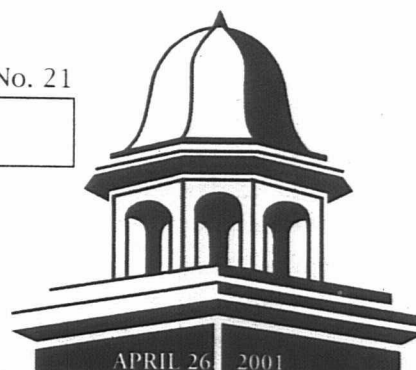


# The Houghton STAR

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE



APRIL 26 2001

## College to hold first-ever Town Hall Forum

Lindsay Ackerman

Houghton College has always touted the idea that the college is not only a learning institution, but that it is also a community. Today at 11 o'clock a.m. in Wesley Chapel, the community will be meeting at the first Town Hall Forum in recent Houghton history.

This event was organized by a group of students who saw a need for increased communication between students, administrators, faculty, staff, and community members. Organizer Jay Jennings commented on the importance of such an event. He said, "The purpose of this forum is to open communication between the administration, the community, and the students. Some of us were concerned about how little we knew about what was going on around here, so we organized this forum to inform all facets of the community."

The Town Hall Forum, modeled after a similar event held each semester at Wheaton College, will be a time during which community members can ask questions and get answers from people who are informed about college policies and events. The panel will consist of President Chamberlain, Vice President for Finance, Jeff Spear, Vice President for Advancement, Larry Johnson, Vice President

of Student Life, Robert Danner, and Vice President of Academics, Ronald Oakerson. Tim Fuller, Vice President of Enrollment, will not be in attendance because of a scheduling conflict.

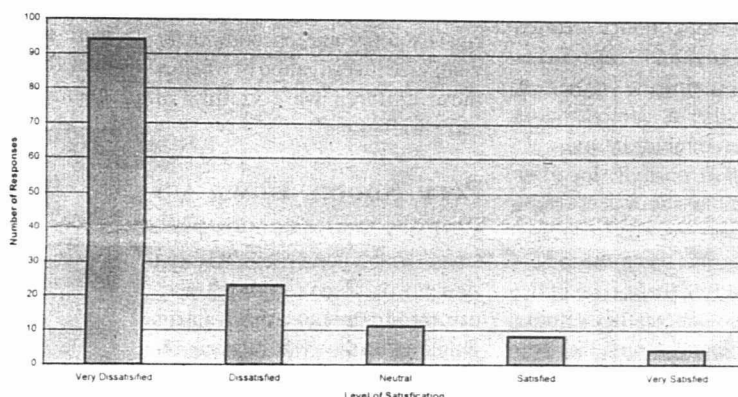
There will be two open microphones so audience members can readily address the panel. The *Star* is also accepting questions in advance that will be read by members of the campus media.

To prepare for the forum the organizers polled students about their overall satisfaction with various aspects of life at Houghton College.

Many students added to the survey, writing down questions they would like answered at the forum. Results of this survey have been published on page 3 of the *Star*.

The organizers of the event and the administrators are excited about this new avenue of communication between many important aspects of the community and urge students, faculty, staff, and other community members to attend the forum prepared to ask questions that will benefit the entire body.

Would you be Satisfied if the CLO was Discontinued?



## Psychological assessment targets student laptop attitude

Stephen Maxon

Houghton students have a moderately positive overall opinion of the mandatory laptop (ML) program, but there are significant differences in attitude based on class - these were the findings of a study conducted by Dr. John Van Wicklin's Psychological Assessment class this semester.

The students in Van Wicklin's class constructed a survey consisting of 25 attitude statements related to the ML program, and distributed 124 of them, using a technique of stratified sampling. 99 surveys were returned, a high enough response rate to suggest that the data collected may accurately represent the opinions of the current student population.

Although the average response was slightly positive, most respondents displayed a mixture of positive and negative attitudes regarding the ML program. Although a whopping 86% agreed that the portability of laptops

makes for more convenient work, nearly two of five students believe that "the laptops used in Houghton's ML program are of poor quality."

