

The Star

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Shirley Mullen, PhD For President

This past weekend (January 22-23) we were visited by our third presidential candidate, Shirley Mullen, PhD. Along with faculty and staff forums, she made her final appearance in a student and community member forum, proving her endurance as she handled some difficult questions from students with grace and gentleness. As the first female candidate for presidency at Houghton Collège, she was able to show her professionalism and experience as both an administrator and as an educator at the college level. Her concern, as she repeated to the students, is that Houghton is able to "find the right person" for both the candidate and the college.

"I believe in Houghton College," she said, and continuously stressed the importance of Houghton being "faithful to that calling" of being a Christian institution of higher



Shirley Mullen is presently the Provost at Westmont College, and visited Houghton as a presidential candidate last week.

education. While still seeming apprehensive about her decision, she told students that "helping to explain [Christian higher education] is what I believe I'm called to do," both to the community and to the world outside of it.

When asked about the goal of Houghton becoming a top tier institution, Mullen replied,

"Whether that's a worthy goal for Houghton would depend on whether in pursuing that goal it could be faithful to the goal that's at Houghton." She continued: "The real question is, what is God calling us to be as an institution?" The theme of faithfulness was accompanied by that of stewardship. "Stewardship is the key word here," she said. "Can anyone tell me what it means to be a steward?" she asked, gracefully revealing herself as a teacher at heart. Her genuine interest in Houghton taking care of its continued call as a Christian college was persistent.

Students asked the candidate questions related to all aspects of the college, including the goals of Houghton as a college, her thoughts on Houghton as a Wesleyan institution made up of a conglomeration of students and faculty
(cont'd on p. 5)



Houghton To Cut JV Sports In Fall 2006

Students returned two weeks ago to a campus in the midst of many changes. Aside from not having snow in the middle of January and the yellow caution tape that has replaced our chapel steps, the Houghton College board and administration made a decision to cut all Junior Varsity Athletic Programs.

The buzz around campus resembles a "sports...how dare they?" attitude. However, the unexpected and seemingly rash decision is not unwarranted. For many years Houghton has been categorized as a small, liberal arts Christian college. We embrace this label but we learn that growth is often inevitable and in this case welcomed.

Administrators would like to increase the current enrollment to 1400 students. They are undertaking a valiant effort to secure the long-term status of Houghton College by increasing enrollment and strengthening its academics. In order to give these goals an adequate chance at success, decisions have been made to re-route money from the athletic department into this effort. The conclusion that was found to be in the best interest of Houghton is that of cutting the JV programs.

Athletic Director Skip Lord commented on the decision, "As we thought about how to free up budget in the Athletic Department to help with these 'Big Picture' institutional goals while continuing to serve at least the same number of students, we came up with the plan to drop the JV program." The administration hopes to convey that this move was one that had the long-term goals of Houghton College in mind and the temporary blow to the athletic department was done with consideration for the

well being of all the students.

Students and athletes alike recognize this effort but some are not as convinced that the reallocation of funds from JV athletics will actually aid the goals stated above. Jess Aeppeli, student-athlete on both the JV Women's Soccer Team and the JV Women's Basketball Team expressed her opinion, "Increased enrollment is a good thing, but I think that sports draw people here." Many others fail to see how adding more members to varsity teams will save money in the long run. It is far more expensive for a varsity player to put on a uniform and board the bus for away games than it is for a JV player to do the same.

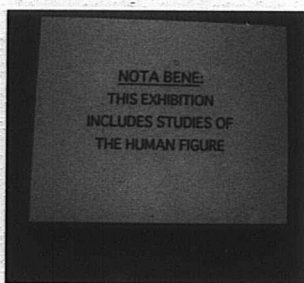
The athletic department is acknowledging the fact that many of their athletes have now fallen into a gap. The gap is that of students who do not desire the time commitment, nor the competitive edge of the varsity level; but want to be part of a more competitive and skilled game than intramurals offers.

(cont'd on p. 6)

Nota Bene: Naked or Nude?

"To be naked is to be deprived of our clothes, and the word implies some of the embarrassments most of us feel in that condition. The word 'nude,' on the other hand, carries, in educated usage, no uncomfortable overtone. The vague image it projects into the mind is not of a huddled and defenseless body, but of a balanced, prosperous, and confident body: the body re-formed."

