



Student Government Resignations Surprise Campus

By Micah Warf

Last Friday's campus wide e-mail entitled "SGA Announcement" outlined a number of imminent changes in the leadership cabinet of Houghton College's Student Government Association. Contained in these short paragraphs was the framework of a very turbulent chapter in the history of Houghton's largest student organization.

The Student Government Association was conceived and established in order to "represent the student body to the school administration, faculty, and staff in order to promote student interests." The duties performed by the association towards this end range

from the more mundane "allocating [of] the Campus Services Budget in conjunction with the Financial Affairs Council" to the far-reaching "making of official statements on behalf of the student body." Put succinctly, the purpose of the SGA is to represent the will and desires of the student body to the upper echelons of Houghton College administration.

The legislative structure of the SGA is set forward in a formal constitution, outlining duties and balances of power while covering issues of term, election, responsibility, and finance control. It also purports to cover issues of resignation and turnover, which became of the utmost importance during the internal changes that occurred within the SGA

cabinet last week. Kate Hamilton and Ruben Dettman, former president and chaplain of the SGA, concomitantly resigned their positions within the organization. This occurred just a week after the semester's first convening of the SGA senate. The specific details of the resignation are not apparent, though both members left of their own volition, citing personal reasons.

Constitutional Uncertainty

In the wake of this singular upset of power, the SGA constitution served as the first and last word on how to handle the dismissal of a president, and the induction of a replacement. However, the document—which serves as the legislative backbone of

the organization—showed itself to be decidedly lacking. Such a bizarre situation was not something that had been originally provisioned for, and the only constitutional clause of direct consequence in this situation left a crucial gap. The clause, found in Section VII, Article B of the constitution, states, "In the event the president is unable to fulfill the duties of or vacates the office of president, the vice president shall assume all of the duties and powers of the president." This provisioned for Amy Labzentsis, a Junior, and the current vice president, to assume the responsibilities of Kate Hamilton, but did not allow her to assume the full office of president.

• SGA, continued on 5

Calm and Sincere: An Interview with Derek Webb

By Eric Stevenson

Judging from all of the pictures I'd seen, I thought that Derek Webb would seem bigger in person. When I met him for this interview just ninety minutes before his concert in the chapel, however, he was a tad short—as well as a calm and composed character. I had hoped to joke around with him throughout the interview, but he stayed focused and sincere as we discussed his music, career and family. He was welcoming and thorough with every question I asked.

Houghton Star: Who are your biggest musical influences?

Derek Webb: I comfortably say Dylan and the Beatles. I think that what they were doing lyrically in the sixties still sounds like the future to me. It still sounds so innovative and progressive at the time that pop music hasn't yet gotten to what those guys were doing then.

HS: Is there anything that you've listened to a lot more recently?

DW: I don't listen to a lot of newer music. Because, until these newer artists are making records that are as good as guys were making forty years ago, I'm not going to waste my time with them. I don't have time to just sit and listen to music anymore. If I'm going to put a record on, I'm gonna have a reason. I just listen to the best music I can find, and that music comes from forty or fifty years ago.

HS: Concerning the new album, "The Ringing Bell," how does the original concept of the album compare with the final outcome?

DW: It was exactly the same. When we were writing the record, I had the sound in my head and knew where I wanted to go with it, and that seems to be more the way I do it. I hatch a philosophical idea in terms of what I feel like and what sound is interesting

to me at that moment. For this one, I wanted to make a record along the lines of Beatles' "Revolver" and the 60's rock and roll feel.

HS: Do you usually come up with lyrics first or the music?

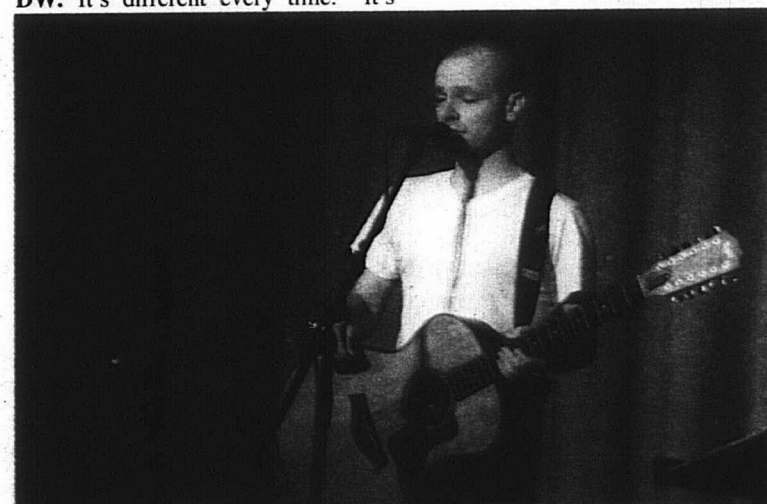
DW: It's different every time. It's

remained more of an art rather than a science for me.

HS: Could you explain your work with noisetrade.com and what that is?

DW: It started when my record "Mockingbird" record came out. We sold our average record and were wondering how else to promote it. I was proud of that record so I convinced

• Interview, continued on 4



Derek Webb/Photograph by Wesley Dean

THE WORLD OUT THERE

Bush Visits Iraq

President Bush made a surprise visit to Iraq on Labor Day. For the most part, the visit foreshadowed the message that General Petraeus would deliver to Congress later in the week. Bush suggested possible troop withdrawals would take place in the relatively near future and also complimented the military leadership on their relative success following the surge of troops.

