

Sodexo Loses Contract Bid



METZCULINARY.COM

Sodexo was not re-signed to continue providing dining services at Houghton College, and will be replaced with the regional company Metz Culinary Management, which advertises a commitment to environmental sustainability.

JORDAN TRAUTWEIN

Houghton College has announced that Sodexo did not win a contract renewal to continue providing dining services. Metz Culinary Management will replace Sodexo in a shift that will begin this spring semester.

"As someone who has worked in the dining hall, I honestly think that Sodexo did the best with what they had to work with," said Rachel Harrington '19. "The cooks and workers did not

have ill intentions. They weren't sitting around trying to cook 'gross food.'"

According to the company's website, Metz makes the pledge "to be environmental stewards by working closely with clients, sustainability partners and vendors on dining concepts, products and programs that meet your needs while protecting resources for future generations."

"Environmental Sustainability Commitment" was one of the criteria used by the task force organized for evaluating bidding compa-

nies, as well as "Responsiveness to the College Community," according to vice president of student life, Rob Pool. Additionally, Metz assures readers on its website, "You'll discover an abundance of vegetarian, vegan, heart-healthy and lower fat choices due to our commitment to nutrition."

Liv Dobmeier '19, though she felt the change "isn't a big deal", also hoped "the new food service offers more healthy options than Sodexo did- that's a big thing [for me]."

Speaking specifically to

their college campus dining services, they make the claim that they will "work with your campus dining team to develop promotions and events that coincide with the school calendar, such as extended hours and fun, high-energy meals during exam weeks."

Pool explained, "Ultimately, the committee felt that the proposed program from Metz best addressed the expectations and needs of our students and community." He also stated, "The contract officially begins June 1, 2017 and it is for five years. The transition will begin as early as next week and ramp up throughout the spring semester."

The contract with Metz concluded a semester long process "The college entered into a process called 'request for proposals' or RFP," Pool explained. "Basically what this means is companies submit proposals describing how they would deliver a comprehensive dining ser-

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Former Pros Draw Students To Baseball Clinic

QUINN HULL

Three former major-leaguers and dozens of junior high and high school baseball players gathered in the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex on Saturday to participate in the Elite One Day Baseball Clinic. The clinic was hosted by the Houghton College baseball team. The clinic was split into two sessions. One took place from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and was geared towards varsity and junior varsity players. The other took place from 2:30 to 4:30 and was geared more towards junior high play-

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Gary Baxter Delivers Faculty Lecture

MICAH CRONIN

Last Thursday, ceramics professor Gary Baxter presented a lecture as part of the Faculty Lecture Series. The lecture was titled, "Is African art, art?" Baxter was quick to say at the beginning of the lecture that he wished he'd made the title "Why African art is art?" as it is generally confined to ritual and daily life rather than the formal setting of Western art.

Fellow art faculty John Rhett said he has "great respect" for Baxter as a scholar and an artist in his introduction of his colleague. Professor of philosophy,

Ben Lipscomb, noted "There are always a few faculty lectures I am particularly excited for, and this was one of them."

Baxter showed how the African art tradition is tightly bound to daily life. Most potters in Sub-Saharan Africa are women who were trained by their mothers, which means the ceramic practice is deeply connected to family ties, he noted.

African art has not followed the path of Western art for several reasons, according to Baxter. Much of the art, largely comprised of wooden masks and sculptures, "is eaten by termites by the time it is 50 years old or so." He also stated that

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Students To Meet With Congressman

MICAH CRONIN

U.S. Representative Tom Reed (NY-R) will visit Fillmore tomorrow to speak with constituents, including a group of Student Government Association and Eco Reps members. "A town hall meeting is a public gathering where ordinary citizens can ask questions of their elected representatives," according to Eco Reps faculty advisor, Brian Webb.

Sergio Matta '18 and Eco Reps have partnered the last two semesters to advocate for action in environmental and immigration policy by contacting Reed every week. They've accomplished this through the Do Something Table project, which is open in the Van Dyk Lounge every Thursday. The table, staffed with Matta and

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REED.HOUSE.GOV

SGA and Eco Reps members will attend Representative Tom Reed's (NY-R) town hall meeting in Fillmore tomorrow.