-Sir Kenneth Clark, The Nude: A Study in Ideal



The Houghton College Ortlip Art Gallery features "Seeing a Life – a Retrospective in Oils" by Thomas Buechner, from January 12 through February 15. Buechner, a long time friend of Houghton College, is primarily a figure/portrait painter whose work has been displayed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the National Museum of American Art.

In mid-December, professors Ted Murphy and Jillian Sokso visited Buechner's studio and reviewed his impressive vision for the show. Of the 159 pieces selected to represent his life's work, two nude paintings were included. Considering Buechner's reputation for serious work, it did not occur to Sokso that the nudes would be "a problem – they were simple studies." However, because of standing tradition, the department contacted the administration about the two pieces in question. Two days before the opening, a meeting was scheduled, including Dean Oakerson, art department chair John Rhett, Professors Murphy and Sokso, and Buechner's studio assistant, Houghton graduate Beth Lees. After viewing the work, Dean Oakerson asked the department to consider removing the nude pieces from the show. Dean Oakerson was informed of the vision of the show, the nature of the retrospective, and the importance of the pieces in showing the technique of Buechner as a figurative painter and later discussed the matter with Vice Presidents Wayne Macbeth and Eric Alcott to reach a conclusion. In an interview

with the STAR, Macbeth commented that the administration has always been cautious about work that may be offensive to view at Houghton College. Yet while "the figures in question were not particularly erotic or suggestive to be considered troublesome," he said, "considering the many wonderful pieces in the show... it wouldn't have damaged the wonderful diverse viewpoint we have of [Buechner's] work" if those pieces were removed from the show. Although Oakerson, Macbeth, and Alcott were agreed on this point, they decided to leave the show as it was, considering the short time frame and the obvious fact that the paintings have no intent to disturb.

There is no official written policy that outlines the kind of art that is appropriate for display at Houghton, but precedent has provided guidance on the matter. According to Professor Rhett, the "[Art] department has tried to err on the side of caution." VP Macbeth commented that if there isn't a policy, it should be developed, most likely by the art department in conjunction with the academic dean.

While the art department was pleased by the administrative decision on this particular matter, a bigger issue lies at stake. Professor Rhett considers the body in art as "not different from the topical concerns of any other discipline in the college... If it is a subject that people have concerns about, the Christian college is the best place to talk about it." Rhett acknowledges

that, "in a community like this, one must weigh the benefits of that sort of freedom against the potential infringements of other people's rights." Professor Ted Murphy comments that the body in art is something to be taken seriously, with the goal not to "offend but raise the level of appreciation, complexity and expressive power." He adds that in this era, when the body seems to only have the three functions of being pornographic, absolutely private, or medical, the Christian liberal arts should strive to see and promote other levels. He refers to Sir Kenneth Clark, a highly respected art historian, who posits that the nude is a historical form of art, not a subject, just like opera is a form of music. As gallery director, Professor Jillian Sokso affirms that she would not pursue artists' work that "goes against the college's ideas, interests, and community beliefs." This said, she also mentioned a former student's comment that Houghton did not always give her enough exposure for her to "handle" the real art world. Sokso thinks that the situation of the Buechner exhibit was a "win-win situation – the administration listened to [the art faculty], and we all learned from the experience." Perhaps with this continual dialogue, the administration and faculty will be able to maintain and protect the health of this community while effectively educating Houghton students in relevant subjects across their fields. ♦

*-HiUan Kang
Guest Writer*

Katrina Relief: Gulfport, Mississippi

The week before this spring semester began, Dr. Cathy Freytag, Victoria McCullough (senior) and I got onto a plane bound for New Orleans, Louisiana. We were taking boxes of backpacks and school supplies collected by the Teachers of Today and Tomorrow club to schools in the area around Gulfport, Mississippi, the place most damaged by hurricane Katrina. Gulfport is also the destination of Houghton's Katrina Relief trip, planned for this upcoming February break.

We flew into New Orleans, and drove past the 19th ward, a ghost town, on the way to Gulfport. Freytag remarked "there's just nothing left," seeing the abandoned cars stacked under overpasses, the shredded houses covered in blue tarps, and the empty storefronts. This was before we had seen Gulfport.

