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Hynes, Mullen Debate Judicial Policy With SGA Senate

By William Airhart

Tensions ran high at a recent meeting of the Student Government Association (SGA), as senators and students questioned Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes and President Shirley Mullen over the details and merits of the student disciplinary procedure.

The SGA meeting held on January 17, open to the public, began with a normal slate of student business before inviting Hynes and Mullen to field questions in an open-ended discussion. A small cadre of students not affiliated with the SGA also attended and participated in the question-and-answer session. In a brief opening statement,

Hynes commented that "Houghton's judicial process is unique to Houghton, because there are specific aspects of our community that aren't present anywhere else." Later, she clarified that Houghton's judicial system was not modeled after a legal code, but an administrative structure. "A judicial process at a private institution is not one that requires due process," she explained. "[But] it doesn't mean that we throw student rights out the window... it's an administrative process, not a legal process."

Confusion Over The Right to Appeal

Houghton's Judicial Committee is made up of three faculty members, four

students, and a representative from the Office of Student Life who serves as a consultant. They do not automatically convene when a student commits a first offence, but always convene to meet when a student commits a second violation of Houghton's code of conduct. The Office of Student Life is responsible for all preliminary investigations of alleged offences. Significantly, a student's first violation of college policies is adjudicated only by the Vice President of Student Life or a designated staff member. Students, however, can appeal the decision.

This point of the policy was called into question by multiple senators in the meeting's early stages. Despite a

stipulation in the policy dictating that the Judicial Committee meet at least once a week, the committee did not meet for almost two years prior to the beginning of the Spring 2008 semester, meaning that all cases had been handled as first offences. "It's hard for me to believe that these cases aren't happening," argued Clara Sanders, a college senator. "The students don't know that they can appeal." Hynes admitted that the records kept of investigations prior to her tenure were "not great," but later stated that all students are notified of their right to appeal to the Judicial Committee.

Students have "a right to defend
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Controversial Proposal Seeks to Restructure Integrative Studies

By Rebekah Miller

Twice in the last week, the Academic Policies Council (APC) has discussed what is already a controversial proposal from the Integrative Studies Department. This proposal addresses the needed adjustment of Houghton's core curriculum in light of the recent switch to a four-credit-hour system.

The goal, according to Prof. Peter Meilaender, chair of the Integrative Studies Department (ISD), was "to make IS as a whole smaller [and] consume fewer hours." The ISD was also determined to "increase the amount of flexibility and choice the students have in deciding how to fill

their requirements."

As it stands, the IS curriculum includes a confusing assortment of required classes spread out over a suggested two-year plan. To simplify this process for both the student and his/her academic advisor, the IS proposal separates required courses into five categories: Physical Education, Nature, Society, Culture, and Faith, with each category requiring a set amount of hours.

In addition, the total number of required credit hours is reduced from an average of 53 to a number closer to 40. The reductions affect many departments: the number of required Bible and Theology hours, for example, drops from nine to eight (and

the number of required classes drops from three to two). A similar change is proposed for the Foreign Language, Math and Science departments.

Arguably the most controversial change is proposed for the Humanities department. While the current IS curriculum requires a student to take a Literature class (Literature of the Western World), a History class (Western Civilization) and a Philosophy class (Metaphysics, Morality and Mind or History of Philosophy), the proposed change would require a student to take only two of the three subjects. It also does away with the Humanities exploratory class. While Meilaender believes that this class is "as close to

a pseudo-requirement" as you can get, it is currently a part of the Humanities curriculum.

Joel VanderWeele, student representative on APC, acknowledges possible difficulties with this proposal. "This is a challenging process because difficult decisions need to be made about which subjects and classes are most integral to a Houghton College education," he said. There are, in fact, already concerns about the ISD's stance towards particular departments, especially the Humanities.

Some faculty members are concerned about the diminishing importance of the Humanities in the IS proposal, and
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THE WORLD OUT THERE

By Thomas Lerew

Campaign 2008 Update

This week saw Sen. John McCain triumph in the much-anticipated Florida Republican primary, beating Gov. Mitt Romney by a wide margin. McCain's win prompted former Mayor Rudi Giuliani to withdraw from the race and to endorse McCain, giving the Florida winner a greater advantage in next week's "Super Tuesday" election. Sen. Barack Obama won a stunning double-digit victory over Sen. Hillary Clinton in South Carolina, setting up a crucial two-way confrontation on February 5. Former Senator John Edwards withdrew from the race, leaving only two candidates seeking the Democratic nomination.

Trouble on Palestine-Egypt Border

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have overwhelmed the Egyptian border in recent days, bursting through to find food, fuel and other necessities. The lack of common supplies is due to a stringent embargo imposed by Israel. Egyptian authorities made no effort to stop them, saying the surge was inevitable given the current situation in Palestine. Egypt claims Israel has "sown the seeds of [this] border chaos," but Israel maintains that they will remain completely disconnected from Gaza, and that Palestinians will have to seek supplies elsewhere.