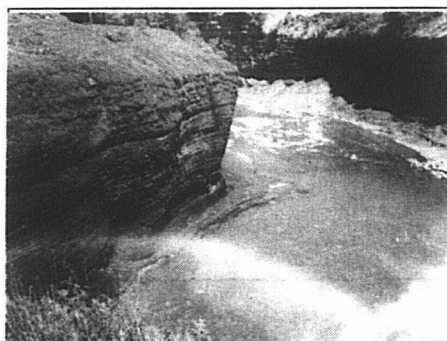
The attitudes conveyed in the survey responses were strongly correlated with the class of the respondent. Freshmen and sophomores were significantly more likely to agree with positive attitudes, with juniors and seniors equally more likely to hold negative attitudes. For example, a majority of freshmen (53%) and sophomores (62%) agreed that they were satisfied with the model of laptop assigned to their class, an attitude shared by only 13% of juniors and 14% of seniors. On the other side, most juniors (87%) and seniors (71%) say they've had more problems than they expected with their laptops, an opinion held by a minority of freshmen (26%) and sophomores (24%).

Some other interesting findings in-

cluded:

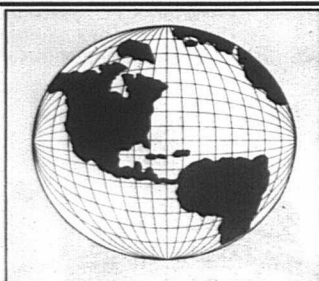
- The average respondent uses his or her laptop for academic purposes approximately 11.5 hours a week, and non-academic purposes approximately 13 hours a week.
- 76% of students claim they "never" or "rarely" use their computer in the classroom. Only 8% use it "frequently."
- 5% say they've had no difficulties with their laptop, 33% a few, 29% "more than a few," 13% many, and 19% agreed with the statement, "I have a lemon!"

Dr. Van Wicklin says that the results "appear to suggest that Houghton technology is improving, and helpful adjustments are taking place," since dissatisfaction with the ML program seems to have lessened significantly with the past two classes of students. Anyone interested in more information on the survey results is encouraged to contact Dr. Van Wicklin at [jvanwicklin@houghton.edu](mailto:jvanwicklin@houghton.edu).



**INSIDE**  
**The Impact of Earth Day:**  
**Feature, Pages 4, 5**  
**Student Satisfaction Survey Results:**  
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Rosa Gerber

### Protestors Clash with Police

In Quebec City, demonstrators delayed the start of the three-day Summit of Americas last Friday. An estimated thousand protestors tore down part of a concrete and chain-link fence, which officials had built before the conference in an attempt to avoid repeating the violence that erupted during the 1999 World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle, Washington. Unfortunately, they could not as protestors smashed windows and damaged cars, leading police to use tear gas and rubber bullets on the crowd, some of who wore protective gear. Officers with helmets, batons, and shields formed a human fence in response, while some people threw rocks and bottles at them. Police arrested thirty people, and five officers were hurt during the clashes. A small number of demonstrators also suffered minor injuries. The summit brought together leaders from thirty-four Western Hemisphere countries to discuss free trade, including the possibility of a free trade zone in the Americas. Protestors oppose this agreement because they fear that free trade would benefit only multinational corporations, giving more power to the already powerful. Other topics the conference discussed included increasing access to education, lessening poverty, and strengthening human rights.

### Investigation of Slave Ship Continues

Over the last few weeks, much of the world followed the story of a ship, the Etireno, being denied permission to dock from two African ports after it was suspected of carrying children slaves, and then the ship disappeared. Concern grew for the lives of the hundred or more children thought to be on board as officials launched searches. Last week, the Etireno docked in Cotonou, a commercial center in West Africa, and officials discovered that most of its passengers were men, women, and children, and not the slaves they were expecting. The adults, in search of work abroad, were lacking proper work papers to enter the countries. This event seemed to disprove the story these children were being trafficked as slaves.

Yet, days after reaching land, only one of the thirty-one children on the Etireno had been claimed by family members, which raised the child-trafficking probability again. Additional facts, such as more boys than girls were on the boat and major discrepancies existing between the ships departure and arrival lists of people, encouraged the continued investigation of whether these children were victims of slave-trafficking.