The I-90 runs East to West along the Gulf of Mexico, and was re-opened three weeks before we arrived. We had directions to Little Rock Missionary Baptist Church, the base of World Hope International: Katrina Relief, but they didn't do us much good, since there weren't any road signs left. The once graceful beachfront is now a landfill. We drove in shock, past front steps leading up to nothing, trees twisted and uprooted by the wind and full of trash, even months after the storm. Out of hundreds, few buildings are still standing. We drove ten miles before we turned back to look for the church, but I have been told that the devastation goes on for 200 miles.

Once we found Little Rock Baptist Church, Bob Kammeraad, the director of World Hope operations in Gulfport, explained the situation to us more thoroughly. The eye of the storm had hovered over the town, and the whirlpools and floods had swept away most of the town south of the train tracks, which are elevated. The roofs were ripped off most of the remaining buildings, and rain soaked the interiors. The real damage began then and is still happening: the homes and churches of Gulfport are rotting.

Kammeraad, a retired engineer in his sixties from Michigan, has been in Gulfport

since September. He looks exhausted at all times, but his startlingly hearty laugh reflects the accumulation of what he calls, "the miracles and God moments" that he has witnessed in Gulfport. World Hope began by clearing away fallen trees from the road, people's homes, and driveways. Other concerns were getting uncontaminated water, restoring power to homes (imagine electricians on bicycles), and putting tarps on roofless homes. Since that initial clean up, World Hope volunteers have been working from 8am to 5pm every day, gutting houses and putting roofs on people's houses. "Gutting" is the process of tearing the moldy ceilings, walls, and flooring out of homes, so that they can be rebuilt on the remaining frames.

Six weeks before we arrived, World Hope had begun putting shingles on houses and had completed 250 roofs so far. When I asked Kammeraad how many more houses needed roofs, he sighed and said, "thousands." World Hope is limited by two resources: materials and volunteers.

I spoke with Reverend Lee J. Adams, Jr. pastor of Little Rock. Even months after the disaster, his old eyes crinkled and tears streamed down as he described the damage done to the lives of his congregation. The devastation is still happening as people struggle to recover psychologically, emotionally, and financially. Many people have given up. They sit in FEMA trailers while their houses rot, a few feet away. Others have gained inspiration from watching their neighbors and volunteers from all over America work diligently at cleaning up. The goal of the volunteers is to bring hope to the lives of the people of Gulfport, by working with them to restore their community. It is grueling, emotionally exhausting work, but Bob and other volunteers insist passionately that it is effective and life-changing both for them and for the people of Gulfport.

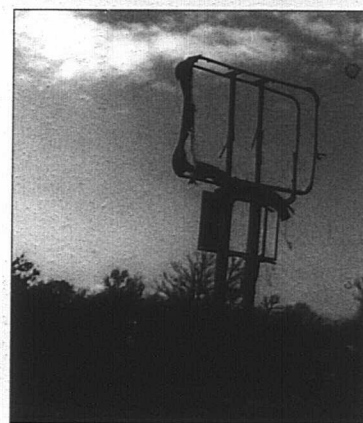
One elderly woman at church illustrated the best of what I'd been hearing, saying to me vibrantly "That storm changed my life. That storm brought me back to my Jesus!"

Houghton's February Break trip will leave Saturday, February 25, 2006, and return on Sunday March 5, 2006. For more information on joining the February Break trip to Gulfport, Mississippi, e-mail Matthew. Dougherty@houghton.edu. ♦

-Christine DiFonzo
Editor-in-Chief



*"Hold to God's unchanging hand
Hold to his hand,
Build your hope on things eternal
Hold to God's unchanging hand!"
-Hymn sung earnestly, at Little Rock
Missionary Baptist Church*



Featured Artist:

Mary Gibson



Photograph by Senior Mary Gibson. Even in the digital age Gibson prefers the traditional photographic techniques of film and dark room developing. "I like the process," she says. "There's something very special about a photograph that has been developed by hand."

Her subject shows the influence of the time she's spent running for Houghton's track and cross-country teams. "So much training goes into being a runner that it affects everything else," Gibson explains. "You become very aware of your body." The painted lines on the models emphasize the contours of the figure's muscles and potential for movement, and the extremes of light and shadow achieved in the lighting studio works with the idea of pushing the body's limits.

Her conception of the body is not entirely idealized, however. She has experimented with placing a pane of Vaseline-coated glass in front of the lens to symbolize the barriers we put between ourselves and the world. The Vaseline scatters the light, creating slivers of brightness which radiate from the background and break up the boundary between the model and her surroundings. In this type of imagery the subject can be beautiful despite its brokenness.