Man Caught Embezzling \$7 Billion

The French bank Société Générale is being investigated after an employee was caught embezzling more than \$7 billion. Paris police have Jerome Kerviel in custody and spent the weekend questioning him. Police are concerned that some at the bank were aware of the England-based trader's tactics but did not take proper measures to prevent the crime. The bank is not expected to be forced to close its doors.

President Bush Gives Final State of the Union Address

On Monday evening, President Bush gave his final State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress. Most of the speech focused on his plans for the economy and cutting government spending, as well as reflecting on the importance of the War in Iraq. Bush asked Congress to overcome "election-year politics" to maintain fiscal discipline and take significant steps to prevent an impending economic recession. Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius delivered the Democrats' response immediately following the speech, commending his ideas but noting that Democrats are skeptical of his ability to unite Washington in order to actually achieve his objectives.

Update on Post-Election Kenya

The death toll has reached 800 as Kenya remains in turmoil following the December 27 presidential elections. Recently, violence has spiked along ethnic lines as militants say "that for every brother or sister of theirs killed they will kill three of their enemy." The violence is not contained to specific regions of the country, but is widespread and "unpredictable," according to authorities. While post-election violence is common in Kenya, this year's marks some of the worst the nation has seen in recent decades.

New Poll Suggests We're All Liars

A recent poll released by a research group in London states that people "lie" at a minimum of four times per day. It is estimated that an individual will lie about 88,000 times in their lifetime. The study was based on the responses of 2,500 men and women. "Nothing's wrong" or "I'm fine" topped the list of common lies. Men "fib" more frequently at five times per day whereas women only three. Researchers did note that the majority of lies were told to avoid hurting others' feelings.

SGA Senate Doles Out Club Funds

By Jordan Zaner

Despite an offering of free pizza, pop, and coffee, last week's Student Government Association Senate meeting went virtually unattended by students outside of the Student Government Association (SGA). For those concerned, however, there was a prize at stake even more enticing than free food: funding allocations for student clubs. Seventeen clubs competed in a political contest for a slice of the funding pie, with a total of over \$12,000 at stake. The night featured long and sometimes heated debates over how to best divide the money.

Nearly half of the funds went to just three groups: the charitable Habitat for Humanity, and the more narrowly-

focused Phi Beta Lambda and Drawing Board organizations. By far the largest grant, \$3,000, went to Habitat for Humanity. They will use these funds for a relief work trip to Louisiana, where many people are still struggling to recover from Hurricane Katrina. The next biggest winner was Phi Beta Lambda—a business organization that is perhaps unfamiliar to most students—with \$1,348. The third-largest grant went to the rather more visible *Drawing Board* comic publication. They had hoped to get about \$2,000, so they could both continue to print their large 8-page comic and further expand their operations by releasing an anthology book of past comics, but after an extended discussion the Senate voted a compromise \$1,250, which will be

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CULTURE February 11th STATIC

Professors Jonathan Case, Dave Huth, and Ted Murphy... discuss the effects of today's media on our beliefs and value systems and what's at stake...

...Join us in the campus center lounge at 7pm for some relaxed and relevant conversation...

hosted by Stephen Haras, Kyle Vitale, and Jan White



Houghton Superstar Crowns New Idol: Amanda Burns

By Eric Stevenson

The last two Friday nights have had an exciting aura about them. What was that aura, you ask? Why, it was Houghton Superstar, of course! The brand-new sensation swept the campus, and a week later, people are *still* talking about it (even as this is being printed, in fact).

The event began on Friday, January 18. With several hundred attendees, it was obvious from the get-go that it was going to be a night worth e-mailing mom about. One by one, fifteen contestants took the stage and gave their renditions of classic songs like "Jesus Take the Wheel," "Don't Wanna Miss a Thing," and "Time After Time." The two-and-a-half-hour event felt like a breeze as our very own peers sang their hearts out. Some sang with passion. Some did not. But all sang with gusto, and that, friends, is honorable by any



Photo by Ashley Hackett

Amanda Burns was the only Houghton Superstar contestant to perform with a live band.

standard.

The judges proved to be a highlight of the event. James Dutton provided the clever-yet-cruel remarks of Simon Cowell, and Arryn Prince established

herself as the dimwitted Paula Abdul. Randy Jackson was portrayed in his palest state ever recorded. Between acts, they gave their parodying thoughts and ideas to each contestant, who

always (reluctantly) accepted them. The host, Adam Slocum, was confused for Ryan Seacrest's twin.

As the voting process commenced around 9 p.m., the suspense was as thick as a lead door. Placed in groups of three, the contestants were asked to sit down one by one until five finalists were left standing: James Schmieder, Alex Vitale, Amanda Burns, Adele Cameron, and Darius Crawford. The crowd cheered, and throughout the following week, Houghton Superstar was on everybody's minds, even more than the newest season of American Idol.

