

Volume 104, Issue 22

The Student Newspaper of Houghton College

April 18, 2008

THE HOUGHTON STAR

C.S. Lewis Scholar Louis Markos Delivers Lecture, Chapel Talks

By Kyle Vitale

Louis Markos, a guest of Houghton College's 2008 Lecture Series, delivered a stimulating talk on C.S. Lewis last Thursday night and a refreshing look at theology through classical literature in last Friday's chapel.

Thursday night's lecture took the audience on a whirlwind tour of Lewis's explicitly theological material. In the lecture, entitled "The Psychology of Sin: Wrestling With Heaven and Hell," Markos delineated Lewis's beliefs through textual examination of Lewis's *The Great Divorce*, while also referencing *The Four Loves*, *Screwtape Letters*, *Mere Christianity*, and *Miracles*.

The lecture systematically constructed the idea of Hell as "something we choose," or as a process in which the sinner becomes his or her sin, effectively leaving nothing humanly redemptive. Markos outlined three characters from *The Great Divorce* who have allowed their sins to utterly control them (a woman described as "a grumble," a painter consumed by his craft, and a mother obsessed with her deceased child). The sinners visit Heaven but are unable to appreciate or accept its open doors: Hell is thus a state of being in which the soul chooses itself over Heaven.

Markos built on this definition to explicate his own definition of the sinner: a narcissist. The narcissist sees

his/her own interests above all others, graduating from the "College of Hell" while singing the Sinatra-esque alma mater "I Did It My Way," rather than the "College of Heaven's" alma mater, "Thy Will Be Done." Satan (definition: *accuser*) convicts the narcissist of his or her sins and tells the sinner to accept the facts; thus arises anger, confusion, and the heart hardened to God's corollary to Satan's diatribes: repent and be forgiven.

The evening, however, did not end there: Markos, full of energy and thoughts, conversed with a small group of interested students and professors in Java 101 until close to midnight. The Resident Assistants of the Flats and Townhouses hosted the small event,

providing drinks for all who were interested.

Markos hit the ground running in Friday's chapel: outlines of his twenty-one point lecture were available (though Markos deliberately hit on about half of the points), and the lecture opened with Tertullian's well-known quip, "What indeed has Athens to do with Jerusalem?" Markos's lecture was titled after one of his books (*From Achilles to Christ*), and the talk was filled with references to classical literature and belief systems.

He immediately put forward two caveats: first, that the ultimate source of truth for the Christian is the person of Jesus Christ and not the Bible, which

Markos continued on page 3

Scratch Track Brings Unique "Genre-Blending" Sound to Campus

By Eric Stevenson

Those who were in the campus center last Friday night received a treat as the genre-blending band Scratch Track took the stage and introduced "partyng" to Houghton. Over 150 people witnessed what was probably the liveliest concert Houghton has ever hosted. It was, as urban populations are known to say, "off the hook." Though Jason Hamlin and DJ Lee of Scratch Track had to leave early the next morning, I was able to ask them a few questions via e-mail about their music, career, and faith:

STAR: Where and when did you guys

meet?

Jason: In the fall of 1999, we met in college down in Jackson, Tennessee at a small school called Union University.

S: Did you try to make your sound at the beginning or did it just "happen?"

DJ: No, it wasn't an intentional thing at first. It came about because we wanted to get away from the stress of homework and social stuff. We never set out to do something super different or anything. It just kind of happened.

S: Since you're constantly touring, when did you find time to write and record the new album?

DJ: We went to Europe last fall and when we got back we knew it was time to finish writing and start recording our newest material. We typically have time off during the holidays anyway so we scheduled time to record the CD in December in St. Louis. Then we mixed and mastered it in January and February in Kansas City.

S: Why is it named "The Legend of Wild Bill?" What's the meaning behind it?

J: We never try to force ideas musically. We try to groove and sing whatever feels the most natural. We had the song Wild Bill, then started looking

at the other songs we had on the CD. Parts of the record felt very dark and bluesy and rockin' and tough kind of like the old west. And a lot of the songs really could have been sung by Wild Bill. They could have been based on his life, so we just went with it.

S: The new album is quite different from your last efforts (with the electric guitars, distortion, etc.). It also seems like there is more singing and less rapping than before. What is the reason for moving in this direction?

DJ: I think there was an illusion we created in early Scratch Track that there

Interview continued on page 4

Inside
this
Issue...

Faculty Propose New
Tocqueville Institute

Page 3

VanderWeele Wins
Table Tennis Battle

Page 5

Artist of the Week:
Katie Doner

Page 8

THE WORLD OUT THERE

By the Editorial Staff

Campaign 2008 Update

Voters in Pennsylvania will go the polls on Tuesday, April 22, in the first contest held since March 4. Democratic opponents Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have been traversing the state for more than a month. Both candidates have weathered a number of political brushfires in recent weeks, as Clinton gaffed recalling a trip to Bosnia in 1996 and Obama suggested that "bitter" voters embraced guns and religion. Clinton has held her lead in polls, however, and is expected to win the contest. The candidates held their twentieth debate on Wednesday night of this week. Republican John McCain, delivered an important economic outlining a series of proposals to stimulate the struggling American economy.