"They always end up abstract, but it's interesting to look at the body in a different way. God created all of us in his image. The shape and form and movement of it is amazing to me." ♦

-Kelsey Harro
Arts Editor



IMAGE

There is nothing worse than a sharp image of a fuzzy concept.

Ansel Adams

I have been mulling over ideas of what to do with my allotted white-space in the student paper this semester. More pretentious ramblings on *The Great Films of the Willard J Houghton Library*? Perhaps an Oprah-flavored book review (with large B's embossed on the cover of the *crème de la crème*)? Maybe try my hand at the "controversial" op-ed column, though I'm sure you could live without my opinion on stem cell research, the war on terror, or pretty much just about anything, come to think of it...

What I'd like to try is an amalgam of images. What I'd like to do is to consider the lilies. Stay with me.

Overabundance often lends itself to ingratitude. America, cornucopia that she is, can often be an environment where 'considering the lilies' is discouraged. Or, if encouraged, the lilies are divided into neat categorical indexes, so that you don't waste your time considering the wrong lily. Tigerlily and Stargazer fans don't often come together for unified consideration, just as film fans and readers and abstract painters might spend four years on a campus together without

any real dialogue. One of the blessings of the liberal arts is that we realize and appreciate the interconnectedness of the artistic image and work together to foster a place of growth for every avenue of expression.

What I propose is that you, the readers, and I, the as-yet-unsyndicated columnist, work together to form a dialogue on images that surround us. Nothing is out of bounds: email me an image (or a link, or a description, whatever...) and your thoughts on it, and I'd love to write about it, coupling it with some other genre or medium to bring together what I'd like to call IMAGE. As for the format, we'll figure that out as we go along. What I'm interested in is connecting the dots, finding ways to encourage the dialogue between film, painting, novel, high and low art, criticism and expression Well, we'll see where we end up. The destination is the journey, right? ♦

-Stephen Sorensen
Columnist



A Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster

As part of Houghton's long-standing emphasis on small groups and discipleship, the Dean of the chapel's office has offered some kind of such opportunity for the past 3 semesters. This semester it is sponsoring a Tuesday evening examination of Richard Foster's highly regarded book *A Celebration of Discipline*.

In this work Foster examines some of the kinds of practices Christians have found valuable in opening themselves more fully to God's grace. He organizes them in three general categories: The Inward Disciplines of meditation, prayer, fasting and study; The Outward Disciplines of simplicity, solitude, submission and service; and The Corporate Disciplines of confession, worship, guidance and celebration. Each participant is encouraged to have a copy of Foster's book.

The group will meet each Tuesday from 6:30 - 7:30. The meeting will begin in the Fireside Lounge in the basement of Gillette Hall with the total group viewing a brief video of Richard Foster discussing the chapter off the evening. They will then divide in to 4 smaller groups for Bible study and discussion led by Sarah Iacucci, Dr. Cathy Freytag of the Houghton Education Department, Mrs. Eileen Brittain, professor at Jamestown Community College, Olean, and Dr. John Brittain, Dean of the Chapel.

-Dr. Brittain
Dean of Chapel

(Mullen, cont'd from p. 1)

from all Christian backgrounds, and the issues concerning the various changes that were going on in Houghton. In nearly every answer she stressed the importance of community. "It's going to take the faculty, the staff, the students, the community to make the next president the right person for Houghton," she said. "Whoever that person is will not be able to be a good effective president without the input of a whole lot of people in this community."

The response of faculty and students alike are generally one of smiles and ease. Probably the most impressive, and perhaps the most distinguishing factor for Dr. Mullen is her last statement which was asking the students and community members to tell her what their various hopes and fears of the next president are. Answers were varied, but included concerns such as a more gender balanced student body and faculty, the recent budget changes and concerns with the school's use of money, communication and discussion between the school and the students, gender inclusive language in chapels, and the general issue of the switch of the presidency and all that goes with it.

She answered students to the fullest extent she knew how, but she did not hesitate to admit her lack of knowledge behind certain questions. People found her genuine and personable as well as professional. She not only used careful wisdom as she spoke, but she also came across as vigorous and authentic. Houghton is hopeful, it seems, in finding the right president in Dr. Mullen. ♦

-Karis Koett
Guest Writer



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to this or any
other article to
the Editor at**

STAR@HOUGHTON.EDU

Listen up!