The night of the finals, January 25, approached as fast as a hunting cheetah. When the chapel was filled and the lights were dimmed, all five stars came on stage to sing "Ain't No Mountain High Enough;" the ensuing cheers could likely have fueled jet engines.

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enough to continue the regular comic and begin work on the anthology.

Rounding out the top five were the Climbing Club, who received nearly as much as the Drawing Board, a hefty \$1,200, and Global Christian Fellowship, which, with \$1,000, was the last organization to receive a four-figure sum.

Among the remaining club allocations was the controversial issue of ROTC funding. The debate was perhaps

fueled by a greater political controversy, but the particular issue under discussion was a certain conflict over oil; namely, the ROTC

now offers ROTC as a minor, but that some of the classes must be taken at St. Bonaventure and thus the students have to travel for their classes. Senator Joshua Nolen, who appeared reluctant to support the ROTC organization, prepared a comprehensive list of the money ROTC cadets receive through stipends and scholarships, and noted that it is enough to pay their tuition and have between two or three thousand dollars left over.

Nolen argued that this money could be used by ROTC students to pay for their own transport costs. He also likened the situation to that of commuter students and students in other

the funding of other clubs. These two senators, as well as many others, engaged in a lengthy and heated dispute, until they were interrupted by Commissioner of Finance Mark Satta, who called for a brief moment of prayer and reflection, asking God for guidance in decision-making and thanking Him for the diversity within the Christian Church. The discussion then continued after this in a more orderly fashion, until a decision was finally made to give ROTC \$860, only a portion of their requested funds.

The discussion of funding for the remaining clubs was somewhat more mundane, but there were a few notable highlights. The Society for Human Resource Management listed "human resource games" as one of their expenses. Although there was some confusion among those present about what that actually means, it was decided in the end that the SHRM should be given the full \$400 they requested. The Psychology Club's request for \$300 dollars to put on a "stress fair"

was met with enthusiastic support, as many senators noted that members of the Houghton student body are rather stressed out and that such a fair could serve as a valuable use of student funds. The usually self-sufficient Shakespeare Players Club received \$180 to help compensate for the fact that the Houghton Academy has this year begun charging them for using the auditorium. Other club requests went generally as expected.

After all these clubs received their share, there was a small amount of money placed in reserve, so that any club who needs special funding during the semester can seek their fortune with a Type 2 (one-time) funding request. Students interested in obtaining a share of student money through this process should contact their friendly neighborhood SGA member.

At last week's SGA Senate meeting, seventeen clubs competed for a slice of the funding pie, with a total of over \$12,000 at stake.

funding appeal included a request for gas money to pay for the trips they make to St. Bonaventure University. Senator Ben Groen made the case for ROTC funding, noting that Houghton College

Houghton off-campus program, who do not receive compensation for their travel expenses. Groen countered by saying that ROTC scholarship packages are not a factor of consideration in

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Everyone in the crowd understood what was at stake: this was the night—the night Houghton would find its first superstar.

This time around, the contestants sang two songs in order to show off their different abilities. Vitale proclaimed his Billy Joel fan-hood, while Schmieder decided to usher in some hip-hop with Usher's "U Remind Me." Burns took the opportunity to have a backing band instead of singing to recordings; she even played one of



Photo by Ashley Hackett

The Judges and Host of Houghton Superstar

her own songs on the piano, all the while singing like the offspring of an angel and a siren. Crawford was able to get the crowd on their feet with her rendition of "Dancing in the Streets." Cameron beautifully belted out "My Redeemer Lives."

After the performances were over and the judges' had given fabulous remarks (especially the hot-as-butter Randy Jackson), the final

judgment was announced. The crowd had spoken via their voting papers, and now it was Houghton's time to hear the name of their first superstar. After narrowing it down to Schmieder and Burns, Ryan Seacrest slowly opened an envelope and read aloud: "The winner of Houghton Superstar is... AMANDA BURNS!" The crowd went nuts. It seems that she mesmerized everyone with her original song and performance with a live band.

Most of the excitement can be credited to just two people: Alaina Williams and Emily Van Eenwyk.



Photo by Ashley Hackett

Houghton Superstar Amanda Burns.

Working for CAB, they envisioned the most successful American Idol spoof in the history of Houghton College. They took the burden upon themselves to plan everything from finding the contestants to what was in the judges' drinks on stage (Randy had a smoothie!). When all was said and done, Williams and Van Eenwyk claimed they "didn't regret a thing." But will they give yet another young musician the chance to be crowned as the next Houghton Superstar? "Possibly," Williams said, "but it won't be until next year, if that. I guess we'll just see what happens."

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have already taken steps to suggest revisions. Prof. Chris Stewart crafted an alternative proposal that has been presented to the APC. According to Stewart, it is not meant to be a counter-proposal, but "there is a sense in which [it] was written to be a stand-alone alternative." Stewart refers to the proposal he crafted in response to the IS proposal as "a revision of a revision," and feels his proposal solves many of the "problems" with the ISD's original plan.