Senator to Challenge Guilty Plea

Idaho Senator Larry Craig (R) is attempting to recant his guilty plea to a charge of disorderly conduct stemming from accusations that he had solicited sex from a plain clothes police officer in the bathroom of the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport. Craig claims that his guilty plea was made while he was in a "state of fear" and that he was concerned about "unnecessary publicity" that may have occurred if he had contested the charges.

Osama Appears on Video

Osama bin Laden has released two new videotapes in the span of less than a week. The tape released earlier in the week is the first video evidence of bin Laden since October 2004. The tape has been confirmed as authentic by the FBI, although FBI director Robert Mueller claims there was no overt prediction of a terrorist attack. The second tape was released to coincide with the attacks of September 11th, 2001. Releasing tapes on the anniversary of 9/11 is not unusual for al Qaeda.

Long Awaited Review of Iraq

General David Petraeus, the highest ranking military official in Iraq, addressed Congress earlier this week. Referencing improvements in security, Petraeus recommended ending the U.S. troop surge over the next year. Although 2,200 Marines may be coming home this month, and an army brigade of about 3,500 could come

home as soon as December, Petraeus advised that the totality of U.S. forces not be brought down to pre-buildup levels (130,000) until July 2008 at the earliest. General Petraeus, speaking for himself and the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, Ryan Crocker, called for patience when he said, "Though we both believe this effort can succeed, it will take time."

Failed Terror Plot in Germany

Germany has arrested three men under suspicion of planning "massive bombing attacks" within the country. Scotland Yard and MI5 (Britain's counter-intelligence and security agency) caught wind of the plot, which was intended to target US citizens within Germany, and tipped off German officials. The men arrested, although German-born, are believed to have ties to the Islamist Jihad militant group. Throughout 2007, the men had obtained 12 vats of a hydrogen peroxide solution they planned on using as an explosive. Investigators now say the foiled plot may have involved as many as 49 terrorist sympathizers.

To Be or Not to Be: Belgium

A recent article in *The Economist* asked the following provocative question: "If Belgium did not already exist, would anyone take the trouble to invent it?" Noticing that similar questions could be asked about many countries, the authors point out that in Belgium the citizens are asking this question themselves. The PM of Belgium has recently been quoted as saying that Belgians share nothing in common except "the king, the football team, [and] some beers." Given that Belgians vote almost exclusively along linguistic lines - when they bother to vote at all - *The Economist* wondered whether "three new mini-states, or perhaps...an enlarged France and Netherlands" would be the best outcome for Belgians.

Houghton Men's Soccer Off to Quick Start

By Ben Tsujimoto

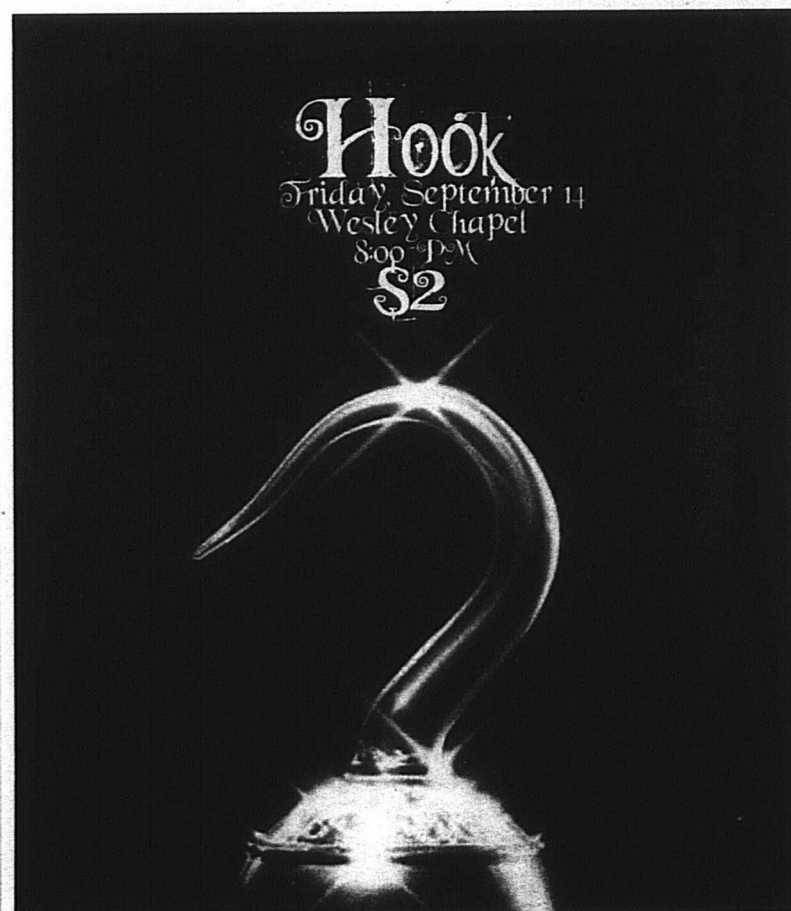
After advancing to the NAIA Regional IX semi-finals last year, the Houghton College men's soccer team has proven itself in this season's playoff run. Through three matches in 2007, the Highlanders have yet to be defeated; after ties against Mid-Continent University and the University of Mobile, Coach Matt Webb's squad stormed past the Bethel College Pilots 2-0.

In contrast to their six game winless skid to open the 2006 season, Houghton has not dug itself into a hole this year; instead, a deep squad appears focused to reach the NAIA National Tournament. Midfielder Josiah Snelgrove emphasized the team's desire to surpass last year's finish, stating, "I want this year to start a strong tradition of Houghton

men's soccer as a NAIA powerhouse and a serious national contender."