The *Star* would like to hear the memorable, witty, or just plain silly things said around campus. Send in your Quotables to star@houghton.edu

The Food Critic: Local and Campus

L'Italia



L'Italia in Wellsville is a wonderful little Italian restaurant that is worth the 35 minute drive. The two story building's soft lit entrance creates a warm glow on Main Street. Inside there are two eating areas on different floors and a bar in between. The upstairs provides a more secluded and intimate atmosphere away from the kitchen and entrance.

As far as appetizers go, the garlic bread sticks are covered in mozzarella cheese and provide a wonderful ratio of seasoning and cheese. The Bruschetta was tasty to say the least with tomato chunks and cheese. But its downfall was in the portion size. Stay away from the stuffed Portabella mushroom. It has been on the specials board for quite some time now and at eight dollars, while very flavorful, was not so special.

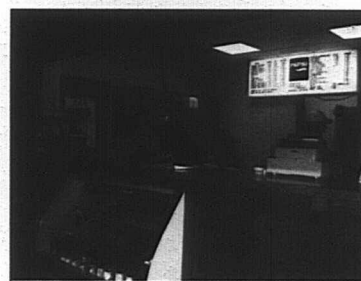
In lieu of an appetizer, try ordering a sandwich to share. There is a variety to try and none are disappointing. Reasonably priced at \$6, the artichoke sandwich served with mozzarella cheese, sun dried tomatoes and feta has the perfect combination of flavor and texture to. The sandwiches, which also come in varieties including spinach, mushrooms and an array of meats, are served on ciabatta or focaccia bread.

Splitting a pizza for a main dish is delicious idea to say the least. The pizzas can be made to order with a large number of possible toppings such as feta cheese, artichokes, mushrooms, chicken, spinach, sun dried tomatoes and peppers just to name a few. The crust is cooked to perfection and the artichokes and toppings are the proper temperature and exactly how you

would want them. If you love feta as much as I do, absolutely get it on a pizza. It adds the perfect little kick to an already good dish.

The service and atmosphere are both up to par and the food is also excellent. The average pasta dish or pizza costs about \$12-\$15 but can also be cheaper. So if you want to go to a nice restaurant and don't mind driving, which is often a necessity at Houghton, I would recommend L'Italia. ♦

Big Al's



There is a lot to be said about the name of a restaurant. And there is no exception in the case of Big Al's right here in our own campus center. The ambiance sets the mood for fine dining, with a basement café feel. As you make your way past the crowds and the mail room you soon realize what all the hype is about.

Immediately you are attacked with an onslaught of olfactory assailants. A cacophony of flavorful, luscious joy if you will. And for the sake of this article I am going to assume that indeed, you will. Don't be overwhelmed by the options. If you can't handle it stick with the old familiar favorites, subs, mozz. sticks, quesadillas, or chicken fingers.

But for the more adventurous, try taking your taste buds on the climb of their life with the Alpine chicken sandwich covered in cheese and mushrooms. Or take a ride on the Orient Express, Teriyaki sandwich that is, and have lunch in the Shaolin Temple. Remember watching the bullfight at La Sagmigelada in Mexico? I do. Nothing helps me remember like the Rio Grande Mexican salsa sandwich.

Don't forget to frequent the beverage center with free refills. Enjoy all the Reinhold has to offer. Don't sell yourself short and remember that Big Al's, in all its splendor will always be a staple of the Houghton cuisine. ♦

-Adam Sukhia
Columnist



Mistake After Mistake, When Will It Stop?

If you haven't been reading the news, start doing so. If you do read the news and are not enraged at US government operations throughout the world and domestically, what is wrong with you? If you are completely oblivious of your surroundings, take off your headphones, stop playing that addictive video game, or put down that book that is making your head bigger and bigger, and your heart smaller and smaller. Things in America and around the world are looking bleak. "Postmodern" Christians, with very few exceptions, are "just chilling". In this country where democracy, freedom, justice, and all that good stuff are praised, it seems like people are becoming less sensitive (and sensible) about the important issues that Jesus Christ would be fighting for. WWJD? He would be opposed to the tax cuts for the rich and social program cuts for the poor. He would be a strong advocate for those who lose their homes and lives due to invasions, wars, and natural disasters. Jesus would not shut up about the injustices that governments around the world do to their own people or other nations. Jesus would have something to say about inter alia pollution, torture, genocide, sweatshops, on-demand abortion, sexual immorality, governmental corruption, consumerism, and global corporate abuses and exploitation.