Stewart's proposal changes the groupings of Phys Ed, Nature, Society, Culture, and Faith into what he sees as more common-sense groupings: Proficiencies, Faith and Reason, Arts and Letters, Social Sciences, and Sciences. For Stewart, the ISD's clusters "didn't say anything meaningful;" they "conveyed nothing about what we thought the core curriculum meant."

Stewart's proposal also maintains all three current Humanities requirements:

Literature, History and Philosophy. Herein lies the core of the debate: does the Humanities include only Literature, History and Philosophy? Or, siding with Meilaender and the rest of the ISD, should we add Bible, Writing, and the Arts in addition to the three

listed above? Both proposals hold Humanities in high regard and adequately represent what they define as the Humanities. To Stewart, History,

Literature and Philosophy are unique enough to be counted separately: "What Literature contributes is something distinct enough so that you don't have that diminishing return" as you do with taking multiple Social Sciences.

Part of the concern stems from the makeup of the ISD itself. The department, though elected by the faculty, consists of what could be characterized as lopsided departmental representation. The ISD has one representative from Political Science, Physics, Religion, Writing, Communication, Foreign Languages, and two representatives

from the Math department. As Stewart notes, the number of representatives is "very small, not even a representative sample of the faculty;" there are, in fact, no faculty from the Literature, History, or Philosophy departments in the ISD. Additionally, no faculty members in the History or Philosophy departments were consulted by the ISD as they crafted their proposal.

The proposal is currently under consideration of the APC. Stewart hopes that the APC will send it back to ISD with guidelines on how to reshape the proposal so as to include more faculty feedback as well as answer some of the highlighted concerns. According to Stewart, the time to correct the proposal is now, before it hits the faculty floor, as it is "certainly not a done deal." He encouraged students to consider the proposal as it stands and, if they are troubled as well, to talk to the student representatives on APC, William Airhart and Joel VanderWeele: "Students can certainly have a role in this process; they don't have a vote of course, but they can look at it and...say, why is this gone, why is this here?" he said. "I expect that the faculty will listen to that. How

well they'll be swayed...will depend on how articulate and how well spread [the response is]." After the proposal is accepted by APC, it will be sent to the faculty who will vote on its acceptance or refusal.

Another implication of the proposal lies further down the road; there is speculation about the effect this proposal will have on "traffic patterns" within respective departments. As Stewart notes, the worry is that, in a college this small, "this kind of approach to these disciplines will weaken Humanities at the college, not preserve them." Meilaender recognizes this problem as a legitimate concern but feels that the IS core curriculum is not the proper method to preserve the Humanities within Houghton. "Requiring [Literature, Philosophy, and History] is at best a holding pattern... unless other things change it's not really going to solve your problems anyway." He continued, "If the college makes a concerted effort to highlight the Humanities...[and] tries to recruit students who want to take these things, there won't be any problems at all."

There are already concerns about the Integrative Studies Department's stance towards particular departments, especially the Humanities.

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themselves in the judicial process," said Hynes. Prior to an appeals hearing, however, some senators questioned the means by which Student Life obtains information on possible student infractions. Hynes made it clear that rogue, covert investigations were not conducted by her office. At this point, Mullen also interjected, making it clear that she "certainly would not authorize or support anything like an intentional effort that would include going and finding out what people are doing."

Amidst Uncertainty, Senators Ask for Protective Guarantees

Both Hynes and Mullen staked out a clear position that it was not the policy of Student Life nor of Houghton College to "actively seek out" students engaged in breaking the student conduct code. Members of the SGA, however, remained skeptical. While no one accused either Hynes or Mullen of any wrongdoing, some senators pointed to past incidents prior to the tenure of either administrator. Joshua Nolen, a college senator, remarked that he "knew of students who had been charged without evidence" from other students. SGA Chaplain Kate Hamilton agreed. "There have been cases while I have been in a position of student leadership in which Student Life has done some of the things that you say the office doesn't do," she claimed. "I'm not saying that it's something you do... but it's had an impact on students."

After the meeting, Jason Fisher, a college senator, expanded on this point. "Certainly, no one is accusing either Hynes or Mullen of violating any rules," he pointed out. "They've both conducted themselves in an entirely appropriate manner in student investigations... but the need for a policy that explicitly prohibits that sort of behavior is needed." Nolen agreed, saying, "I'm glad that isn't the current policy of Student Life to start accusing people based on unsubstantiated claims... but it doesn't diminish the need for more guarantees in the text of

the policy that these situations won't occur in the future."

Part of the need for more protection for students in the policy stems from a general ignorance among students of the policies themselves. Kaylan Reynolds, a junior, expressed dissatisfaction with the particulars of the disciplinary process. "I know it's an important policy," she recognized, "but I don't think that many students really know the rules. No one has ever encouraged us to become familiar with all of the details of the handbook." Many SGA senators themselves required additional clarification on the policy. Chelsea Valentine, another junior, agreed. "I feel like the way that disciplinary issues are handled is at best unclear and inconsistent... students don't perceive a clear process involved. I'm not even sure what rights we do and don't have."