### Peru Shoots Down US Plane

Last Friday, a Peruvian air force jet shot down a plane carrying American missionaries in the Amazon jungle after the pilot mistook the plane as one moving illegal drugs. The plane failed to land after Peruvian forces requested they did, and the jet opened fire. A bullet struck the leg of the missionary pilot, causing him to lose control of the small craft but managed to land it on the Amazon River. Another bullet killed a woman and her infant daughter, whom the mother was holding. The other two passengers, the woman's husband and

# THE WORLD OUT THERE



Veronica Bowers and infant daughter, Charity, died in the attack. Jim Bowers and son, Cory, escaped unhurt

son, were slightly injured.

### Flooding in the Midwest

Parts of Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa, and Minnesota are fighting the rising Mississippi River as more rain soaked the region earlier this week. Residents were forced to evacuate more than 100 homes after a levee restraining the swollen Mississippi

River began leaking last week. There is more optimism about this flood than the devastating 1993 one as most areas were better prepared for the Mississippi to rise above its banks and efforts to prevent major damaged were already underway. The National Weather Service predicted the river level would begin falling slowly last weekend but is expected to remain above flood level for the next few weeks.



The Mississippi River crested on Tuesday in Davenport, Iowa

## The Houghton STAR

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The Houghton Star encourages the free interchange of opinions and suggestions in the form of letters, articles, guest editorials, and advertisements. Students are especially urged to participate. We also welcome the viewpoints of faculty, staff, townspeople, alumni, and all others having an interest in the Houghton community. Ideas printed herein do not, however, necessarily reflect the view of the editorial staff, or of Houghton College. The staff reserves the right to omit or reject any contributions for reasons of professional decorum. Letters (signed) should be sent to:

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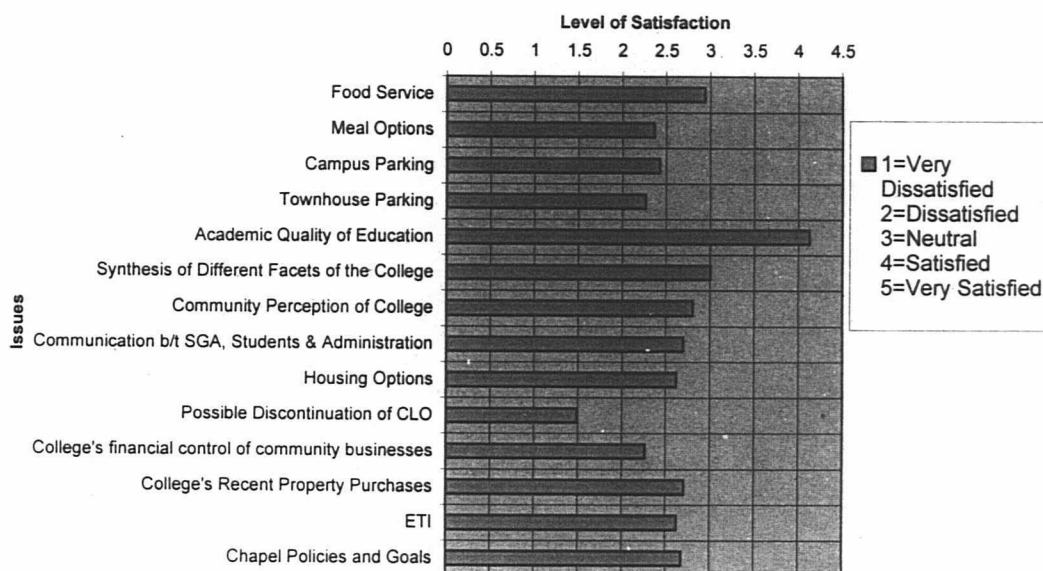
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# STUDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

Town Hall Survey: Satisfaction on Campus



At the left is a graph depicting the results of a campus-wide student satisfaction survey. The survey was taken during the week following Easter Break. The graph shows the responses of students on a range of campus issues in anticipation of today's Town Hall Forum

## Housing, pedestrian needs to be addressed over summer

Jea Adams

Next fall, students can expect some exciting transformations to have happened over the summer at Houghton College. As many soon-to-be juniors already know, nine brand new townhouses will be built by the already erected Hazlett group. These will not be conjoined, but stand on their own. Expansion for the security office has already been approved, and the new section will be where the payphone nearby is presently stationed.