While the offense failed to capitalize on in-game opportunities last year, key off-season additions and experienced returning players combine to form a potent unit. The speed and persistence of Austin Beck, a Montreat College transfer, poses problems for opposing defenses; the striker scored the lone goal in each of the first two matches, while also clanging a fearsome header off the crossbar in overtime against Mid-Continent University. Midfielders Steve Grudda and Dan Brubaker, vastly improved after logging heavy minutes as freshmen, each tallied a goal in the defeat of Bethel. Senior captain Ernie Walton and aggressive midfielder Josiah Snelgrove provide a steady presence.

• Soccer, Continued on 6





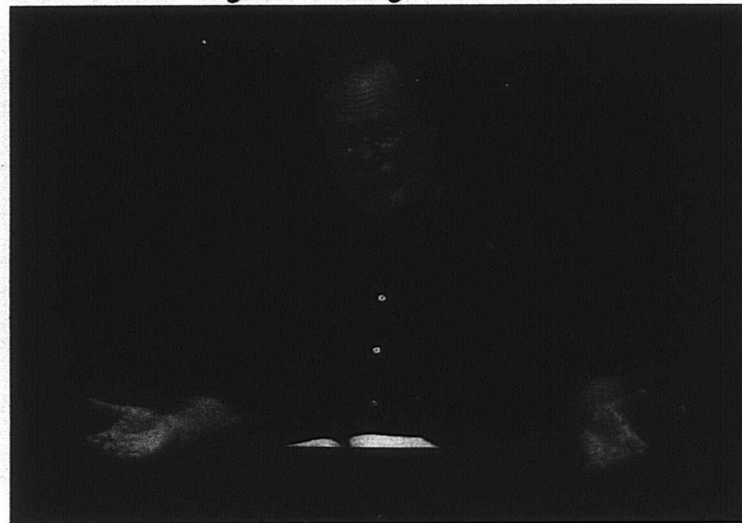
Patterson Speaks of Joy, Prayer at CLEW

By Heather Bennett

Christian Life Emphasis Week (CLEW) takes place during the first full week of classes each semester and is intended to be a time of strengthening and renewal for the Houghton community. This fall's speaker was Rev. Ben Patterson, the campus pastor from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California. His lecture series was entitled "A Case for Joy," and in the morning sessions on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday he shared his thoughts on the connection between joy and gratitude. "Joy," as he said on Monday morning, "is what you experience when you're grateful for the grace that God has given you." Over the next two days he expanded on his definition of joy, and addressed common 'joy busters,' namely past pain, guilt, and disappointment as well as getting too caught up in the details of our present circumstances.

In the evenings, Rev. Patterson diverged from his planned lectures on joy, choosing instead to use humorous stories, narratives, and a variety of scripture passages to build a case for prayer. He explained why prayer is vital to the Christian life, how we are taught to pray, and what we may expect when we do pray. Rev. Patterson listed four reasons to make prayer a priority—the nature of our spiritual battle requires it, God builds His kingdom through our prayers, prayer gets things done, and prayer gives God an opportunity to work on us. Sharing from Luke 11, Rev. Patterson reminded his audience of how to pray the familiar "Our Father."

He also encouraged listeners to pray boldly in light of the equally familiar verses found in the same passage: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." On Tuesday evening, he concluded with Revelation 3:20 and challenged the audience to consider what would happen if the Houghton community listened to



Rev. Ben Patterson/Photograph by Ashley Hackett

Jesus knocking and opened the door to him. In every evening session, Rev. Patterson emphasized both individual and corporate prayer as necessary disciplines in the Christian life.

For some readers, the details of CLEW are already lost in the hazy blur of the last nine days; for others, the memory will fade soon enough. Before it's forgotten altogether, it is worth asking how Rev. Patterson's

messages, particularly on prayer, can be applied to strengthen and renew both individuals at Houghton College and the community as a whole.

The first step in answering this question was an interview with Dr. John Brittain, Dean of the Chapel. For Dr. Brittain, Rev. Patterson's comments on personal prayer were "very strong." He noted that "in

churches and on a Christian campus like this, the distinction between personal and corporate prayer sometimes gets confused...he [Rev. Patterson] was very helpful in reminding us that no matter how many prayer services we go to or how much public prayer there is in chapel, that really is different from having a strong personal devotional life."

That does not mean, however, that corporate prayer should be dismissed. Dr. Brittain expressed his concern that in some particularly large churches, "there's very little specific intercessory prayer. The problem with that is then there's no modeling of prayer. I've had students say, 'gosh, I've never heard someone pray a prayer for someone who is sick or somebody whose hands hurt in a worship service...is that really appropriate?' and so forth."

The campus prayer list is designed to function as an example of corporate, intercessory prayer. Dr. Brittain pointed out that "we do try, in that list and in the prayers we lift up in chapel, to model what our individual prayer life should be like. There are some big global issues we should be

• CLEW, continued on 4

Jacob's Well Publishes Magazine on Sexuality

By Alec Gilfillan

Three years ago, former Houghton College president Dr. Chamberlain attended a meeting of the Christian College Consortium that discussed the issue of sexual orientation in Christian communities. Following the meeting, Chamberlain enlisted Dr. Lastoria to help look at what was being done in the Houghton College community to explore healthy conversations about sexuality, which eventually led to the creation of a volunteer group of faculty, staff, and students known as the Jacob's Well Initiative.