International //Paris Suburbs Erupt Over Police Rape



ANTHONY BURDO

MICAH CRONIN

Protests in Paris suburbs have led to the charge of four police officers accused of raping a 25 year old black man identified only as Theo. The rape, alleged to have occurred on February 2, sparked nearly two weeks

of unrest. “Dozens” were arrested, according to BBC, after protests turned violent with individuals destroying cars, trash cans, and a bus, leading to injuries for the bus driver. According to the Local France, 2,000 protesters gathered in Bobigny on February 12.

The protests mainly occurred in the suburb Aulnay-sous-Bois, near the location of the alleged rape. According to BBC, the protests also vented frustrations over police brutality in the impoverished Paris suburbs, where unemployment in some areas hovers at 30%. Tensions surrounding race and immigrants are also a strong factor in the current unrest, BBC noted. “The feeling of humiliation is felt by people,” Abdallah Benjana, a former deputy mayor who lives in the neighborhood, according to BBC and the Associated Press. “What are [the

police officers] seeking? To provoke a spark? Isn’t there enough gunpowder in those neighbourhoods?” he said. “Unemployment, insecurity, high rents... no perspectives for future. They do that to a young man, it can only explode.”

Aside from rape, Theo also alleged the officers “racially abused” him, beat him, despite his claims that he was cooperating during an arrest, according to CBS. BBC included his claim that he was sprayed with tear gas.

Theo said he struggled to remain in view of closed circuit street cameras, and claims he asked officers why they were attacking him, BBC reported. “I fell onto my stomach, I had no strength left,” he said.

Following the arrest, Theo said a “much friendlier” police officer had him taken to the hospital after noticing his condition, BBC re-

ported. Once there, the young man was taken into emergency surgery. He was kept in the hospital for over a week and doctors advised him not to work for the next 60 days, BBC said.

French President, François Hollande, visited Theo in the hospital five days following the alleged rape. He also visited Aubervilliers, one of the impoverished neighborhoods that has seen unrest since Theo’s arrest.

Allegations of police brutality have incited protests around the French capital before, the worst occurring in 2005, BBC reported. BBC also stated Interior Minister Bruno Le Roux said the facts of the case must be established with “no ambiguity,” in hopes that clarity will quell public outrage.

Bloomberg reported that the protests drew the ire of candidates running in the nation’s general elections. “Se-

curity forces have been the target of gangs of scum that nothing seems to be able to stop anymore, and certainly not the courts in an overall context of decadence,” said National Front candidate, Marine Le Pen, in a statement on the protests. The National Front Party is characterized by its detractors as “anti-immigrant,” according to Bloomberg. Le Pen’s niece, Marion Marechal Le Pen, a National Front lawmaker, publicly stated “Support for Theo is an excuse to attack the cops.” Socialist candidate Benoit Hamon accused the legislator of “throwing oil on the fire” and “encouraging violence with her hate speech”. ★

Micah is a senior theology major.

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Eco Reps members, urges students to contact Reed regarding different policy issues. The project is sponsored by the Center for Faith, Justice, and Global Engagement, according to Webb.

Matta, who is an intern with the Washington, D.C. based lobbying group Friends Committee on National Legislation, is fulfilling his internship duties by organizing students toward political activism through the project. Matta said, “The Do Something Table focuses on the environment and immigration. One week we do immigration, and the next we do the environment. Immigra-

tion policy is the focus of my internship.”

“These topics were chosen for two key reasons,” Webb said. “First, they are same topics as the past two Faith and Justice Symposia, so in that way we’re building on issues that have been widely discussed on campus in recent years. Second, of the various justice-related issues that are currently being debated in the public sphere, these seem to be two of the issues where we’re most in danger of making backward progress.”

Matta expressed hope that Reed will be open to bipartisanship in the polarized political climate on Capitol Hill. “He opposed the shutting down of the House Ethics Committee” Matta said, a move which was contrary to many of Reed’s Republican colleagues.

Sarah Vande Brake ‘18, a

member of Eco Reps, said the Do Something Table has encouraged students to urge Reed to support specific environmental legislation. She said, “For climate change, [we’ve asked Reed to support] a carbon tax, [and have asked] Reed to join the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus.” At the Table, students are given a script for making the call. “To make the situation less intimidating, we provide scripts for people so they’ll have something to guide them when making the phone call,” Vande Brake said.