Pope Embarks on First U.S. Visit

Pope Benedict XVI traveled to the United States on Tuesday for the first time since his election in 2005. The Pope, who celebrated his 81st birthday on Wednesday, is scheduled to spend several days in Washington, D.C. before traveling on to New York to address the U.N. General Assembly, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. President Bush had a private meeting with the Pope on Wednesday after an elaborate welcome ceremony at the White House that attracted over 13,000 spectators. Benedict has already used the visit to address the sex scandals that have plagued the Catholic church, admitting "deep shame" and pledging to work to right the wrongs that have been committed, urging the media industry to consider its role in encouraging "moral renewal."

Children of Polygamists In Custody

Several weeks after the raid on the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints compound in San

Angelo, Texas, more than 400 children still remain in government custody. The raid, instigated by a phone call from a distressed 16-year-old-mother who claimed to be from the compound, initially resulted in all women and children being placed in protective custody. Pending DNA testing, the children will be held in custody, before possibly being returned to their mothers; members of the compound claim that the call that led to the raid, as well as the claims of abuse, were fabricated.

Berlusconi Back In Power in Italy

Earlier this week, conservative Italian leader Silvio Berlusconi scored a significant victory in Italy's parliamentary elections. His conservative coalition, the People of Freedom party, won 37 percent of the vote, with the opposition, the Democratic party, taking 33 percent. This marks a significant shift in Italy's political system, as the last parliament had over 20 parties, compared to the recently elected six. Berlusconi has lauded the victory as a move toward a two-party system, stating that Italy is finally poised to govern like "major Western democracies." This will be the billionaire media magnate's third time serving as premier.

Appendix Removed Via Mouth

Surgeons at the University of California San Diego Medical Center this week removed a man's appendix through his mouth, the first time such a procedure had been publicly attempted. Nicknamed "cakehole surgery," the surgeons maneuvered tiny instruments including a camera down the throat of Jeff Scholz, 42, before emptying his stomach and cutting into the lining in order to remove the offending appendix. The method is attractive because of its relative ease and reduction in patient post-operative pain. Scholz was reported to have been discharged after just 17 hours. "I was eating pizza and doing sit-ups three days later," he said.

Track Teams Gains Momentum

By Luke Sanford

The Houghton College Track team posted impressive results at their home meet last Thursday. The team has had a solid season thus far, setting several school records along with a number of National Championship qualifying times. On Thursday afternoon the Highlanders brought that same form to the track breaking seven school records and qualifying two more for the National Championships later this spring.

Houghton hosted the meet that included Alfred State, Erie Community College, Finger Lakes Community College and Roberts Wesleyan College. Houghton's women won the meet while the men took second place on the day.

Houghton's record setters included Naomi Christensen, who broke her second record in as many weeks, and Kaitlin Fadden, who marked her third school record of the outdoor season. Christensen's 100M time of 12.88 set a new record, while Fadden set a new half-marathon record time with a 1:12:52.4. Fadden's time not only broke a school record, but also qualified her for the NAIA national championship meet later this spring.

Jacob Connor, Mike Platt, and Joe Campagna also competed in the half marathon with successful times. Connor broke his year-old record by more than a minute with a time of 1:14:12.9 automatically qualifying him for the NAIA national championship meet. Platt (1:15:47.9) and Campagna (1:16:17.8) ran times good enough for provisional qualification to the national championship meet.

The Highlander's relay teams also posted impressive times. The women's 4 x 100M, the men's distance medley relay (DMR) and both men's and women's 1600 sprint medley relay (SMR) teams all set school records.

The women's 4 x 100M record was set by Shonelle Trotman, Bethany Christensen, Sarah Whipple and Naomi Christensen as they ran a time of 50.96 breaking the two year old record of 51.11

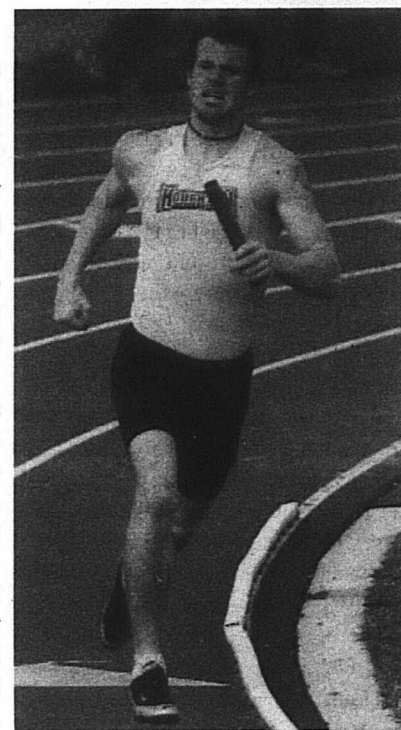


Photo by Doug Roorbach

Josiah Snelgrove competes in the 1600M.

set by a team that included Christensen and Whipple.

The women's 1600M SMR team of Darby Emerson, Kaitlin Smith and both Christensen sisters cruised to a 4:19.22 destroying a ten-year-old record.

The Highlander men held their own as Steve Scott, Johnny Kimani, Dan Ballard and Josiah Snelgrove carried their indoor form outside and placed a 3:38.49 in the 1600M SMR knocking down a 4:01.1 time set ten years ago. The same team of men posted a DMR record of 10:35.96 clipping the 12 year old record of 10:45.17.