Four Years Later, Rights Still Missing

Student confusion over the exact enumeration and interpretation of their rights is understandable, given that student rights in the judicial process is a topic of ongoing discussion and revision. In the spring of 2003, a number of student rights were struck from the student handbook. Prof. Peter Meilaender served on the Judicial Committee during the lead-up to the policy changes in 2003. "The idea was not so much to take away a set of student rights, as it was to avoid using legal terminology that might have bound the college, in a court, to a body of legal precedent drawn from criminal proceedings," he commented. "We deferred to the judgment of Dean Tilley [then the Dean of Students], who had previous experience at other institutions." Meilaender stressed, however, that his recollection of the committee discussions was no longer very detailed.

Other faculty members were more vocal with their criticism. Prof. B. David Benedict, himself once the student body president at Houghton, was not on campus during the spring semester of 2003. "I don't know why

they passed it," he said. "I certainly would have opposed it had I been here."

Included among these now-absent rights is the right of students to face their accusers, as well as the right to remain silent when a response may be self-incriminating. A new addition that coincides with these omissions, however, is a student's right to "fundamental fairness." Fisher jumped on this point during the SGA meeting. "Not allowing students the simple knowledge of who is bringing charges against them contradicts the idea of fundamental fairness," he argued. "When not even members of the Judicial Committee are allowed to know the identity of the accuser, fairness is clearly lost."

Another student questioned how accountability could be upheld in a system that lacked transparency and allowed blind accusations. Hynes pointed out that punitive decisions based on the testimony of a single individual rarely take place. "It would be very rare for us to make an investigation when it's one person's word against another's," she said. "What we try to do is try to make sure that there are multiple reports." Pressed on the effectiveness of such an approach—because a dishonest accuser is likely to refer Student Life to similarly dishonest collaborators, accountability is still lost in the process—Hynes reiterated the need to protect the rights of the accuser. "For their own feeling of safety," she argued, the identity of many accusers needed to be protected.

The right to remain silent and avoid self-incrimination was similarly overruled. "What we're trying to do is encourage in every way possible a student to participate in the conversation," Hynes explained. "But by coming in, and sitting in silence and exercising that right, it leads a person [on the Judicial Committee] to believe that there is something to be hidden... that's just human nature." As Fisher pointed out after the meeting, however, such a rationale was only consistent if a student was presumed guilty until

proven innocent by verbally defending themselves.

A Legal or Ethical Obligation?

It is important to note, however, that Houghton is not *constitutionally* obligated to extend any of these rights to students; because Houghton is a private institution, students and administrators have a contractual relationship that differs in scope. (In *Hart v. Ferris* (1983), for example, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that schools were not *always* required to guarantee students the right to confront their accusers.) But what irked many senators was the belief that even if the college was not *required* to extend these particular rights, it had a *prudential* and *moral* obligation to still do so. "Why would we insist on denying students these basic rights?" Nolen asked afterwards. "Even if we decide to employ administrative language, the need for accountability and transparency will remain."

Students facing a hearing with Student Life are allowed to bring an advisor. The handbook once included a statement stating, "A list of possible [faculty] advisors is available from the Student Government Association." When asked about this new omission, cabinet members of the SGA expressed surprise. "The SGA Senate would surely be willing to assist students involved in judicial matters," commented Christopher Krowka, Speaker of the Senate. "I have no idea why that section was struck." Peter Savage, Vice President of the SGA, conveyed similar sentiments. "Students should of course feel free to approach any member of the Cabinet," he said.

Mullen closed the meeting by encouraging students to embrace the broad scope of the activities of the Office of Student Life, instead of simply focusing on student rights and the judicial policy. "I think we want to think about this as a community that doesn't turn Sharra's office and the student body into adversaries," she said. "There are so many other things that the office wants to do besides discipline." ■



Can't Musicians Honor the Sabbath?

On Sundays, "work" and "rest" don't fit neatly into two separate categories.

By Elizabeth Zook

As a student, I seldom confuse work with leisure, though I admit there is nothing quite so exhilarating as plodding through an "Intro to Psych" textbook. Apart from academics, however, I sometimes have a hard time defining the difference between what I "work" at and what I do to "rest." People have struggled with this distinction ever since God issued the seventh commandment which said, following His example, we should take a day to purposefully abstain from the mundane tasks that fill the rest of our week. While there are some parts of Scripture that specifically outline what we should and should not do as Christians ("thou shalt not kill" comes to mind), most of God's instructions come as general concepts that we apply to whatever circumstances in which we find ourselves. There's no list for us, and no way to run things past God just to make sure; we get to work it out for ourselves. I am glad that Houghton takes this responsibility seriously, and consequently, I think it's time that we considered the possibility of opening the Center for the Arts (CFA) for more reasonable hours on Sundays.