In regard to immigration issues, the Do Something Table asked students to urge Reed to stand for certain principles regarding legislation, such as “encouraging him to keep families together,” according to Vande Brake. They also counseled more left-leaning students to “appeal to the more Republi-

can side” of the issue by “telling Reed that immigrants are important to our economy,” she said. Vande Brake estimated that about 10 to 15 students call Reed every week to discuss policy issues.

“There’s a liberal bent obviously as these issues tend to be more Democrats’ issues and Reed is a Republican,” she said. “The point of it is not to advocate for a particular party. Essentially, bipartisan solutions are what the goal is. Anyone can call their congressman. I’m happy to see people being politically active regardless.”

Anna Schilke ‘19, who regularly mans the table, agreed. “I decided to get involved with the Do Something Table because I like the idea of constructive action. There was a lot of frustration about the election, from both sides, and this is a good way to channel those feelings

into something productive.”

In Webb’s view, tomorrow’s town hall meeting is a chance to see the work of the Do Something Table come to fruition. “This is our opportunity to ask Tom Reed face to face what he wants to do about climate change, immigration reform, racial issues, [and other justice issues],” he stated.

Still, sustained contact with elected officials through phone and email influences officials as well, Schilke stated. “It’s hard to get people to stop by the table and make a call, and although that’s understandable - it can be intimidating to call a congressman - I would love to see more people get involved. Imagine if even twenty percent of the student body made a call or typed an email. Two hundred messages in the space of two hours would be hugely influential.”★

Want to write? Email us at
editor@houghtonstar.com

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vices program during the five-year contract.”

“Eight international, national or regionally-based companies were invited to participate. Three companies submitted formal proposals and gave face to face presentations to a dining services task force,” Pool stated. From there the decision went to a task force consisting of

faculty, staff, administrators, and SGA executive cabinet members. According to Robert Pool, the task force had the responsibility of considering the proposals made by the eight companies. They also visited in person three campuses that already used the top choices they were considering. Finally, they “made a recommendation to the president and the president’s staff. The president’s staff endorsed the committee’s recommendation wholeheartedly.”

At Roberts Wesleyan College, which already has Metz

dining services, the different stations are realized as the “Main Plate,” a station for pizza and similar items, a section for made-to-order options, a soups and salad bar, a build-your-own sandwich station, a grill, and dessert choices.

“I know that the new company also works for Roberts Wesleyan,” said Harrington. “Half my family went there. ... Honestly we complain a lot right now but I think we’ll be complaining more in the future. When it comes down to it, it’s always just going to be cafeteria food.”★

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support for the arts in much of Africa is limited to religious rituals or initiations. Some governments on the continent discourage this as well, because they see it as “anti progressive” to continue tribal traditions.

Still, African art shows interaction with great traditions of the west according to Baxter, who showed the influence of the Roman arch on tribal thrones, as well as exemplifying Picasso’s borrowing of African art.

““Good artists borrow,

and great artists steal’,” he said. “Clearly Picasso was a great artist.”

Baxter noted that, generally, “beauty is an important thing. It adds meaning to our lives.” He left his listeners with a sentiment from a fellow African art critic, “If the African artist is guilty of anything, perhaps it is bringing too much life to the lump of clay or block of wood.”

Among the attendees was Matt Young ‘18, who said the lecture “was so interesting that I didn’t want to miss any of it.” Young continued, “I think lectures like this, and efforts to grow interest in African art in general, are important because their art is our art. We have so much to learn from our African family members, and I’m glad to have had the opportunity to be introduced to a small bit of it in Professor Baxter’s lecture.”★

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ers, according to a Houghton College press release.

Players who attended the clinic had the opportunity to meet and learn from former pro players like Dan Cevette (Cleveland Indians and Pittsburgh Pirates), Brian Jones (Team USA), and Ron Bush (Detroit Tigers). All players had a chance to split up and work on things like hitting, base running, and spin recognition in groups, according to the event website. Baseball team members and baseball coaching staff assisted in running the clinic.