The Highlander runners carried their performance to Slippery Rock, PA. Despite cold and rainy weather, the Highlanders set 13 personal records.

Both teams have the American Midwest Conference Championships coming up on April 18-19. They then run at home followed by a meet at Allegany College before qualifiers for the National Championships go to Saint Louis MO for the NAIA National Championships.



Proposed Tocqueville Institute To Bolster Humanities, Social Sciences

By Rebekah Miller

Earlier this semester, a group of faculty submitted a proposal to the Academic Policies Council (APC) that would establish a new humanities-oriented institute to function alongside the traditional Houghton curriculum. The Tocqueville Institute at Houghton College, named after French social science pioneer Alexis de Tocqueville, would seek to integrate the humanities and social sciences in much the same way that Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* married the humanistic and social scientific approaches in the nineteenth century. The proposal is set to be discussed by APC, and, if approved, will be submitted to the faculty for consideration.

The Institute would seek to develop the humanities and social sciences at Houghton in much the same way of recent developments in other departments, such as the new Masters of Education program and the growth of the Intercultural Studies major. The proposal cites Houghton's "solid foundation upon which to build" and looks to strengthen interdisciplinary

academic work that takes place between the humanities and the social sciences. Professor Ron Oakerson, one of the faculty members involved in the creation of the proposal, emphasized that the Institute was formulated as an "effort to build on some strengths that we have, and [to] pursue advanced opportunities."

Professor Peter Meilaender also noted that the Institute could assist ongoing discussions of revisions to the Integrative Studies curriculum. Regardless of what happens to the required number of humanities courses in the final I.S. revision, the Tocqueville Institute, he suggested, would be one means by which the humanities at Houghton could be bolstered. "The Institute is intended both to strengthen our majors in the humanities and social sciences, and also to bring a number of important benefits to the college as a whole," he said. These might include "various academic or intellectual happenings (lectures, discussion groups, etc), broadened public reputation, awareness of the college among other audiences, and fundraising, etc."

While the proposal maintains that the

Institute will be relatively easy and cost-effective to set up, it has high hopes for future growth. Given time, the Institute would aim to establish an annual lecture series, a summer conference series, and even to provide benefits for non-undergraduates including a post-doctoral fellowship and a Senior Scholar in Residence. As the proposal makes clear, "Ambition is part of the point."

Oakerson acknowledged that the proposal is "unlike anything we've ever done," and indicated that the lack of precedent may stand in the way of its approval by APC. Regardless, he has high hopes for the potential effects the Institute may have on recruitment. Not only will the program introduce prospective students to professors that they may not otherwise come in contact with, it will also accentuate the pre-law program, which, according to Oakerson, attracts few students each year—despite the fact that graduates from Houghton's program are generally successful. In addition, the proposal indicates that the Institute may help Houghton to attract more male students.

Yet these potential benefits should

be seen for what they are — side effects of an Institute whose primary goal, according to Oakerson, is "to create a coherent learning community of faculty and students that crosses established boundaries and fosters intellectual discussion." Best of all, Meilaender added, the Institute would produce tangible benefits for the rest of the Houghton community. Students engaged in the Institute's curriculum would move into their academic majors as they progressed through Houghton, and many of the Institute's events and functions would be open to the entire Houghton community.

With the recent switch to a four credit hour system, the Institution will fit nicely into student schedules, as the proposal calls for participation in the Institution to free students from the requirement of a minor. Roughly 30 students who would participate each year in the classes, lectures and seminars offered by the participating faculty, community members, and guests. The Institute would not be its own major, but would instead aim to feed into and bolster other majors.

• Markos continued from page 1

points to Christ. Second, that the Bible is not itself an encyclopedia, and does not necessarily provide *everything we need to know*.

Markos then launched into an extensive explanation of why Christians should read the pagan classics. Markos constantly stressed that Christianity was not the only truth of God, but was rather the only complete truth

Markos stressed that Christianity was not the only truth of God, but rather the only complete truth of God.

of God available on earth, a kind of abstract from Justin Martyr's theology that the truths expounded previous to Christ in part pointed to Him. Bits and pieces of the Christian truth exist in cultures all over the world (for instance, most mythologies record a dying god's rebirth to life), and Markos described

pagan literature as "the yearnings of people for the truth."

The Bible, as Markos treated it, quite obviously serves as useful a viable historical artifact as other extant texts, and Markos utilized the story of the

Biblical three wise men to support his claims. He pointed out that, as some scholars believe the wise men to have been of Zoroastrian

geographical descent, they more than likely had little contact with Hebrew scriptures. Consequently, the star that led them to Christ was not a comet or phenomenon for all to see, but rather a tool of the wise men, in their own wisdom and insights, to be guided ultimately to Christ themselves. The same can be said for the Ethiopian

eunuch of Acts, Cornelius the God-loving Gentile, and the Unknown God of Athens from Acts. Through these cultural representations, God worked in His truths, truths that reveal portions of His Truth and lead ultimately to the reality of Christ Jesus.

