redefining identity is a messy process and, I think, not one that many would relish. Fortunately, I do not think that trends ever continue unabated. And with that in mind, I hold out great hope that the numerous committees reviewing the community responsibilities will take advantage of occasions that prompt us to stop and ask, "How far is too far?"

Heather Bennett, Class of 2008





## Christian Political Priorities: Broadening Or Shifting?

Currently studying in D.C., a student reflects on the changing priorities of the conservative Christian movement.

By Ryan Ledebur

As I make the 10-minute walk to my internship in Washington, D.C. every day, things sometimes seem monotonous. I walk the same exact streets, and often I see many of the same people. It's hard to remember sometimes that despite the repetitiveness of this working world, things are happening in this city every day that change the world. So often, change happens when we are not ready for it. Many people even seem to hate change. Frequently though, change brings in the new and better and disposes of the outdated and obsolete.

Many of you who know me probably know my penchant for being traditional. I like my worship to include organ music, whereas I know some of you would like to rip out Houghton's organ one pipe at a time. However, I think we need to compromise. Together, we must learn to value the past without being so enthralled by it that we can't see the imperfections of our predecessors.

In Christianity today, change is happening in subtle and not-so-subtle ways. The traditional, conservative Christianity of our parents is out, and the new, hip, "socially aware" Christianity is in. Is this a good change, though? Does this shift dispose of the outdated and bring in a better way? I would say yes and no.

Through organizations like the International Justice Mission, Food for the Hungry, and others, Christians (more specifically American Christians) have been made aware of the atrocities that exist outside of this country. And many, especially the young, are responding brilliantly. One problem remains, however. Many of these youths that I have encountered look disparagingly upon the traditional church and its accomplishments. They seem to discount all the efforts of our parents and grandparents.

Certainly the old Religious Right has made many mistakes, but rather than criticize the past with perfect hindsight, shouldn't we recognize the good that was accomplished? The Religious Right's major mistake was, and perhaps still is, its narrow focus on "moral issues". Formerly, "moral" only included issues such as abortion and homosexuality. Much good work has been done by the Christian community on these issues. But unfortunately, much of the good accomplishments have been overshadowed by people like Fred Phelps and others.

This weekend, I had the opportunity to hear Michael Gerson speak. Gerson, a former speech writer for President George W. Bush, made a key point that we as Christians need to broaden our view of what the moral issues of the day are. Sexual immorality and abortion are not the only moral issues. Rather, we must include worldwide poverty relief, disease prevention, and other such issues, he said.

The key word in Gerson's point is *include*. Many in our generation are so caught up in the efforts of humanitarian aid that they exclude the more traditional issues. We are making the same mistake our parents did by having a narrow focus on what the important moral issues are—just with different issues. I hope that it's clear that I take no issue with addressing the need for humanitarian aid. (That would not make any sense.) But what I am saying is that we as Christians need to *broaden* the scope of our concerns, not *shift* it.

Also on the docket at the conference I attended this weekend was Chuck Colson. Being a traditional conservative, I was thrilled to hear him speak. Colson was someone I had grown up listening to and hearing about. But I was fearful of what he might say. In the past few years, I have come to see the flaws of the Religious

Right manifested all too vividly. I have also seen the way that these flaws have disaffected young Christians, and alienated them from their predecessors who they believe have ignored issues of social justice.

That being said, I was delighted to hear what Colson had to say to us that evening. He strongly emphasized his desire to have older Christians pass on their knowledge and wisdom for the benefit of the younger generation. To some this is a scary thought, but I would consider it a thrill to live as a Christian the way Colson described. He stressed that it is so important to go out and "do" the gospel. We must bring truth to the world, but we must do it lovingly. Colson quoted Martin Luther King, Jr. saying, "He who you would change, you must first love." It was so refreshing to hear this traditionalist whom I have long admired speak words that I pray will resonate strongly with my generation.

The Christians of the past 50 years have worked to do God's will to fix up this world. It is our task to learn from their mistakes, take advantage of their successes, and respect (most of) their efforts. But that final task, respect, is something that we modern Christians do not always do very well.

I hope that we can begin to more clearly appreciate the efforts of the older generation even as we attempt to do the work of Christ better. It is important to remember that even if we succeed in doing Christ's work in this world better than our predecessors, we cannot discount their efforts.

*Ryan is a junior Music and Political Science double major.*

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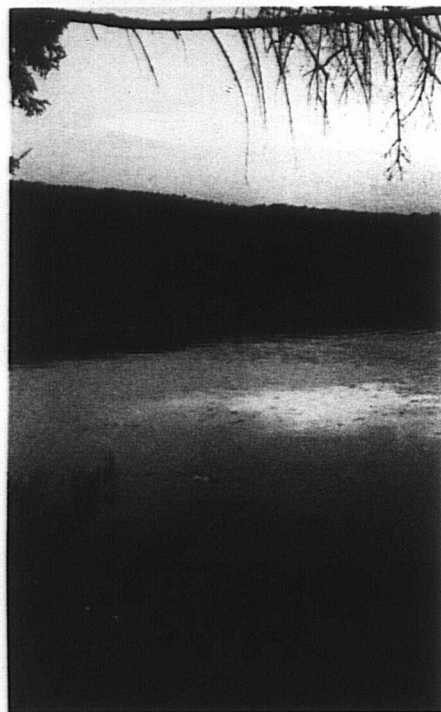
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Names may be withheld upon request.



# featured artwork

## TIMOTHY CHEN



Note from the artist:

*Left: This picture was taken on our first camping trip for the Star Lake program. The location was Cranberry Lake in the Adirondacks, and the sunset was a great reward after a hard day of canoeing.*

*Right: This gyrfalcon was shot in Denali National Park in Alaska off the tour bus. Alaska is one of the most amazing places I've been, and I look forward to going there someday again.*

Not Quite Dusk

*Tim is a double major in Biology and Art with a concentration in Photography.*



Flight

# SUDOKU CHALLENGE

Submit completed puzzles with your name at the Star office. One correct puzzle will be selected at random and the winner will receive a Sudoku puzzle book!

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

*This week's puzzle is by Eric Liddle, a freshman Math and Computer Science major from Albion, N.Y.*

*He is currently in London, but remains a diehard Sabres fan.*

*Answer to last week's Sudoku puzzle is printed to the left.*

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