It's a fact: There is a huge gap between public opinion and public policy in the United States. This is not only because the democratic system and all it entails is becoming less "of the people, by the people, for the people." This gap is wide because people, and Christians to a large extent, are not being proactive about becoming social and political activists, like Jesus would. We do have good ideas. I have heard them. We need to get those ideas out, the right way, for the government to listen to what we care for. Have you been to missions trips abroad? Have you worked for humanitarian organizations? That

is impressive and praiseworthy, really. However, while these activities reflect a desire to help others (or promote tourism) and learn from their predicament, there is just very little that these trips and organizations can do without the help of the government. The Christian Church is dormant on the real issues as time goes by. The Church has been afraid of getting involved in dirty politics. One of the reasons politics are so dirty is because we, as Christians, do not take part on them as we should. Those Christians that have been involved in politics, I think, are complete failures—just consider Pat Robertson, and most of the members of the so-called Christian Right, and the Neoconservatives.

So what kind of mistakes and abuses has the US government carried out abroad? Check your history and do a little bit of research on American Imperialism. Don't just watch channel 42 to find out what is going on right now. Read documents published by the Pentagon and the White House. Find out the kind of bills Congress is passing and rejecting. Peruse through the Patriot Act, the National Security Strategy, and summaries of American foreign policy. When you have done this (and more, I hope), you better stand up and do something about it. Write to your legislative representatives, tell others about your findings, and join groups that promote social justice and a better life for those in need. Be like Jesus. ♦

-Inti Martinez
Guest Writer

Promoting dialogue between students is one major goal of the Star. All responses to Inti Martinez's article can be emailed to Star@houghton.edu.

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(JV Sports, cont'd from p. 1)

Lord outlined three options that the department is exploring for students who find themselves in any one of the situations. The first is that they will be expanding the rosters of varsity teams to make room for those who play JV with hopes of moving up to varsity. Secondly, an avenue will be created for those who do not seek the competitive nature or time commitment of the varsity level by improving the intramural program. Lastly, the athletic department will entertain action by students who wish to compete against outside teams by

forming club teams.

Despite the obvious sensitivity of the subject, Lord was compassionate. He encourages students to pose questions and share comments or ideas with him directly so that the athletic department, coupled with the student body, can make an effort to tie up the loose ends of this decision.

The upcoming seasons could prove that the lack of JV sports will create an irreplaceable hole in the athletic program. Aeppeli stated, "One reason I like having a JV team is that I

get to put the uniform on and represent both Houghton and God on the field. Intramurals don't do that."

Time will tell if the JV athletes will now sit the bench on varsity teams, if intramurals will now become too competitive for unskilled players to use as fun, and if the loss of JV programs will become an asset to Houghton College. ♦

-Lindsay Yandon
Staff Writer

Desourcing Our Resources or: Why I Learned To Start Worrying And Question Houghton's Priorities

In nearly all of the promotional photos for Houghton's "Meaning of the West" First-Year Honors Program, students and professors are shown sitting on stone lions, visiting great cathedrals, and conversing passionately. Presumably, then, the West's meaning is to be found here: in great books, concerts, and rarified air. What these photos do not show, however, is the other side of the program, replete with crowded subway rides, voyages to the supermarket, and trips to the dentist's office.

Trips of the latter variety are particularly harrowing. London's health system is something I couldn't navigate on my own now, let alone as a first-year, and so I was a bit worried when I found myself, about three weeks into the London semester, with a cheek the size of a golf ball. I'd had my wisdom teeth removed a few weeks before, and just when I was supposed to be past the threshold of being safe against dry sockets, one decided to flare up in protest.

Fortunately for both me and my cheek, Dr. Beach, one of our professors for the program, volunteered to go along with me to the hospital where the dentist's office was located. And not only did Dr. Beach go along, but he also had a sense of humor when the first hospital we went to turned out not to have the procedure I needed, and then sat willingly in a waiting room featuring several people in grey tweed and a small child making automobile noises while I was attended to by a dentist with an Irish accent so thick I could only understand about every other word he was saying.