The group's self-described mission is to "encourage on-campus dialogue about human sexuality... dialogue that is aimed at redeeming a vision for our sexuality, dialogue that models an extending of grace to our brokenness,

and dialogue that increases the awareness and effectiveness of the resources in our community that assist in this goal." Over the past two years, The Jacob's Well Initiative has sponsored a number of on-campus events focused on discussing issues of human sexuality, including a workshop and chapel with Lauren F. Winner, author of *Real Sex*. Jacob's Well plans on continued involvement in chapel, and has also sponsored several "Hard Wired" series hosted in the CFA recital hall.

The group's latest initiative has been to create a magazine addressing a variety of human sexuality issues. Significant efforts were put into making the magazine look professional, and it arrived on campus on Monday, September 10. Article topics range

from online dating to sexual orientation, and one piece even discusses the role of gender in language. The hope is that this magazine, simply entitled "Sexuality," will be used as a resource for dialogue within the Houghton community.

A significant portion of the magazine was funded by the *Houghton Star* in the hope that the publication would help foster discussion in the community. In addition to the *Star's* contribution, funding included a grant from the Christian College Consortium that is made available to all of their Colleges for programs such as this one that promote healthy dialogue about sexuality.

In addition to this article, the Jacob's Well Initiative has a thorough

• Jacob's Well, continued on 4



• *Interview, continued from 1*

my label to let me release it for free, directly to the fan. I believe a great record is its own marketing tool. We gave the record away for free but asked people to give us their address and some info about them, as well as a few email addresses of friends who they'd think might dig the record. In those three months, we gave away 82,000 records, which is more than it sold, and we had a lot of new fans that started this viral promotion thing. Then I thought of my other friends who are musicians and they would be willing to give up their record for free in exchange for people's information. We thought this would be a good business model for selling records. We're in the process of making this available for any musical artist.

HS: Do you have a set date for the launch?

DW: Not a concrete date. I'd say in the next six months.

HS: Have you ever struggled with humility in terms of your Christian faith?

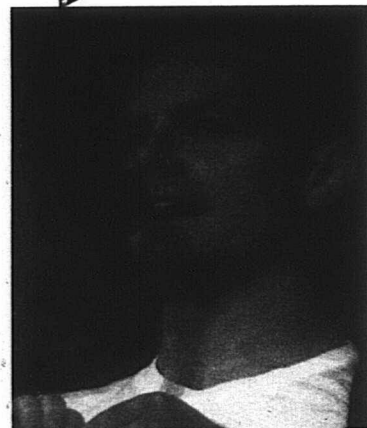
DW: I'd be lying if I said I don't struggle with humility. Having been in a band that did pretty well before and having some fans already when I started my solo career, I felt more comfortable making the records and statements I wanted to make from the get go, as oppose to making lots of compromises to get popular so I could do that later. Most bands spend their whole career trying to reach that point, and never make it. Since I've had that freedom from the beginning, I'm constantly sabotaging myself, which is a good thing. I mean, you're not going to make a record about the problems you see going on in the church and sell a half million units. So because of the subject matter of my records, I don't sell a lot of them and I won't ever be a popular artist. That's not my job; [my job is] to be an honest artist. For those reasons, there hasn't been much an issue with humility, in the sense of a musician.

• *Jacob's Well, continued from 3*

plan for the distribution and promotion of this magazine as a dialogue piece. The initiative hopes that the magazine will be used as a resource on both a large scale (i.e. campus-wide) and a small scale such as between two students. The distribution begins this week, with each faculty member receiving a copy. Faculty members interested in further involvement will be invited to work with the Jacob's Well Initiative on future programming. In addition, the magazine will be distributed to all first year students through the First-Year Introduction (FYI) program and will also be used in their group discussions. The magazine will be available for anyone interested at the Counseling Center, Health Center, Student Government Office, Java 101, Residence Halls, and other various locations on campus.

HS: Do you find it hard to balance a family life and a musician's career?

DW: It's really not that much different than other people's jobs, at least not the way I do it. For me, it's blue-collar work. I commute quite a bit but if you add up the hours I'm gone working and the hours I'm at home, it's not that much different from a normal five day nine-to-five job. I'm probably home more than those people. They don't realize how much they're away from their families. I'll go out for a couple days then come back for a week and do whatever I want. I can sleep in most days until whenever. It's a great life.



Derek Webb/Photograph by Dan White

Additional content for the magazine will be suggested and made available to Resident Life.

According to Dr. Lastoria, it is important to keep in mind that "this magazine is designed to be a discussion piece. [It] represents a Christian perspective and not the Christian perspective." The magazine further stresses this point in the Letter from the Editor:

"It is in a spirit of continuing dialogue that we present these materials. We hope that the reader will discuss with others the various views contained within this document... The task of understanding our sexuality must deeply engage our hearts and minds; and above all, it is a task to be entered into with an attitude of humility. While we continue to seek a complete understanding of the fullness of our sexuality from a

Divine perspective, we are often called to make life commitments based on our present limited knowledge. *But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is within you, yet with gentleness and reverence [I Peter 3:15].*"

The magazine was edited by Dr. Charles Bressler and features major contributions from Dr. Michael Lastoria, Dr. Kristina Lacelle-Peterson, Nancy Murphy, Dr. Paul Young, Dr. John Brittain, and Ray Parlett. Greg Bish was responsible for the design layout and topic organization. Involvement with Jacob's Well is welcomed; students interested in Jacob's Well or in connecting to a discussion group should contact Dr. Lastoria or the counseling center.