Markos concluded his chapel lecture with some thoughts on Lewis. Returning again to the idea of world mythologies as portions of ultimate truth, Markos described the conversion experience of C.S. Lewis. He narrated Lewis's struggle with Christianity as just one more dying god myth 'like all the rest,' and J.R.R. Tolkien's suggestion to Lewis that perhaps Christ was not just one more mythology, but rather the fulfillment and base of all other world mythologies. From thence came Lewis's salvation and his remarks on three of the main witnesses to God still

in the world: the Jewish peoples, the conscience of all men, and "the good dreams of all the pagans," ultimately fulfilled in Christ Jesus.

Markos, professor of English at Houston Baptist University, is the author of several books, including *Lewis Agonistes: How C.S. Lewis Can Train Us to Wrestle with the Modern and the Postmodern World* (from which Thursday night's lecture was adapted), and *From Achilles to Christ* (the subject of Friday's chapel). Markos also has a series of lectures in the Houghton Library entitled "From Plato to Postmodernism: Understanding the Essence of Literature & the Role of the Author." Markos has given lectures throughout the United States as well as in Oxford, England, and has particular interests in C.S. Lewis, classical literature, and Dante.



Shakespeare Players to Perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

By Laura Jackson

Student-directed Shakespeare is a tradition here at Houghton, and this semester's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* promises to live up to the expectations of a campus accustomed to excellence in playacting.

When asked for a summary of *Midsummer*, Johanna Schilling (Francis Flute) explained that it incorporates three interconnected plotlines. "There are several star-crossed lovers, a fairy kingdom facing trouble, and a set of amateur actors attempting to get a play ready for production – all at the same time!"

Molly Wilson, co-directing the play with Steve Libick, said she wanted to bring *Midsummer* to Houghton's stage because she considers it the

"most poetic and most intriguing" of Shakespeare's plays. The size of the cast meant a lot of people – new actors as well as veterans – could participate, while the depth of each plotline allowed for individual creativity.

Sally Murphy has relished the chance to work with the Shakespeare Players this semester. As a longtime resident of the Houghton area, she has seen a lot of college productions, but Shakespeare really grabbed her attention because "the actors always seemed to have fun during the shows. Now that I'm in the Shakespeare Players, I've begun to understand why I saw this chemistry while growing up."

Sharon Lampman (Peter Quince) has also enjoyed "the closeness of the group and the feeling of community." In addition to generating a good

working environment, the group's easy familiarity carries over to the stage. This aspect is particularly helpful since the entire cast didn't rehearse together until the week before the show. "Over the past few days I've gotten to see the rest of the play at dress rehearsals," Sharon said, "and it's amazing to see how everything fits together."

As with all shows, many people crucial to the production never feel the heat of the lights. Zachary Garber, *Midsummer*'s technical director, has also grown through his experiences with the cast and crew. "Being a tech director is kind of like being God," he said with a smile. "You say 'let there be light' and there's light, or 'let there be bushes' and they spring up out of the ground."

Sally concluded, "This play has

certainly been an adventure...I have watched people grow as actors, beginning to understand what it means to play in a different reality. But I have also watched people grow [as people], beginning to understand what it means to be a part of something a little bigger than themselves."

Nichollette Sample, who attended Wednesday night's dress rehearsal, thinks the Players have done justice to *Midsummer*. "It's a dynamic cast and the wit of Shakespeare is sure to come through," she said. "Go see it!"

The Shakespeare Players will present *A Midsummer Night's Dream* tonight and tomorrow at 7 pm in Houghton Academy's Tysinger Auditorium. Tickets will be available at the door for \$5.

Interview cont. from page 1

was a lot of rapping in songs. We've kind of always been more about writing songs and being more of alternative/rockin' kind of band than being a hip hop thing. I don't think it was an intention move, I just think again, based upon the grooves and melodies and what not, we just try to write what comes out the most naturally. We've always wanted to expand the sonic levels of our recordings and our live sound. Jason playing several different types of guitars is most definitely part of the equation. Harmonica and/or bells just need to be played when a part permits. Plus we knew we wanted and needed our recorded sound to be bigger; to feel fuller and thicker.

S: What's the most messed up thing that's happened to you guys on tour?

J: We were on our way to Indiana from Kansas City and got to St. Louis, and started hearing weird noises coming out of the rear tires of our van. Mind



Photo by Jimmy Dutton

Scratch Track grooved and mesmerized an energetic crowd.

you, we had just gotten it out of the shop. Anyway as we were on our way to a dealership to get the van looked at, I look out the review mirror and say, "We just LOST A WHEEL!!" and our left rear tire and axle were flying off of our van while we were doing 55 down

the interstate. Thank God it didn't hurt anyone and we were okay. But yeah, totally a jacked up situation. Totally.

S: How is your faith integrated into your music?

DJ: I think one's faith is or at least should be integrated in all aspects of one's life. I think for us, we want to be the best we can be as a band and as individuals. I don't think you can do something like writing songs and performing them and not have your faith show in some form or fashion. In matters of the heart or art, one's true colors show.

S: Is there a specific reason you avoid the "Christian Music" label?

DJ: We really shy away from labels because we feel like our music is for everyone. We try to write songs that everyone from all walks of life can get down with.

J: We don't want to alienate anyone or use hidden lingo that only certain people would understand. We're artists. We want everyone who's willing to listen to be able to.

S: Out of all your songs, what's each of your favorite Scratch Track song?