Throughout the rest of the semester, Dr. Beach and his wife continued to serve as mentors and caregivers for our "London group." On a regular basis, for example, myself and a few other students visited their flat for further discussion of course materials over tea. Dr. Beach also went the extra mile in his classroom teaching, keeping most of us awake through even three-hour lectures with his enthusiasm and occasional table pounding. When I was a first-year student, Dr. Beach's presence on the program impressed on me something that I've come to believe all the more firmly during the rest of my time at Houghton: that, by and large, Houghton College faculty care greatly about their students both as academics and as human beings.

The professors of the Oregon Extension, where I spent a semester last year, showed a similar willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in their roles as professors. Over the course of the semester, they came alongside me and the other students not only as academic faculty and spiritual directors, but also as cooking instructors, hiking partners, and chauffeurs for some of the most scenically beautiful

drives I've ever experienced. Like Dr. Beach, the Oregon Extension faculty demonstrated a concern for their students as whole people, not simply classroom-bound automatons. And, unfortunately, like Dr. Beach, they were recently informed by Houghton that their relationship with the college would be terminated at the end of the school year.

Of course, the two situations are in some ways very different. The accreditation status of the Oregon Extension has been a contentious issue on Houghton's campus for years, whereas (to my knowledge, anyway), Dr. Beach has been nearly universally lauded and applauded by students, colleagues, and community members alike. The similarity between the two situations as I see it, though, is that both demonstrate a willingness on Houghton's part to let go of some of its most valuable assets. Dr. Beach is a uniquely gifted teacher, able to engage the minds of 3M students and philosophy majors alike, while the Oregon Extension boasts alumni who are engaged in everything from college and seminary teaching, to midwifery, to being a prominent editor at *Christianity Today*.

I understand that Houghton's hand might be forced on these issues by budgetary concerns, but surely there must be other ways

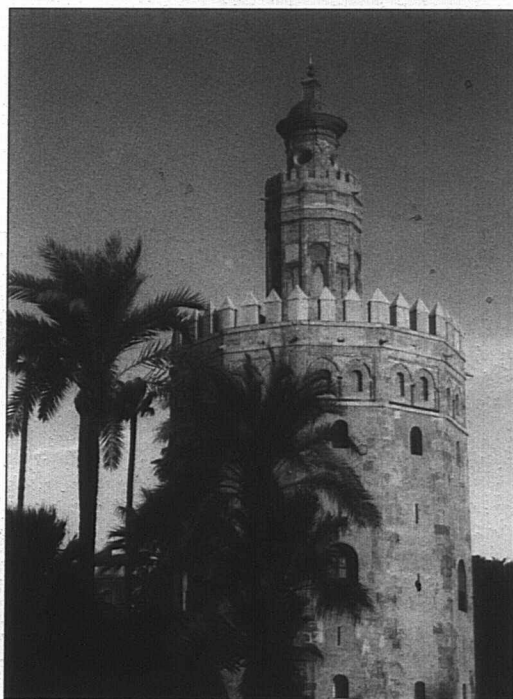
to save money beyond terminating relationships with the programs and faculty that benefit both students and the reputation of the college as a whole. This sort of myopia on the part of at least some of Houghton's decision-makers is not a quality that should be associated with a college that aspires to become a top-tier school. In the seemingly unilateral, behind-closed-doors decision-making that surrounded these decisions, I also see little relation to the actions that should be carried out by a school that seeks to define itself as an open, honest, Christian community.

Although I was repeatedly encouraged by high school teachers, peers, and guidance counselors to consider attending a "better" school than Houghton, I came and have remained here due to the quality of Houghton's affiliated faculty and the faculty at its off-campus programs. Now that Houghton has decided to terminate its relationship with six faculty members who had an enormous positive impact on both me and thousands of others, though, I would think twice before recommending it to friends, acquaintances, and/or their children. As Houghton seeks to attract greater numbers of students, then, perhaps a reexamination of priorities is in order. To have 1,400 students on Houghton's campus might indeed be a grand thing, but if these sorts of actions continue, who will be left to teach them? ♦

*-Rachel Ingraham
Guest Writer*

Houghton Abroad

The Center for Cross-Cultural Studies
Seville, Spain, where the Semester in Spain takes place. Taken by senior Erica Spence, who spent last fall studying in an intensive Spanish language program. The Semester in Spain Program is Houghton approved, and offered every fall, spring, and summer.



Comics

The Camp Wrath Songbook



The Life and Times of Fitzgerald and Monalu

by Lizbeth Allen



Joe and Ducko

by Joseph Freeman