• *CLEW, continued from 3*

praying about. We pray for academic departments and areas. We should always be praying for those around us. So you pray for some big things, things that are bigger than yourself, but you also pray for very real concerns. Somebody asked the other day, 'Are there things that are too small to put on the prayer list?' I think you use your common sense, but no, there isn't. That's what we want to model and remind ourselves [of]."

Tineke Hegeman, a member of the Mercy Seat (formerly OneThing) leadership, also emphasized the importance of corporate prayer. She noted that persistent prayer in a community requires the involvement of the entire community. "Try to imagine," she asked, "if everyone in this community, or even the majority, took even a half-hour to pray together... how much prayer would that be?" That may seem excessive to some, but with so many individuals involved, it wouldn't look as extreme or unusual as she feels it can often appear. "It's not crazy to think about the church being effective and powerful in prayer," she said. For Tineke and many others, such as Rev. Patterson, prayer is something to be

passionate about.

As a coordinator for the Global Christian Fellowship (GCF) prayer ministries, Hannah Duggins knows the importance of communities coming together to pray. She emphasized that "Prayer is our primary work as Christians, not just programs." She added that in order "to be a praying campus, we have to realize that it [prayer] works and it's worth it."

Each of those interviewed pointed out that prayer does require discipline and some work. Tineke noted that "prayer won't just happen because we think it will be great," it takes practice. Fortunately, there are a variety of opportunities to 'work' with other Christians on campus in corporate and individual prayer. Any of the organizations mentioned in this article are good places to begin, but this article only begins to answer how we as a campus might apply some of Rev. Patterson's thoughts on prayer. Dr. Brittain, Tineke Hegeman, and Hannah Duggins affirmed that there is more than one way to pray and that there is always room for creativity. The most important thing is not how we pray, but that we do.



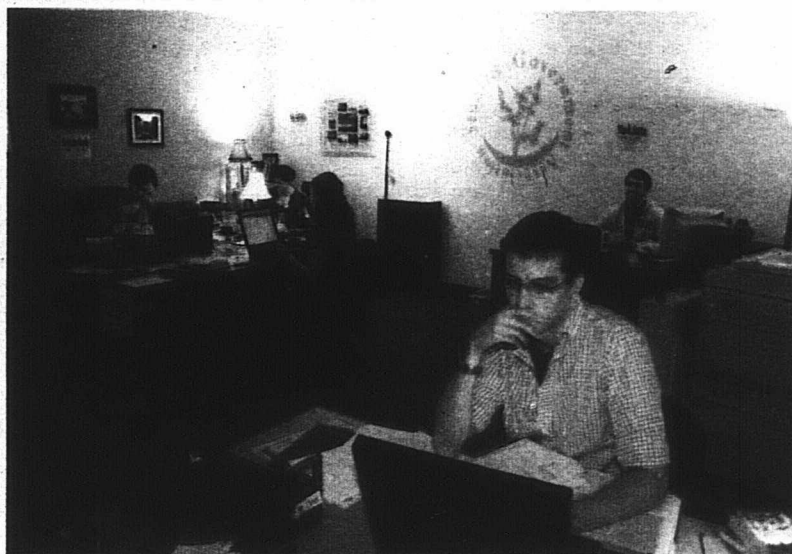
• SGA, continued from 1

The provision failed to clearly explain how a new president should be seated in such a situation: via an election open to new student candidates, or by a chain-of-command inheritance?

Bylaws of the SGA constitution outline a procedure for determining the specific translation or interpretation of the constitution. A constitutional council is formed consisting of "the president of the SGA, who shall act as chair, one cabinet member designated by the cabinet, the speaker of the senate, one (1) senator, and one (1) student at large", as described in Section V, Article B of the bylaws. In addition to suggesting changes to the constitution, which are then put to a vote by the senate, this council is also "responsible for settling disputes concerning the interpretation of the SGA constitution and its bylaws", precisely such as those brought up by these recent transitional happenings within the organization. The final power of interpretation, in other words, resides with the council.

In keeping with this set procedure, the constitutional council was convened last week in order to hash out the hermeneutical challenges this particular section of the constitution raised. This council included president Kate Hamilton, senate speaker Christopher Krowka, cabinet member Elyse Drum, and senate member Peter Savage. For the student-at-large position, Ms. Labzentis herself was chosen. The precise role of Ms. Labzentis on the constitution council, serving both as the student-at-large and the SGA vice president, is unclear. After delving into this textual quandary, the council decided that the best interpretation of the passage would allow Ms. Labzentis to directly assume the presidency without facing an election open to other student candidates.

During a formal convention of the SGA senate last Thursday night, the resignations of both Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Dettman were made officially public. Immediately following the announcement, the senate explored options for moving forward. The



SGA Cabinet/Photograph by Wesley Dean

constitutional council then presented their final decision to the senate members as a topic for debate, moderated by Mr. Krowka, speaker of the senate.

Disagreement in the Senate

Some senators questioned the validity of the decision of the constitutional council. Pointing out that all members of the constitutional council were also members of the SGA cabinet, the senators suggested that it did not seem fair to the student body to leave interpretation of the issue in the hands of those with uniform and invested interests and that those on trial should not be adjudicators of their own dispute. Because the decision also seemed to be one of convenience—making certain that Ms. Labzentis would immediately assume the presidency while protecting against the possibility of a less favorable candidate replacing her—dissenters argued that an election of the presidency also be held, with Ms. Labzentis as a candidate.