DJ: My favorite song ever is probably "Stick" from our Interpretation of the Afterwards EP.

J: "One of Those Days," because I get to turn it up loud. Real loud!

S: Joel VanderWeele, attendee of the show, would like to know what you guys each listen to in your free time these days?

DJ: Oh my goodness, the list is way too long! But regulars for me are Michael Jackson, the Roots, Ray Lamontagne, Damien Rice, and Wyclef.

J: I'm listening to a lot of stuff you probably wouldn't recognize, but I love Johnny Cash, Kings of Leon, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, and Tom Waits. I love so much music!



Beating Odds, Sophomore Storms To Table Tennis Triumph

From the Editorial Staff

After thirteen rounds of sensational table tennis, sophomore Joel VanderWeele romped to victory in the First Annual Houghton Star Table Tennis Invitational Tournament (FAHSTTIT). Twenty competitors began the tournament with high hopes, but for most, defeat was swift and painful. Competition was stiff from the start and reputations were made and lost on the surface of the table. The delicate balance of penetrating offense and rigid defense made the tournament a spectator's dream, and small crowds frequently gathered to watch the action throughout the competition.

Almost eighty percent of all matches needed three games to determine a victor, and as such, the full spectrum of human emotion was often on display. Jessica Stoddard shared, "Watching Kurt [Aiken]'s come-from-behind victory against Rhett [Kenny] moved me in a very deep and meaningful way." Stoddard also worked as VanderWeele's trainer and manager throughout the tournament. "I'm so pleased that our hard work paid off in the end," she said. "Dreams really do come true."

VanderWeele entered the tournament as one of the favorites. The surprise of the tournament, however, was the play of Dan Brubaker, who stormed into the final after defeating heavily-favored Ben

Tsujimoto and Aikens. With a stunning serve-and-volley style complimented by a vicious backhand, Brubaker fell just short in the final match, losing to VanderWeele 23-21, 21-15. "Brubaker was sensational," said fan favorite Ryan Johnson. "I knew he was great on the soccer field, but I never imagined he was so graceful on the table tennis table."

Aikens, who finished third in the tournament, received similar praise. "He has flawless form," commented VanderWeele. "The most impressive thing about Kurt," said fellow tournament participant Jason Fisher, "is his footwork. His tennis background really carries over quite well to his ping pong game." Fisher suffered an early round exit from the tournament due to injury. "Playing with a broken right hand really hindered my abilities," he admitted. "I tried playing with my left hand, and while it was far less painful, it was slightly more embarrassing."

Easily the biggest disappointment of the FAHSTTIT was the play of *Star* editor-in-chief William Airhart, one of the pre-tournament favorites. After a strong first round victory over freshman Andrew Oden, Airhart lost to Aikens in three tight games before bowing out to Johnson 25-23 in the third match. "Will's game with Kurt was one of the best that I've ever seen," said VanderWeele. "I want to stress that

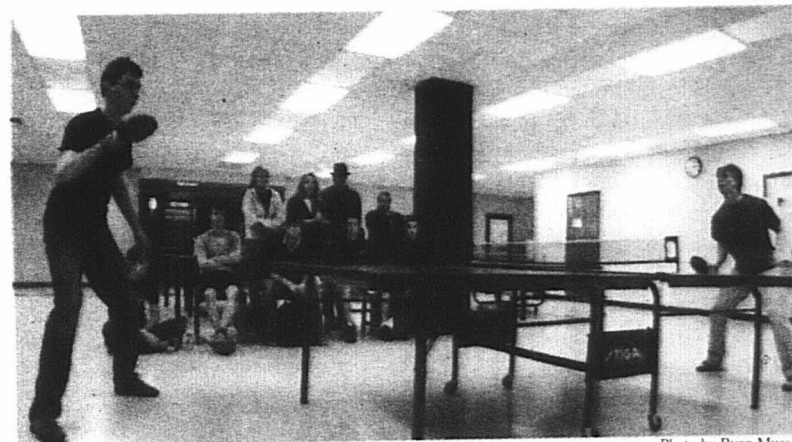


Photo by Ryan Musser

VanderWeele was victorious over Brubaker in what proved to be an epic final match.

over three matches, he scored more total points than Kurt, despite losing two of three games." Johnson offered similar sentiments. "Frankly, I'm stunned that I beat Will in a best-of-three series. Will is a much better ping pong player than I am."

In an exclusive interview with the *Star* staff, Airhart revealed that he had attempted to use the early round matches to break in a new paddle he had purchased less than 24 hours before the tournament began. "My old paddle was accidentally shattered the night before my first game," he divulged. Airhart considered dropping out of the tournament, but was encouraged to trudge on by volley partner Eric Stevenson. "I've known Will for a long time, so I knew exactly how to bring him out of a shame spiral," he said. Despite the goodwill, Stevenson flared out of the tournament in his third match, though he did manage to register a convincing victory in the first round of play.

Next year's FAHSTTIT is already in the planning stages. Junior Katarina Kieffer will serve as next year's *Star* editor-in-chief. "I'm thrilled that the tournament was such a success, though I didn't have much to do with it this year," she said. Kieffer declined an invitation to this year's tournament, but emphasized how proud she was that a member of the *Star* staff had won. "We'll have to defend the title in next

year's tournament," she confidently stated. "Maybe I'll even participate." Nearby, VanderWeele laughed. "I can't wait," he said.