According to the clinic schedule, players split up into position groups and worked on drills specific to



COURTESY OF MARSHALL GREEN

Three former professional major league baseball players collaborated with Highlander baseball staff and players to host an elite one-day clinic at the Kerr-Pegula Field House last weekend.

certain positions. Catchers worked on skills like popping up after catching the ball. Infielders worked on turning double plays, and quick hands. Outfielders worked on

reading fly balls. Houghton pitcher, John Kopicky '19, said the pitchers' program varied a little from the other position groups. Instead of throw-

ing on the mound and doing drills, they took the opportunity to learn from the professional players leading the clinic. Kopicky said, "Dan Cevette, who was drafted in

the third round out of high school talked to all the pitchers and gave tips and just a talk focused on pitching... pitching is a little different and they benefitted more in the short time by hearing tips and asking questions rather than throwing on the mound".

Though this was not a recruitment camp, Houghton may see a few of those in attendance as Highlanders in the future. "Well the intent was to help players get better. We weren't really bringing them to recruit them, but some caught our attention," said Kopicky.

The clinic is one of several like clinics which have drawn people to the field house in the last few semesters. Athletic Director Harold "Skip" Lord said, "in ways that are both missional and also draw prospective students." The athletic department plans to run two to three such clinics per year, featuring elite athletes who "fit" the mission of Houghton College and the athletic department, Lord said.★

WORD ON THE STREET



"I don't think Houghton is doing a good job. They need to do way more for the minority students on campus, regardless of who the minority students are. I've been here for four years, and change has been very stagnant. They need to step up and listen to minorities and stop waiting for a majority to change."

-Travis Trotman, Senior

"They're trying to build community, like in the SGA Unity prayer night, and we notice that. As an international student, I appreciate that."

-Stephanie Feliz, Sophomore



"I think Houghton has a long way to go, but I think it's moving in the right direction."

-Carolyn Case, Sophomore

"I feel like Houghton is trying too hard. Ask the minorities how they feel sometimes, but don't ask every other day. Don't try to integrate minority students only in one specific month, but throughout the year... not just February for Black History Month but April, March, and December."

-Malik Bullock, Sophomore



How do you think Houghton handles racism?



"I think that they're handling it the best way possible. When it comes to this sort of thing, it's hard for some people. I think they're trying really hard, even though it may not seem like that to some people."

-Anna Clune, Sophomore

"I think Houghton is doing a good job as far as facilitating conversation, especially because it's such a raw issue to talk about. I think that more can be done, but it's at least a good start."

-Rachel Hummel, Senior

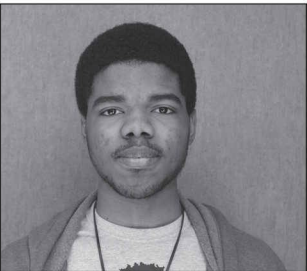


"The school is doing its best, even though it's slow. They don't have the proper protocols."

-Raheel Dhingra, Sophomore

"I don't trust the administration at Houghton to adequately protect its students. Especially because I don't see Houghton willing to invest in that. I understand that the college is struggling, but I am eager to see what this college would look like if there were adequate representation for all minority students."

-Shaphan Hestick, Sophomore



SPOT Review: All Caught Up

TYGER DOELL

the more positive aspects of the past year. They proved that dance crazes and Internet memes can unite a divided world in a way that negative quips can't.

If the hosts did a good job, then the musical acts did even better. Every SPOT, I am always happy to see talented individuals make their way onto the stage to give performances that, in some cases, I didn't know they were capable of. But while usually I walk away from SPOT with one or two musical acts in mind that I didn't particularly like, this semester's variety show left me with no ill-feelings towards any of them. From the SPOT band serenading us with nostalgic 2016 songs, to parodies about freshman couples and translated languages, to expert singers and instrumentalists (bagpipers included) who never cease to amaze, it's safe to say that our campus has a plethora of students with outstanding musical talent.

While the hosts and music were amazing, my favorite part of SPOT was the comedy. I found myself relating to the video about doors being held open, and even a day later saying the "Things You Overhear at Houghton College." I also discovered that

When I first heard the theme for this year's SPOT, "The Big Catch-Up," I have to admit I was a little skeptical. I wasn't quite sure I wanted to sit through a two-hour long recap of a year that many people (myself included) considered to be pretty rough. When I sat down in my seat and watched the lights slowly fade as the variety show began, I didn't expect much.