Members of the council and those sympathetic to their decision were ready with answers. The council had consulted with Dr. Peter Meilaender, professor of political science, and confirmed that their interpretation was indeed legitimate and within the realm

of acceptable outcomes. Addressing concerns regarding convenience, the council and several senate members stated that they believed their decision to be in the best interest of the student body by making sure that Ms. Labzentis—whom they believe to be the candidate most suited to the office of president—would be placed in such a position. Someone less qualified would thus not have the chance to be elected and thereby hinder the SGA in serving the student population to its fullest extent.

Ms. Labzentis herself stepped in to voice her own thoughts, reviewing the recent accomplishments of the SGA that might be jeopardized by a new president unfamiliar with the SGA's recent history. Having spent time observing the function of the president, she mused, she had prepared herself for the task, should she be placed in that position at some point.

Her fitness for presidency was not questioned in the least by any of those present. In fact, those in favor of an election for the presidency open to other student candidates stated that her qualifications practically guaranteed that such an election would earn her the presidency. With this in mind, many expressed confusion as to why an election was being so strongly opposed, when the odds of Ms. Labzentis being voted into office were so favorable.

"Squeaky Clean"

The central political issue of the debate, therefore, was whether to hold two or three elections—one for chaplain and one for vice president, with the presidency immediately assumed by the vice president, or elections for chaplain, vice president, and president. In order for the latter to occur, the resignation of Ms. Labzentis as vice president would be required, but only if she decided to run for the presidential seat. Ms. Labzentis remarked on this situation by agreeing that a plan of three elections did not seem to have any intrinsically negative aspects to it, stating finally that she was "not opposed to [an electoral decision for president], because that is what would be fair" [emphasis added].

Commenting on the situation in general, Dr. Nancy Hussey, a Houghton professor of foreign languages, expressed a concern that in the midst of so much change and uncertainty in regards to both policy and leadership, it was of the utmost importance that the SGA "maintain a squeaky clean reputation." This would preserve the SGA's internal integrity as well as keep the trust that exists between the SGA and the student body that it is bound to represent.

While the SGA's constitutional committee had decided that no election for the presidency was needed, those arguing for a "squeaky clean" decision insisted that only an open election for SGA president would be fair to the student body. In a final vote, the senate moved to place Ms. Labzentis directly into the presidency without an election open to other student candidates. Elections will still be held for the positions of SGA Vice President and Chaplain on September 20, 2007. Barring the resignation of Ms. Labzentis on or before September 20, she will assume the presidency consistent with the decision reached by the constitution council. According to members of the SGA cabinet, the SGA constitution will immediately be revised after the elections to avoid a similar situation in the future.

• Soccer, Continued from 2



while the pace of Jonathan Brooks creates fits for opposing fullbacks. Furthermore, injuries are less likely to thwart the Highlanders' playoff hopes, and with many talented attackers fighting for minutes, the opposition will struggle to keep up with this deep unit.


Despite a promising attack, the strength of this year's team undoubtedly lies on defense. All three starters return; AMC North Division 1st team selection Tyler Haggerty heads up a group that features returning AMC North Freshman of the Year Justin Farnsworth and physical fullback Chris Cruikshank. After grinding out 110 minutes against Mobile, Haggerty and Farnsworth were instrumental in the Bethel defeat despite little rest. "Generally speaking," stated Coach Webb, "the fitness level of the team as a whole is the best that it has been in the past few years. I believe that our fitness was not only critical in preserving the two overtime ties, but also in beating Bethel with little time to recover." With a staunch defense slowing attackers and NAIA Second Team All-American Erik Lefebvre lurking between the pipes, opponents can expect to notch few undeserved goals. "The strength of our team is in our ability to defend," Webb reiterates. "Our belief is that teams will have a hard time scoring on us."

While seniors form the backbone of the team, three freshmen have made valuable contributions. Chris Davis, a defender from Ottawa, Canada, filled in admirably while Cruikshank dealt with an injury, while late arrival Johnny Kimani relentlessly pressures defenders to make mistakes. Fillmore High School alum Aaron Martin has earned significant playing time at forward.

Martin, like most freshmen, recognizes the difference between

college soccer and high school soccer. "I think that the biggest difference between high school and college soccer is the pace and physicality of the game," he comments. "The decision-

making process has to happen so much faster because every opposing player is competent and will make you pay for any mental lapse." While he admits that there is a lot of information to absorb, Martin's first-year experience will hasten his development.