Jordan Smith, whose tournament participation lasted fewer than forty minutes, won the prestigious "Stank" award for finishing in last place. "I struggled to find my rhythm against my opponents," he admitted. "It's disappointing. I'm looking forward to participating in next year's tournament, though." Tournament organizers stressed afterwards that, because of his poor performance, Smith would not be invited to next year's event.

Although the tournament press releases advertised "one heckuva prize," some people were less than impressed. Brubaker took home a DVD copy of the film *Balls of Fury* for his second place finish. "That has to be one of the poorer films of the century," pointed out Fisher. "Really," he went on, "it's right up there with *Gigli* and that movie that Guy Ritchie directed with Madonna." Aikens, however, walked away with a gift certificate to Java 101, and VanderWeele received a trophy plaque and a significant gift certificate to Red Robin. Airhart defended the *Star*'s choice of prizes. "Do you know how much Bottomless Freckled Lemonade a \$25 certificate will buy?" he asked. "An infinite amount, that's how much."

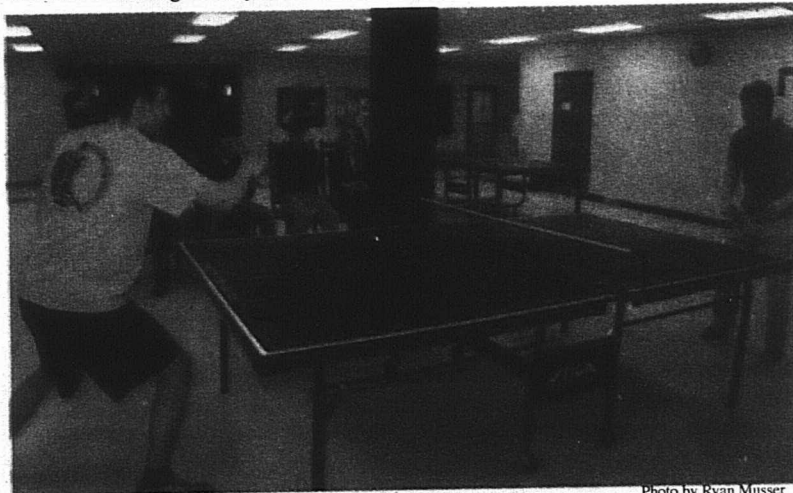


Photo by Ryan Musser

Kurt Aikens (left) fell just short of reaching the final of the FAHSTTIT.



Dear Editors:

Upon reading about the announcement of the new bridge to be built from the Library to the Chapel in the most recent STAR, I was profoundly disappointed in Houghton's flippant use of funds. In fact, I am irate! For two years, I suggested building a catacomb or waterslide from Shen to the Campus Center. However, now that I am in a townhouse, I don't think that would benefit me most.

Therefore, I now suggest that a much more efficient and wise use of our tuition's money would be to build a zip line extending from the top floor of the Chamber to the FaTS. Or perhaps even better of an idea: we should intensely focus our money on funding the Paine Building in their research to develop teleportation. That would be much more valuable than a bridge from the Library to the Chapel. I hope that the Bridge Community reconsiders the allocation of our valuable tuition money...

Ryan Musser, Class of 2009

Dear Editors:

A few times this year, you've published articles that relate to the ROTC program here at Houghton. Ever wonder if you could do the things that the ROTC cadets go through on a regular basis? Well, that time has come. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 29, and you can make yourself (or a team of your friends) known. Compete against ROTC cadets! Events include a wiffleball tournament, push-up competition (against cadets Dave Allen and Rebekah Pember), and an MRE eating competition. The location will be on the quad, and it will start right after lunch at 12:30.

Just think about it: classes are coming to an end, exams are the following week, and the sun will be shining down on you. First off is the push-up. Let's be honest with ourselves, people: everybody wants to be involved in a push-up competition at some point in their

lives. This is the perfect opportunity. As for the MRE competition, ladies, you have got to see these MREs (Meals Ready-to-Eat). Even if you think you have stellar cooking skills, they will be tested with these meals. Finally, there is my personal favorite, wiffleball. I am going to be honest: the ROTC team will be tough to take down. But why not come on out, soak in the great weather, and have a great time of community with fellow students while competing in some friendly competition.

Zachary Wise, Class of 2011

Dear Editors:

I appreciated Jason Fisher's editorial on indie rock as a phenomenon. Although I occasionally enjoy the melodious strains of Sufjan Stevens and the raucous frenzy of Arctic Monkeys, most of my knowledge of indie rock comes from borrowing my dad's copies of Paste magazine, and thus although I have heard of artists like Vampire Weekend and Jets to Brazil, I have not actually heard their music.

I graduated from a large public high school only slightly more diverse than Houghton. Most of the kids that I knew in high school listened to top 40 and were fans of bands like Avenged Sevenfold and Fall Out Boy. Thus, coming to college and discovering that many people listened to bands not signed to major labels was a great shock for me.