Honestly, I'm not quite sure why the CFA is locked until six o'clock on Sunday evenings. Are we concerned that music students will practice instead of going to church? If this is the case, we should perhaps be worried about Houghton's athletes, who might prefer to work out or play a game of basketball in the gym (which is open on Sunday afternoons) instead of attending a local service. Or perhaps it's that playing music in a practice room on Sunday pushes the Sabbath envelope a bit too far. Music students play music all week; surely they'd welcome the chance to surrender their strings, keys, valves and vocal chords in the name of "rest." Except they don't. Like anything at which we strive to

improve, music-making can at times be difficult and stressful. In fact, most of a musician's time at Houghton is spent honing and perfecting his or her skill in preparation for recitals and juries. But just as the nitty-gritty details are essential to growth, so too is the time spent working or practicing without obligation. I know a few artists, and they do not paint, draw, or sculpt merely because art is a discipline they found worthy of pursuit. Like musicians, they create because they are in love with their craft as an intrinsic part of who they are.

The double standard of varying definitions of "rest" is the main reason why the CFA should be open. I cannot stop being a musician on Sundays. The rules of dorm life dictate that all musical instruments may only be played in the music building (except guitars, which makes no sense to me or anyone else who's had the pleasure of unsuccessfully ignoring a particularly obnoxious acoustic jam session). It frustrates me that no matter how fervently Houghton emphasizes the need for rest from academics on Sunday, there is no way to stop students from working. I can legitimately write a paper, run a mile, or start a sketch for an art project during the day on Sunday, but I am denied access to a place where I can make music.

I feel as though Houghton tries to determine which activities qualify as acceptable worship on Sundays. Why not entrust this decision to students? Music represents a communication with God of which I am incapable through any other medium. I cannot easily allow this to be removed from my life, especially on the day we've set aside specifically to honor God. I know I am not the only one who hopes that this discontinuity can be rectified, making a space for anyone who wishes to spend their Sunday playing music.

Elizabeth is a sophomore Music major.

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ROTC Through a Fiscal Lens

Ignore any "morality" arguments: funding ROTC makes no fiscal sense.

By Joshua Nolen

I don't like the ROTC Program. There, I said it. I figured it was best to bring my own biases to light before anyone else did. Please notice that I said I didn't like the ROTC *Program*, instead of the ROTC students: maybe it's because I'm a conservative, but I don't like the Government sticking its nose into other peoples' business. And, I do understand that a State is run much different from a Soul.

This article, however, is not an attempt to stir up last year's debate over what's "Just War" and what's just war. (Please, don't inundate the *Star* with angry letters.) This article is instead an attempt to discuss the funding that the ROTC Club receives from the SGA.

Let me start off by saying that the ROTC requested \$2,023.36 and the ROTC received \$860. Let me also say that at this year's SGA funding meeting there were seventeen requests for funds and that of the eleven Type I requests only two were granted in full and both were for requests less than \$400. Additionally, of all the Type I requests, only three clubs were given more money than the ROTC. The largest difference between money requested and money funded was for the Gospel Choir which requested \$7,050 and received only \$550. I will also point out that there was one club I belong to requesting money (the Shakespeare

Players) and I fought to prevent them from receiving funds – not because I do not support the Shakespeare Players, but because I believed it would be fiscally irresponsible.

If SGA voting records were examined, it would be apparent that the SGA is not always the best steward of its money; it would also be apparent that many times I voted against items of personal gain, trying to restore a policy of fiscal conservatism. But how would funding the ROTC Club be a violation of fiscal conservatism?

It is true that any student can be involved in the ROTC Club, and it is also true that not all ROTC Cadets are conscripted by the US Military. However, it is also true that to participate in the third and fourth years of the program (as a junior or a senior), a student must be conscripted by the Government to serve in the military. These conscripted upperclassmen are paid to attend Houghton College.

Any student conscripted by the Armed Forces (and therefore all, but not only, juniors and seniors in the ROTC Program), receive 100% free tuition, a *minimum* of \$5,000 in scholarships from Houghton, around \$4,000 a year in "spending money" from the military, and \$1,200 a year from the military for books and supplies. Doing the math, after room (a double in a dorm), board (21 meals a week) and books, a

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conscripted student receives a bonus of about \$3,000 a year.


These students are signing up to be in the military after they graduate, and they are receiving free tuition, room, board, books and \$3,000. Fine by me. The problem is that these students are also requesting money from the SGA to take classes at a different school.

As part of the ROTC Program, cadets take classes. But half the classes aren't offered at Houghton. ROTC cadets in their third and fourth years want Houghton to pay for them to go to another college for free, too.

Now, it should be stated that not all the funding ROTC requested was to benefit third- and fourth-year students. ROTC did receive funding for a ROTC Forum, Alumni Care Packages, Color Guard, and "Supplies." What the ROTC did *not* receive was a little over \$1,000, most of which would have gone to reimburse students for gas money as they traveled to a different college to take classes.