I am happy to say, however, that I was proved wrong. The hosts did an amazing job of keeping the audience engaged, using the original theme to their advantage. While I waited for a dig at the politics of 2016, I was pleasantly surprised that the hosts instead chose to focus on some of



COURTESY OF JACKSON WHEELER

Houghton's variety show, SPOT, took place last Saturday, February 11, and featured hosts Garret Kirkpatrick '17 and Jackson Wheeler '17. The show included live music, short videos, and skits by the hosts.

one of the possible penalties for breaking the Community Covenant was being tackled by accented cops I didn't even know Houghton hired. And of course, digs at those overly-affectionate freshman couples are always a must. My favorite comedy act, however, was Carpool Karaoke. Seeing your favorite celebrities singing in

the car is one thing, but seeing the dean of the chapel doing it is even better. Nonetheless, my favorite part of the whole act was professor Gaerte admitting what I think we all kind of already knew: he is the boss.

Overall, I felt that all those who were involved in SPOT did an excellent job, whether

they were the hosts, part of the acts, or a part of the tech team. Although I haven't seen too many SPOTs in my time here at Houghton, I can safely say that this one was my favorite by far. Our ability to laugh at and with ourselves is something that brings us together, and Spring 2017 SPOT proved it. ★



Photo
of the
Week

Yoo-Hyun Hwang '18

Business Adminstration Professor and Houghton Alum to Retire

KATHRYN MOORE

Kenneth Bates, associate professor of business administration and chair of Houghton’s department of business and economics, was not planning to be a teacher when he first joined the workforce. In fact, he worked in business in Washington, D.C. for seventeen years after graduating from Houghton in 1971. He did not expect the phone call from his old college roommate alerting him to an open position at Houghton College. Now, after 27 years of teaching for the college, he is retiring.

At first, Bates was not interested in the position for various reasons. Working at Houghton meant a significant pay cut, the possibility of needing more schooling himself, moving his entire family from the

suburbs into the rural country, and working at school where the denomination was different than his own. Bates thought the visit to campus would be a courteous gesture for his roommate, but this visit swept him from under his feet. However, Bates said, God answered all of the concerns that he had and kept calling him to Houghton College. Bates felt that he could, perhaps, be good at teaching and decided to follow God’s call.

Since answering this call, Bates has been praised as a business teacher by his students. Joseph Gilligan ’17, a business major, said, “Professor Bates allowed me to take leadership roles right away at Houghton which provided me the opportunity to refine my leadership skills and understanding of business. I owe him a debt of gratitude for allowing me to aggressively pursue my dreams.” Gilligan added that students who have taken a class led by Bates will tell you that he truly cares for his students, is patient, is understanding, and is passionate about being Christ-like in his work.

Naomi Christensen, instructor of accounting and a

colleague of Professor Bates, has been working with him for about two years. Also a Houghton graduate, she was taught by Bates. “Professor Bates has been a huge help to getting me assimilated into being a professor,” she said. “Any time I have any questions he helps me. We are really going to miss him around here, he is leaving a very big hole.” She recalled a memory from her senior class year where Bates had said, “You may be the only one in the room that represents Jesus and you should take that [honor] very seriously.”

When asked what lesson he wanted his students to remember, Bates said:

“We are all Christ’s ambassadors in this world. That means we are not citizens of this country, we are citizens of heaven. When an ambassador’s job is finished, they are called home and the fact that I am here today tells me that God has something more for me to do to influence others for His kingdom. The only reason I was able to wake up this morning is because God has something more for me to do.” ★



LILY BRUNNER

Bates, professor of business administration and chair of Houghton’s department of business and economics, will retire this May.

Sixty Houghton Scholar-Athletes Named to Empire 8 President’s List

BETHANY KUIKEN

The Empire 8 Athletic Conference named sixty Houghton College student-athletes to their President’s List for maintaining a 3.75 grade point average during the Fall 2016 semester. According to a press release on the Houghton website, student-athletes that performed with excellence in the classroom, while also displaying positive contact on and off campus, were chosen to be honored by the Empire 8.