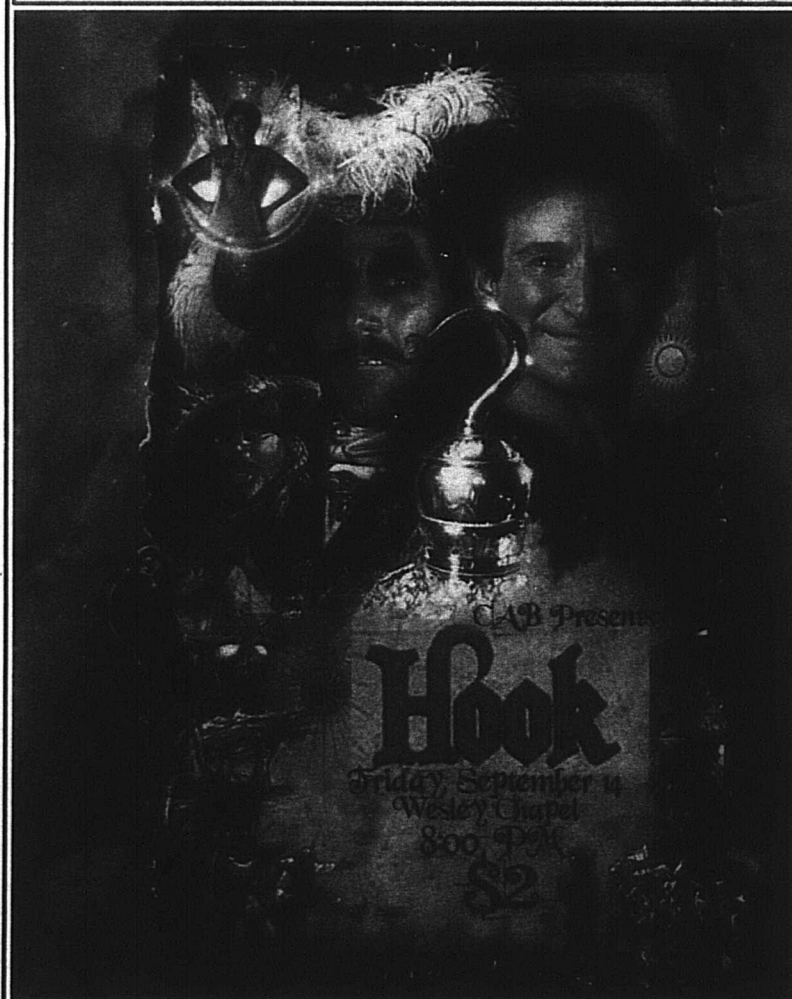
If the Highlanders wish to advance to the regional tournament, the team's chemistry, or "culture" in the words of Coach Webb, must remain strong. Often, it is not the most talented teams that do well, but those that play as a cohesive unit. Snelgrove reinforces the need for unity: "Bethel Head Coach Greg Gidman talked to us last year about bleeding for each other," the midfielder states. "I think that our guys are ready to bleed for each other." A crucial test approaches on September 22nd at Rio Grande University, the fourth ranked NAIA team in the nation. Snelgrove recognizes the challenge posed by the reigning Regional Champions and National Quarterfinalists. "Eventually we are going to need to topple this giant if we expect to get to Nationals," he states. Having missed out on nationals for multiple seasons, can the Highlanders once again compete with the nation's elite? Because of their talented roster and challenging early season schedule, Houghton will be well-prepared for a post-season run. 

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For Such a Time as This: A Note From the New Staff


By the Editors

Allow us to extend one final welcome to the 2007-2008 academic year. Just as the fall semester is now in full swing, we at the *Star* are up and running. We have a talented senior staff and are eager to work with the Houghton community to produce a top-notch student publication.

William Airhart, a senior Political Science major, will serve as editor-in-chief. This year's senior staff will feature four news editors. Timothy Bastedo, a senior Philosophy major, is charged with the Commentary section, encompassing all op-ed and persuasive pieces. Margaret Boecker, a junior Art and Communications major, will handle arts, sports and entertainment. Katarina Kieffer, a junior Political Science and Humanities major, covers all important news pieces. And lest you worry that Polaris has left the campus along with Inti Martínez, fear not; Jason Fisher, a senior Political Science and Philosophy major, will be in charge of implementing and conducting student surveys.

You'll have noticed our new format. Our new paper size will ease costs

and production as we transition into producing a weekly publication, and we'll even manage to become a little more earth-friendly in the process. In a similar move to reduce our carbon footprint, the *Star* will be available online as a PDF download starting next week. This will also connect alumni and students studying off campus to the latest news in the Houghton community. Forget to pick up an issue, or need to research a past campus event? Our online PDF archives will soon provide you with access to every issue published this year, and we're working on expanding to including recent years as well.

We're excited about the year ahead. This is an important year in Houghton's history, and we're looking forward to having the chance to report on the lingering tensions and fresh challenges that lay ahead. If you want to get involved, we're always looking for more help. If you have talent as a writer, photographer, or just want to know more, don't hesitate to e-mail us at star@houghton.edu. 



Will and Kat get some serious pointers from old *Star* issues at 2 a.m.

From the Editors' Desk...

The Best is Just Details: A Response to CLEW

By William Airhart, Editor-in-Chief

At the beginning of this month, the Houghton community welcomed Rev. Ben Patterson to campus to deliver a series of messages entitled "The Case for Joy." Patterson has been an exceptional Christian servant throughout his life, authoring numerous books on the Christian life and mentoring countless individuals. Many of the students here at Houghton found Patterson's message to be agreeable and of great spiritual benefit, and I do not wish to belittle their experiences, just as it is not my intention to criticize Patterson in a personal way.

Joy is undoubtedly an important part of the Christian life. Naturally, then, much of the content of Patterson's messages was devoted to exposing and combating things in life that inhibit joy. But herein laid the problem with Patterson's message: while purporting to highlight the "joy busters" that hinder a Christian from being truly joyful – guilt, disappointment, etc. – he spent remarkably little time engaging the Houghton community on the problem of suffering. His message was, in short, too limited in scope.

"If you belong to Jesus Christ," Patterson smiled, "you are fundamentally sound. The rest is just details." This was not a throwaway point to be lost amongst a larger theological argument. Listening to Patterson insist again and again that he (and by extension, we) were all fundamentally sound, I was reminded of Professor Pangloss, a character in Voltaire's epic satire *Candide*. Like Patterson, Pangloss too was fundamentally sound, confident in the face of every human trial that all was necessarily for the best and never admitting doubt.