The SGA allocates money for "extracurricular" activities (activities outside the normal curriculum). Students involved in the ROTC for four years are the only students who are taking classes at this outside college, and they are receiving a "Military Science" minor from Houghton for it. This sounds like "curricular," not "extracurricular," to me.

The SGA does not fund academics; individual students fund academics. The SGA Senate voted initially about 12-7 to grant the ROTC \$860 and then the whole Senate voted to accept the budget.

The SGA is not in the business of refunding commuters, paying student lab fees, providing scholarships, or financing individual student careers. It would have been fiscally irresponsible and, I believe, morally reprehensible for the SGA to fund the third and fourth years of the ROTC Program when the Army (with the support of Houghton College) is already funding them. 

Joshua is a junior Philosophy and Biology double major and is an SGA senator.

From the Editors' Desk...

"Mac Is Back?" More Likely, He Just Never Left

Once considered out of the race, John McCain has surged past Mitt Romney to the top of the Republican heap.

By Jason Fisher

A quick run-down of my favorite sports teams shows that I rarely back winners. I've been a Bills fan ever since I began following football. My father passed down his support for Hoosier basketball and Irish football to both of his sons. While Indiana's success this season has been a pleasant surprise, Notre Dame's performance this fall negates almost all past accomplishments (has anyone figured out how that happened? I feel like there should be a Congressional investigation.) I support the Indiana Pacers (don't ask) and the Chicago Cubs. I even like MLS soccer, which has been a massive failure altogether. My lack of interest in the NHL is the only thing that can be counted as an unambiguous victory on my part.

Outside the sports arena, however, it looks like I'm faring pretty well. Chronically interested in politics, I've been tooting John McCain's horn since high school, and with his victory in Florida on Tuesday night, the Republican nomination is his to lose. The Republican race evolved into a two-man race after the New Hampshire primary, but Florida helped solidify the notion that Giuliani and Huckabee's campaigns are essentially dead in the water. (Giuliani, in fact, dropped out of contention after Florida, and threw his support to McCain.) Ron Paul, while still officially in the race, is about as threatening to other Republicans as a dead kitten. For him to inflict any damage on McCain, his supporters would have to stop watching their *X-Files* DVDs, pause *World of Warcraft*, and actually show up at the polling stations. (Unlikely.)

Barring a Huckabee resurgence, McCain's only competition now, it seems, comes from Mitt Romney. Regrettably, as the field has thinned, McCain has made comments that could

be described as "mischaracterizing" Romney's stance on Iraq. It is a pragmatic choice, however, to get a bit 'dirty' at this point in the game. Refusing to accept the shortcomings of the contemporary political scene only causes premature ends to campaigns, much like the one run by Fred Thompson. Thompson failed to supply the media with catchy sound-bites (or really, any sound-bites whatsoever), preferring lengthy substantive speeches. As a result, instead of participating, Thompson is now watching the race from his back porch in Tennessee, chomping on a cigar. McCain's less-than-accurate attacks on Romney only reflect his desire to win the nomination. One need not accept McCain's description of Romney's proposed Iraq policy, however, to be convinced of his clear superiority.


Romney and his supporters constantly bark about his business credentials and excellent grasp of economics. While making money through leveraged buyouts of Staples and Domino's is a different kind of monster than attempting to bolster an entire nation's economy, I can grant that Romney is probably better qualified in the economic sphere than McCain. The trouble is that while the economy is a high priority concern for Americans, it shouldn't be very relevant to the selection of a national executive.

Former Federal Reserve Chief Alan Greenspan recently cast doubt on the ability of political policies to substantially swing economic trends. Bush's recent tax break stimulus is about as aggressive a scheme that a President is capable of achieving, and its positive effects will be minimal at best. Choosing Romney over McCain because of his superior schooling in economics is an exercise in futility. Voters need to keep in mind what office these men are seeking and consider the

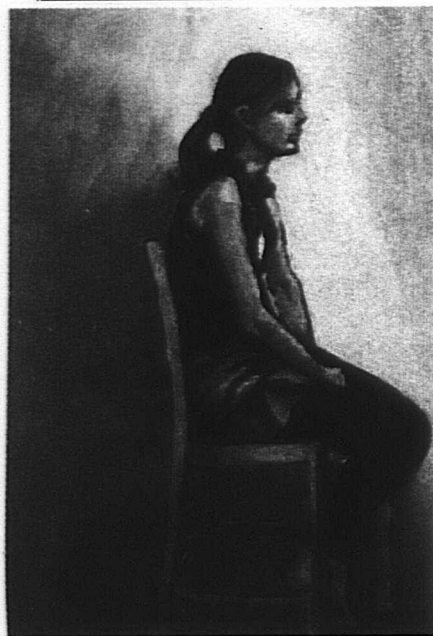
job description. Sending Romney to the White House because of his business experience makes about as much sense as having Jonathan Papelbon bat cleanup because he's a great closer. Valuable skill, wrong job.