Those honored as scholar-athletes succeed in reflecting the mission of

both Houghton College and Houghton Athletics. Harold “Skip” Lord, Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, is encouraged by their quality performance. “Houghton College aims to ‘equip [students] to lead and labor as scholar-servants in a changing world,’” said Lord. “Our athletics’ motto is ‘Excellence for the glory of God.’ In a nutshell, we want our student-athletes to excel in their walk with God, in the classroom, in athletics and in their relationships.” He continued, “These kinds of recognitions are evidence that we are succeeding at those goals.”

As a liberal arts institution, Lord said, Houghton encourages whole-person education. “The core of both ‘whole-person’ education and a ‘liberal arts’ education is the curricu-

lar content, so well communicated by our dedicated faculty. That core is enhanced by a multitude of experiences that happen outside the classroom,” Lord said. “Some of those experiences happen as we do life together. Others are intentionally designed to provide a depth of educational experience that impacts that whole person — spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially, etc. For almost a third of our student-body, athletics is a portal for those experiences in a direct way.”

A spirit of discipline and determination is required for excellence in the life of a student-athlete. Laurie Call ’18, a member of the Houghton women’s basketball team, is one of the sixty student-athletes honored by the Empire 8. Call understands the impor-

tance of a strong work ethic in the classroom and on the court. “I think being a scholar-athlete reflects commitment and dedication. It would be easy to simply ‘get by’ in the classroom, but thanks to my parents, I’ve learned the importance of giving 110% to everything I do,” she said.

Lord admires the character of all student-athletes striving for excellence for the glory of God. “I admire their dedication to excelling in multiple areas of their lives. I admire their personal discipline and work ethic that is reflected in this kind of accomplishment,” he said. “I admire the fact that for many of these student-athletes, like most of our students here at Houghton, the success recognized by this award is reflective of the people who is excel in many areas.”

According to Lord, the sixty student-athletes honored by the Empire 8 Athletic Conference President’s List reflect the hope that Houghton has for every student-athlete. “Our primary hope for every student-athlete is that they will leave Houghton with a deepening personal walk with Christ, having mastered the content of their selected area of study and prepared to make a difference in the lives of the people God brings across their path each day,” said Lord. “The student-athletes who are recognized in this way are not the only ones who are fulfilling this hope, but they are great examples of what it can look like.”★

The Responsibility of Free Speech



MICHAEL SIEVERS

GABRIELLE SHEELEY

Despite the overwhelming negativity many people have expressed towards the United States in the past few months, however justified or unjustified, we remain an extremely blessed country. One of those blessings is the right to freedom of speech. It is this right which has given us the freedom to be negative or express dissent in the first place. However, if we are to call ourselves Christians we must realize this right is

superseded by the responsibility of free speech.

There have been many exceptions to our American right throughout history, starting with the Alien and Sedition Acts at the turn of the 18th century, part of which was later revised and codified as justification for Japanese and German internment camps during World War I. The 20th century also saw heavy use of the Espionage Act against dissenters of war and other acts of foreign policy. People were prosecuted and convicted on the grounds of posing a “clear and present danger” for as little as throwing a n t i w a r pamphlets out a window. Americans are just as bold, if not even bolder in expressing their opinions today, especially with the outlet of social media. If such laws were enforced as widely today as they were then, the majority of Americans would most likely be considered criminals.

In recent decades, discussion surrounding free speech has turned to international agreements and legislation prohibiting ‘hate speech,’ which is defined as “any advocacy of national, racial, or

religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.” Despite these regulations and the success of domestic laws in other countries, the stance of the United States appears to be against such laws because of its understanding of freedom of speech. For better or for worse, the constitutionality and real-life effectiveness of hate speech laws is still up for debate.

No matter where one falls in this debate, surely something

“Instead of being inebriated with our right to freedom of speech, we should be honored by our responsibility to speech of freedom.”

must exist to uphold any personal convictions to treat each other with dignity across boundaries of race, ethnicity, religion, or gender, and to allow us to hold each other accountable for the things we say. Such a law does exist, but not in the realm of politics. It exists in the law of Christ. The whole biblical story is one of inclusion and defense of human dignity, and we should not forget that as gentiles, we all would be lost if it wasn’t. The Bible also specifically addresses how we should speak.