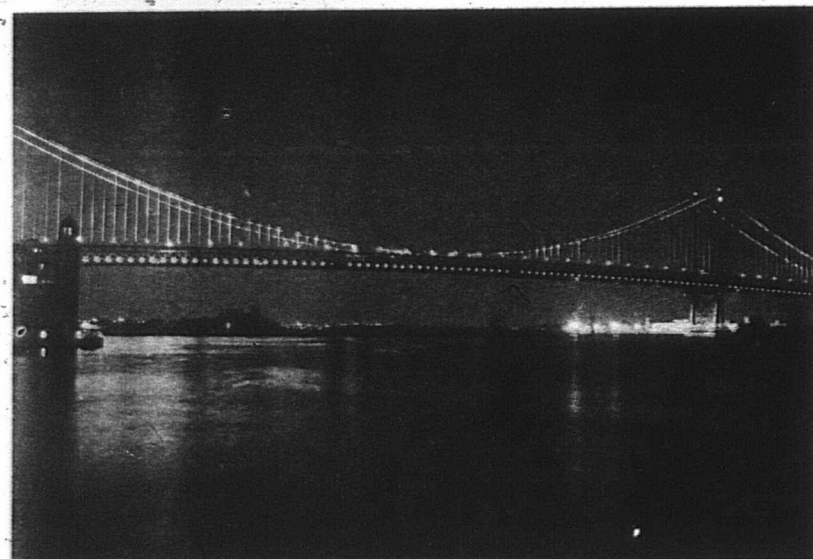
Pangloss joyfully passed on this message to his young student Candide, who would later have the misfortune of walking through the ruins of Lisbon following a devastating earthquake.

Unable to process the desolation before his eyes, Candide can find no other comfort but to repeatedly mutter to himself, "This is the best of all possible worlds." With incredulity, Voltaire leads the reader to wonder why on earth Candide insists on claiming to be fundamentally sound when it is so clear that he is not.

It is extremely hard, after all, to remain joyful in the midst of sorrow. As I listened to Patterson speak, I felt myself urging him to expound upon the difficulties of being a joyful Christian. What should we do, I wondered, when faced with the grim reality of human affliction? What should we say to the Iraqi mother who has lost all her children to sectarian violence, or to the Ugandan child soldier who has been taught only to kill? Because we've managed a simple recitation of the sinner's prayer, should we so quickly join with Patterson in proclaiming that "the rest is just details"?

Most assuredly not. It is clear that millions around the world are not fundamentally sound, regardless of their religious affiliation. The devil is in the details, so the saying goes, and to argue that nothing truly matters but one's heavenly status is dangerous and encourages neglect. Patterson claimed to have never met a heavenly person of no earthly good. I've had the misfortune of meeting several.

This was California Christianity at its very best. Charming, to be sure, and at times almost helpful; but ultimately immaterial to the Christian determined to take up their cross and engage the world in all its beauty and suffering. If we as Christians wish to make a difference upon leaving Houghton, we must balance joy and sorrow as we refuse to ignore the details of life. I would far rather be miserably bogged down with changing the world than to be joyfully and fundamentally sound.



Benjamin Franklin Bridge in Blue

*if you would like to see your photos
featured in the Star, e-mail them with titles to star@houghton.edu*

featured photos of the week

taken by Chris Weibel, Star photographer



City Lights from Philadelphia Museum of Art Steps

Club Soccer Team Discovers Secret to Success

By Joel Vanderweele

With the formation of the Men's Club Soccer team, Houghton College has welcomed a new sports team into its ranks. Self-proclaimed "coach-captain-person" Ben Tsujimoto formed the team to give everyone a chance to play, "not just upper classmen."

Tsujimoto's dedication to soccer is apparent. The history major, who has played soccer for 12 years and is very polite, showed up to his interview with proud sweat on his Italian soccer t-shirt.

The team played their first game on Saturday, September 1, against Lakeland Community College. The opposing team was composed entirely of freshmen and sophomores, but had already played in some pre-season games, had an official coach, and "a bus." Tsujimoto believed that the team was "largely from Yugoslavia" until he realized that Yugoslavia was dissolved sometime after the 1994 World Cup.

A rigorous tryout process earlier in the week, which required prospective players to show up for at least one of the

two days of practice, could not prevent the Houghton team from losing 10-0. Despite the overwhelming score, according to Tsujimoto, Houghton "didn't allow any goals for the last 30 minutes, even though [Lakeland] scored once every 5 minutes in the previous 58."

When asked about the game, players recounted their personal highlights. Sophomore Wesley Dean's favorite moment of the game came when he "stepped on a guy's foot and [the player] said 'oh shoot, these are brand new shoes,' and [Wesley] looked down to see that [he] had left a big black mark on his brand new white shoes... Everyone laughed."

Fellow sophomore Mitchell Edwards' favorite moment came when he "got hit in the face with the ball and fell over."

Coach-captain-person Tsujimoto confirmed these reports of non-soccer related highlights, saying that "in the first half, people were getting pretty frustrated, but in the second half the team was largely apathetic."

While this turn to apathy seems

like it should have resulted in a poor performance on the field, it was in the second half of the game that the opposing team failed to score, and according to Tsujimoto, "despite not having any shots on goal to speak of, [Houghton] did win a couple of corner kicks."

Their new apathetic approach to the game helped the team go from letting in 0.2 goals per minute to only 0.044 in the second half. Statistically, the second half was 450% better than the first. This staggering improvement may lead to some surprise victories in the future. If the club continues to improve the way they have been, there may be a power struggle for glory between the Varsity and Club Soccer teams. According to Wesley Dean, there are no tensions between the two teams: "Not yet, at least."

Following the recent success of the team, Tsujimoto is remaining modest, claiming that the team's new motto is "to try not to lose by double digits next time."

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