While Romney's edge in economics is obvious, McCain's edge in foreign affairs is equally clear. And foreign affairs, put simply, is the most important discipline for the President of the United States to be well versed in.

McCain has often been accused of spending too much time in Washington. For one, Romney needs to be careful about boasting of his ability to 'change.' More importantly, thinkers from Aristotle to Carnes Lord have insisted that political leadership and knowledge of the bureaucracy are acquired skills that only come, like most skills, with practice. In light of this notion, Romney's comments about McCain's 'insider' status begins to look less like criticism and more like praise. And, of course, while in Washington McCain has consistently alienated himself from his own party on issues of pork barrel spending and immigration, which hardly paints the picture of the tired Washington elite that Romney is trying to frame of McCain.

And after all of that, just look at the two men. McCain looks like your tough-as-nails grandfather who has a moral compass that consistently points straight north. Romney looks about as trustworthy as a street magician. It would be like electing David Blaine to the highest office in the land. McCain simply needs to avoid any big blunders and, if all goes well, he will ride the surge all the way through the Republican nomination, into the White House. 

Jason is a senior Philosophy and Political Science double major and serves as news editor.

featured
artworkELIZABETH
JANCEWICZ

Anxious, oil painting

Note from the artist:

Practice and inspiration. Those two things are what keep artists interesting. Practice simply because you're never done getting better. There is no saying "That's it. I've gotten as good as I'm ever going to get. I can just stay at this level now." Draw all the time. Challenge yourself more if you feel like you "know it all". Sketch out a charcoal of a model. Bored with that? Pick up a new material and learn how to use it. What about inspiration? How can I get inspired in a place like this? Surround yourself with how you want to be. Study art in non-traditional places: artists like Dan Piraro, Craig Thomson, and Banksy. Leaf through magazines featuring current art, listen to music that challenges your thinking and controls your brush. Travel the world and witness beauty, injustice, and God. Truly get to know people. Don't throw things away. And try to show these things through your art, so that they can at least try to see.

Beth is an Art major with a concentration in Painting.



Contained Within the Fish, oil painting

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: Some of the squares in this puzzle may be occupied by a numeral relevant to a major story in this week's issue.

CROSSword
challenge

ACROSS

- 1 Culmination of March Madness
- 7 Neighbor of a Laotian
- 11 Sign at a Broadway sellout
- 14 Hatred
- 15 Printer-paper quantity
- 16 Came out on top
- 17 Weasel out
- 18 Eyebrow shape
- 19 Cute ___ button
- 20 "The Unanswered Question" composer Charles
- 21 Coiner of the term "rope-a-dope"
- 23 Backpacker's lodging
- 25 PBS funder
- 26 Irish playwright famous for "The Playboy of the Western World"
- 28 "And the list goes on..." abbr.
- 29 Something up one's sleeve
- 30 Tired out
- 31 "Sure thing!", on the CB
- 32 Red-breasted European songbird
- 33 Khaki palette
- 34 Group who hit #1 with "Reach Out I'll Be There"
- 36 "Ethan ___"
- 38 Pygmalion's creator
- 39 Forbidden topics
- 42 Son of Anakin
- 43 State fair exhibitor, often
- 44 Deadly snake
- 47 Grace "period"?

- 48 Korean for "capital city"
- 49 Actor Brynner
- 50 ___ combined (Winter Olympics event)
- 52 Service which needs repeating
- 53 Machu Picchu's country
- 54 Couple
- 55 PlayStation maker
- 57 Flowers with swordlike leaves
- 59 Suffix with ranch
- 60 David Beckham, e.g.
- 61 Bite-size cake
- 62 Queue after Q
- 63 Campbell of "Party of Five"
- 64 Close shaves

DOWN

- 1 Cereal eaten hot
- 2 "How rude!"
- 3 First-class occasion, maybe?
- 4 Iowa birthplace of Billy Sunday
- 5 Haul
- 6 Fancy hotel chain
- 7 Apprentice
- 8 "On ___ Majesty's Secret Service"
- 9 Germany-Belgium border city
- 10 "The way I see it..." in e-mail shorthand
- 11 Hostage crisis squad
- 12 Sitcom set in Lanford, Ill.
- 13 Ready to play leapfrog
- 24 Altercations
- 27 "Vamoose, varmint!"
- 30 Ballroom dance maneuver
- 32 Chintzy
- 34 Foundational principle of ancient medicine
- 35 Become established
- 36 Near misses at the plate
- 37 Burgle
- 38 Calumny
- 39 Article in the paper?
- 40 Ceremonial candle lighter
- 41 Down in the mouth
- 43 Start of the Gettysburg Address
- 44 Reply to a captain
- 45 Inspector Clouseau's organization
- 46 Golfer's knickers
- 51 Amazon.com datum
- 53 Hummus holder
- 56 Bible translation that debuted in the '70s
- 58 VCR remote button