For example, Ephesians 4:29 says “Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” Striving to follow Christ means that our words should come from a place of love and should be used to build up each other and the Kingdom.

Perhaps we need to rethink our understanding of the phrase “free speech.” Even though it places limitations on what we can say, the Bible is all about free speech, but in the sense that words have the power to set people free. Romans 8:1-2 says “Therefore

there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.” When people cry out to the Lord, he frees them from fear, guilt, oppression, prejudice, and hate. With one word he frees them from physical and spiritual disability and tells them to get up and walk. With the Spirit of Christ in us, we have the power to do the same. Instead of being inebriated with our right to

freedom of speech, we should be honored by our responsibility to speech of freedom.

Does this mean that we forgo some of our American rights as Christians? I think it does. And I think freedom of speech is only one example. But if we consider ourselves blessed by our freedoms in the United States, how much more will we be blessed by acting for the Kingdom of God? I know that in my own life, my allegiance falls to the Kingdom first.

But I cannot speak for all Christians, and Christians certainly cannot speak for everyone in this country. Therefore, we should do our best to defend freedom of speech. Clearly there are many dangers if we don’t keep a watchful eye on its protection, and we have a lot to learn by listening to different opinions. However, we must also be careful that in defending someone’s right to freedom of speech we are not also defending hatred, discrimination, or messages that are damaging to anyone’s freedoms as a child of God.★

Gabrielle is majoring in English and international development.

The Problem With Paula Deen



MICHAEL SIEVERS

COURTNEY WALTERS

Most of us remember when Paula Deen used racial slurs and sexist comments about one of her employees of color in her restaurant in Southern Georgia. While still an issue, this overt racism is not the heart of the problem in the American discussion on race. The heart of the problem is the systematic approach that this kind of racism occurred within.

The scapegoating of one person, Paula Deen in this example, is an attempt to push the blame off of ourselves. We want to say that she is bad and

we are good. We want to distance ourselves from the actions that have occurred because we don’t think that we would have acted in that way. But really, we shouldn’t be asking why she reacted that way or why she said the things that she said. Instead, we should be asking how we, as a society, produced someone who could act and talk in that way.

So how did we? Perhaps it’s because I, and everyone I know, is racist. Let me make it clear that this is not me pointing my finger at you and casting blame. I don’t think that each and every one of us live in such a way that screams such apparent racism. Instead, this is me putting my arm around your shoulder and asking you to reflect with me on society, on the systematic racism that we live inside of.

Our society is filled with covert racism. This is subtle, and it is sophisticated. It can take the form of racially biased decisions and hidden discrimination that is deep within the fabric of our society. This prejudice is often unnoticeable on the surface or done in a passive way, then it is rationalized through explanations that our fragmented society can accept.

Drew Hart, in his book *The Trouble I’ve Seen*, comments on the way white society stigmatizes people of color. He states overt racism, like Paula Deen incident, isn’t the deep-rooted problem. The problem is we isolate incidents like this and fail to acknowledge the larger pattern running throughout society. There are patterns in the ways those in authority are suspicious of and target people of color.

“...this is me putting my arm around your shoulder and asking you to reflect with me on society, on the systematic racism that we live inside of.”

There are patterns in the tragic killing of youth of color, from before 1980 all the way up to the present. There are patterns in the way we think white youth who do drugs are “just trying it out,” but youth of color are instantly thought of to be a threat.

We need to think about the way we come into these conversations, to remember they are not used to build ourselves up and tear down others. We need to come into the dialogue with an open mind and, along with that, we need to stay aware of our biases and slowly start to rewrite

them.

Further in his book, Hart gives an example of a conversation he had with his white pastor. His pastor told Hart that the cup between them had writing on either side of it and they needed to share with each other what was written on the other to fully understand each other’s perspectives. Hart dismisses this idea saying he already knows about his pastor’s point of view

because it was all he was ever t a u g h t growing up.

Talking about our whiteness doesn’t help the privilege that comes with being white. Hart’s pastor didn’t enter into communication with an open-mind, he came in with an idea about how he could be a potential white savior to the hurt that could come with hearing Hart’s story. Then, he would tell his and try to make the playing field equal. The playing field is not equal. Until white America can move past their side of the cup, the one that is preached from every angle, and see the ways our society is hurting others in the body of Christ, we cannot move forward.