Although several people have put forth their best efforts to make me a devotee of the indie-rock genre, I will probably not convert any time soon. I firmly believe that songs like "Umbrella" are popular because they are good – they have catchy melodies and are relatable. Thus, while indie-rock enthusiasts enjoy the musical pioneering of the Arcade Fire, I will be quite happy to do my studying to a soundtrack of Jack Johnson and the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Naomi Wilson, Class of 2010

Dear Editors:

I found Jason Fisher's article "Glamorous Indie Rock 'n' Roll" to be quite insightful, and frankly, it needed to be said. Now, I consider myself to be connoisseur of obscure music, and I've had many conversations about what is considered "indie" music. It's annoying that classically trained harpists like Joanna Newsom and garage-band rockers Pavement are in the same genre. Besides the basic elements of music (tempo, pitches, etc.), there is nothing similar between them.

I have searched many lengths to find great music that isn't considered "mainstream." While I still enjoy the musical stylings of the Foo Fighters and U2 (who I would consider mainstream), I enjoy listening to bands that only myself and a few others know about. But, like some people, I do *not* listen to bands simply because they're considered "indie." I've known these people. These are the people that Mr. Fisher talks about who roll their eyes and tell the rest of us we don't "get it." These are possibly the most annoying people to talk to about music. They'll recommend bands that are very obscure, and then I'll find out why they're obscure: they're rubbish. They'll linger around online message boards, saying things like "(insert band) is a complex mélange of larksome keyboards, swirling guitars, hypnotic vocals and a tinge of dark psychedelic throughout." Then you take a gander and it turns out that Radiohead has been plagiarized again, and you've lost 15 minutes of your life.

But I digress. I do think that the label "indie" should be retired, but only from describing the actual music. I will say that I agree with describing music as "indie" on technically on independent labels, but really they should only describe bands that *are* completely independent.

As it is now, though, the "indie" label is stiffling poor.

Eric Stevenson, Class of 2008

Dear Editors:

I was reading the latest issue of the STAR this past Friday afternoon when I noticed the article entitled "Glamorous Indie Rock and Roll", whose basic premise was that "the preferred genre of music here at Houghton is known as Indie Rock." I would be so bold as to put forth the theory that Houghton's preferred music genre is not indie rock, but rather hip hop and rap, specifically the types known as Southern Rap, Crunk, Snap, or Ringtone Rap.

My evidence for this lies with the overwhelming popularity of one particular song on campus. The song in question has quickly spread across the U.S., leaving a veritable epidemic of head-bobbing and dancing in its wake. It was the number one song in the country for 10 straight weeks this year. It is the best selling digital download of all time. It is everywhere I go – written on dry-erase boards in the dorm, sung spontaneously in the cafeteria, residing comfortably on Facebook profiles. I speak, of course, of none other than Flo Rida's "Low." I guarantee that if one stood in the middle of a crowd of Houghton students and yelled out the lyric, "Boots with the fur! (With the fur!)", 95% of the assembled students would immediately respond with the next line of the song. Readers are no doubt finishing it in their heads right now.

Sure, Houghtonites may have indie rock on their computers for rainy day listening or use in away messages, but they turn to Flo Rida, Soulja Boy, Fergie, and all their friends when it's time to have fun. The repeated chanting of words such as "Ay Bay Bay" evidently does wonders for reducing student stress that indie rock cannot duplicate.

Ariel Matthews, Class of 2008

**Want to advertise in
the STAR next year?
Please e-mail inquiries to
STAR@houghton.edu**



2007-2008 STAR Staff

Editor-in-Chief
William Airhart

Business Manager
Laura Thompson

Associate Editor
Katarina Kieffer

Re-write Staff
Laura Jackson
Ailie Kilpatrick
Joel VanderWeele
Micah Warf

Editors
Timothy Bastedo
Margaret Boecker
Jason Fisher

Advisor
Prof. Ben Lipscomb

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

Names may be withheld upon request.

HOUGHTON'S FIRST

HOEDOWN

Saturday, April 19

ON THE QUAD

8:30-10:30 PM (weather permitting)

FOOD & GAMES

OPEN COMMUNITY EVENT FOR

STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF

RAIN LOCATION: GYM BROUGHT TO YOU BY

DANCE

Square dancing with a caller and live bluegrass!
FOOD • MUSIC • DANCING • GIVE-A-WAYS
Free mechanical bull rides...if you dare!
TOMORROW ON THE QUAD
8:30PM-10:30PM

From the Editors' Desk...

On Being Nothing

By Timothy Bastedo

We are here.

We are your friends, your peers, your neighbors, even...your teachers? We cook your meals, we pass you on the sidewalks on campus, and we speak up in your theology class. We look like you, and may act like you, but we do not think like you. We are different; we are in the know. We are blessed, we are free. We rule ourselves, and it saves us. We are destroying your world, and you should thank us for it.

We look on the same world that you do, but from a different angle. We readily acknowledge God's role in the world. We readily acknowledge his role in our lives; in fact, we charge you with not recognizing God's role in your life. We charge you with conflating your own role in salvation with God's. And in arguing that we have nothing to do with our salvation, we set ourselves free.