Jesus chose to be with the

minorities. He sat among people that were different from him and called us to love our neighbors as ourselves. We need to be intentional about the love and unity we build in our communities, we need to agree that black lives matter, all of them, and we need to consciously battle the subtle racism and implicit biases we have wired into our society.

Although I cannot claim to know the answer to such a loaded conversation, I do know that reconciliation is possible and that we as believers are called to a ministry of reconciliation. So go offer a seat at your table and rewrite the biases in your life.

And I urge you: love your brothers and sisters well. Listen to their side of the story, not to gain anything for yourself, but to understand that their pain is valid and their voices are worth hearing too. Then, by hearing their hurt and victories, notice the similarities and celebrate the differences.★

Courtney is a senior majoring in communication with a minor in writing.

Why Can't We Be (Just) Friends?



NATE MOORE

EMILY VANDENBOSCH

Boy and girl meet at Houghton. Boy and girl become friends and spend years together, laughing and enjoying each other's company. Boy and girl do not date or get married or fall madly in love.

Wait, what? How is that possible? This is Houghton. Couple Capital of the North East, where hopeful romantics come searching for the love of

their lives, and in special cases, even walk away with a degree.

We have all experienced the constant pressure small, Christian school culture places on students to be in a serious relationship. Think about how quickly assumptions are made when a guy and girl establish a friendship: they are constantly required to defend the innocence of their relationship and claim, "No! We are just friends." "Just friends" implying that there is something more to achieve, beyond the understanding, compassion, sacrifice, joy, sadness, and beauty present in every healthy, long-standing friendship, something that involves walking around the Quad four times, a wedding band, and lots of babies.

But, what if instead of believing that dating/marriage is the highest friendship, we starting believing that friendship is the highest form of friendship? Within the bonds of deep, genuine friendship, men and women can learn respect, honor, compassion

and forgiveness for people so different from themselves, and we can learn to want the absolute best for someone, whether they are a stranger or a partner.

Of course, I am not asking us to disregard the unique intimacy present in romantic relationship or how they provide a distinctive view into the Love of Christ. But romance is not the only context in which guys and girls can interact, and we cannot forget that.

There are two major problems that arise when we idolize romantic relationships over strong friendships.

First, those who do not desire or are unable to date often become ostracized at worst and pressured to change at best. Whenever two single people chat or have lunch, their friends start prodding and winking. It is as if being single

or not wanting to date is a curse we must overcome to reach complete humanness. But we are not made complete by the romantic addition of another human being.

We would agree that if a dating relationship exists only for physical touch and contained zero friendship, it would be rather unhealthy. So why do we consider a guy-girl friendship that does not involve physical intimacy unhealthy? Is not friendship the part that makes it so wonderful and valuable?

But the second, more problematic issue is that if we see every person of the opposite gender as a potential spouse or date, then we stop seeing him or her as a human being and lose the ability to foster positive co-ed interactions. We are afraid to grab a coffee or strike up an unexpected conversation with the opposite gender because it will look like a date. Seriously, if you saw a guy and girl eat lunch alone together twice in one week, what would you

think?

The stigma and pressure surrounding guy-girl interactions prevents us from learning more about the opposite gender. We need to learn how to understand and serve those different from us without the fear that a friendly conversation is actually a date. We need to see those around us as brothers and sisters in Christ, as people we want to demonstrate sacrificial love to. Communication and empathy are crucial to displaying Christ's Love, real, genuine, selfless love, to those around us. Besides, Jesus loves you more deeply, fully and completely than any human ever could, and you don't see him trying to go out with you.

Chivalry is not dead at Houghton. Let us hope friendship is not either.★

Emily is majoring in communication and a minor in art.



The mission of the Houghton Star is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have characterized Houghton College since its inception. This will be done by serving as a medium for the expression of student thought and as a quality publication of significant campus news, Houghton area news, and events.



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Artist of the Week

Jenny Zacchinga

//senior studio art and communication double major



MICHAEL SIEVERS

Titles & Media

clockwise descending, all watercolor & ink

Rose Arrangement

Greenhouse Study 2

Hanging Planter (1/3)

Impatiens

Queen Anne's Lace

Greenhouse Study 1