We are resolved that for a Christian to live in whatever manner she wishes is not an incoherent thought. For it is in living as we will that we affirm our salvation. We reject your rules; your structure suffocates our faith. We reject your concept of a Christian life, and embrace the concept of grace. We argue that we can do as we please, and that this will not affect our Christianity. We live a double life, one in which we are eternally saved, and another in which we temporally abandon ourselves to whatever we wish. We are not under the law; we have been set free by a man on a cross with a bomb, a bomb placed under the foundations of your faith, the shockwave of which we will ride to heaven.

We are not a certain sort of people; we are everyone and no one. But we are convinced that we are set free from obligation, that in the death of grace our lives are simultaneously resurrected and restored to us in full to live as we see fit. We extend ourselves into all manner of practices as our insides disintegrate, since we rest confidently assured that it is not ourselves with which we must be

concerned; that is the task of another, the man on the cross. We reject your language of "better" and "worse" Christians. We are Christian or not-Christian; we may not draw closer or farther from God. We read the world in binary, and burn your gradations in a heap.

We are not wrong. We are just skewed. We mistake the half for the whole, and in doing so legitimate any number of practices which poison our Christian life. We have rejected those who would tell us what to do on the grounds that our Christianity is not a way of life, but a final solution. We are not wrong. But we are not right either.

We are good people. We are talented, intelligent, and socially active. We are prepared to make a difference and to fight for change. And we do it not out of compulsion, but out of love. We are the fulfillment of the past which has brought us to the present, and yet in embracing the present we have forgotten the importance of the past. We have forgotten that those things which we did in the past because compelled, which kept us from evil when we would (and could) not keep ourselves from it, are still required of us, though our proper motivation for their fulfillment no longer stems from compulsion. We are above the law, for we do not follow it as the law. We are no longer compelled to be its subjects. But though we are not compelled to be its subjects, we subject ourselves to the stipulations of the law out of love, not so that we might be saved, but *because* we are saved. But we do not recognize this.

We are not saved by following your rules, and are therefore not subject to their content in any way, shape or form. We are right in the first, not in the second. We are "*non sequitur*" at its most disruptive.

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



featured artwork

KATIE DONER



Wana, photograph

Katie is a senior Art and Intercultural Studies major with concentrations in Photography and Development.



Bisach Water Project, photograph

Note From the Artist:

It is true that photography captures a view of people that they can never have. We cannot help but see people in ways that they cannot see themselves. And when we record each other—on video, on film, on paper, we do possess them in a way. Knowing this has given me a conviction to act responsibly in the way that I portray people through photographs. Faces. Stories. Connectivity. These are the elements behind the images I make. Whether I am traveling with my camera or sitting down with someone in the studio, I am exploring their narratives, their personalities, their ways of relating. I am connecting. There are times when, in a search for a beautiful face or compelling atmosphere, we miss out on valuable observations or worse yet, relationships. I believe that it is far better to choose to confront the reality of the situations in which we find ourselves rather than merely document them from an outsider perspective.

This week's crossword is by Brad Wilber, the acting director of the Willard J. Houghton Library. His crossword puzzles appear regularly in the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times. Note: All longer entries are notable people who were born on this date (Apr. 18).

ACROSS

1. Ellipsis parts
5. P.D.Q. in the E.R.
9. Up
14. Golf bag item
15. Texas city once on the Chisholm Trail
16. Amtrak's Northeast Corridor bullet train
17. Major story
18. ___ mater
19. "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" source
20. Legal giant born Apr. 18, 1857
23. Have a one-track mind
24. Word div
25. Goblet part
27. Meatless, informally
32. Equip
35. Child-star born Apr. 18, 1946
38. Fume
40. Hard to explain
41. [Uh oh!]
42. TV redhead born Apr. 18, 1963
47. AGL alternative
48. Winter sports garment resembling overalls
49. Trim, in a way
51. Quirky habits
54. Animated film featuring Ray Romano
58. Alleged femme fatale born Apr. 18, 1480
62. Java flavoring
63. Business letter abbr.
64. Double-decker checker
65. Gaudy success

66. Actress Blanchett
67. Name-dropper's list ender
68. Macbeth or Banquo, e.g.
69. Leak sound
70. Emit intense light

DOWN

1. "I Love the Night Life" genre
2. Pulsar toothbrush maker
3. Frat party attire
4. Entangles
5. Welsh port where Dylan Thomas was born
6. Changing table cloud
7. Highest points
8. Sycophant
9. Dutch city famous for tulip exporting
10. Taiwanese company that acquired Gateway in 2007
11. Cancun coin
12. Oxen's burden
13. Piehole
21. Book after Neh.
22. Woody's role in "Annie Hall"
26. Ann Landers initialism
28. Band engagement
29. Down in the mouth
30. Pandora's boxful
31. "NASCAR Now" airer
32. Rudiments
33. Swindle
34. Marcia Brady fashion statement, often
36. One in front: abbr.
37. Falco of "The Sopranos"
39. "Chocolate" pet
43. Organic fertilizer component
44. Theater award since 1956
45. Caterer's responsibility
46. "Lipstick Jungle" lady
50. "The Good War" Pulitzer winner
52. Slavic language
53. Exodus locale
55. Gut feeling?
56. Lollobrigida and Gershon
57. Bird on the Great Seal
58. Water feature on a Highlands map
59. Sch. Where John Wooden coached
60. "The Shanghai Cobra" sleuth
61. Doesn't sit idle
62. Ran into

CROSSWORD Challenge