Other considerations for autumn of 2001 are a path that goes from the Randall townhouses to Jockey Street and a potential new bridge over Houghton Creek. "The students have been positive about Jockey Street so far" says Vice President for Finance, Jeff Spear, "and it would be nice for them to

have a safe direct route to this establishment."

The Willard J. Houghton Foundation recently acquired the Car Wash neighboring Jockey Street, renting it out to Jason Thayer a resident of Fillmore. This now makes three Houghton businesses that are run by local residents, a group which also includes Sweet Attitudes and Jockey Street, and helps to build strong bonds between the college and members of local communities. Also, the former BP has been approved to become a Citgo station and new "pay-at-the-pump" dispensers will be a welcome change for busy credit card owning students ready to high-tail it out of Houghton for a break.

Off campus students have seen the change in Internet

access speed since March. "It used to be extremely frustrating trying to get online from my off campus house" said senior Denise Dunckle, "but one day I was able to get through during the busiest time, and have had no problems since then." This change, noted by Dunckle and many other students, began in March with the addition of twenty-seven extra dial-in lines. There also has been current experimentation taking place with wireless Internet access, which has been working just fine.

When asked what is on the horizon for the college, Spear commented that, "Possibility thinking is a good thing in a higher education environment...it doesn't hurt to have discussions about what could be."

One of his dreams includes a row of apartments for new faculty, married students, and graduate students that would be located on the property between the Nielson Center and Art Building. In the future, Spear would also like to see a carwash/laundromat combination built behind the Houghton mini-mart to be owned and run by a person outside the college system.

Possible dormitory configurations are also a consideration as is a private driveway entrance leading to the Hazlett/new townhouses for the summer of 2002. Although everything beyond this summer is so far just possibility thinking, Spear commented, "I'd rather get information out to people so that they participate in the dreaming process."

## 101st graduating class to be largest in history

Beth Freeman

This year, Houghton College will see the largest graduating class in its history. Nearly 300 seniors will walk across the stage to receive their diplomas Monday, May 14th. Before commencement takes place, however, there are several activities during the weekend.

Numerous important events will be held on Saturday, May 12th. Houghton College's adult degree completion program, PACE, will start commencement exercises at 1:30 pm in Wesley Chapel. Approximately 50 graduates are expected to attend and Professor Ken Bates will be speaking. At 3:30, there will be a rehearsal for all seniors participating in commencement, after which a picnic

will be held on the quad for seniors and their families and guests. The College Choir will be performing a concert for the parents at 7:30, followed by a senior class SPOT at 9:30.

The baccalaureate service will be held on Sunday morning at 10:30 in Wesley Chapel. Lee Betts, a 1956 Houghton alumnus, will be speaking on the topic "Do Something on Earth for Heaven's Sake." Betts is a former president of Frederick Community College in Frederick, Maryland.

Later Sunday afternoon, a come-and-go reception will be held at President Chamberlain's home for the graduates, parents, and guests. In addition, the Eques-

trian Society will be putting on a demonstration on the quad. Finally, Sunday evening at 6:30, the seniors will be sponsoring a vespers service in Wesley Chapel.

Graduation activities culminate Monday morning with the 101st commencement exercises at 10:00. Anne Graham Lotz, Billy Graham's daughter and founder of ANGEL ministries, will be the keynote speaker for the event. Seating on the floor of Wesley Chapel is reserved for seniors' guests, however, overflow seating will be provided in the foyer and auxiliary seating in the recital hall in the Center for the Arts with a live feed.

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# Earth Day

With the last few seasonably warm days, it seems as if we are finally experiencing the long awaited arrival of spring. It is almost hard for us to imagine a world in which a jacket and hat are not customary outside dress. Students and faculty alike have been flocking in the droves towards the outdoors, holding classes on the building steps around the quad and students enjoying the weather, throwing baseballs and frisbees across grassy expanses, settling down on benches to read and converse. It seems as if our sleeping campus is coming to its senses after an extended hibernation. The coming of spring is something that we in the far reaches of the Northern Hemisphere have come to appreciate throughout the millennia. Fall and spring are even more magnified on the East Coast, giving everyone but the most callous computer freaks and agoraphobics (fear of open spaces) a bit of delight in the warmth and life abounding all around them.

It is no accident, then, that Earth Day takes place during such a time in the year. Earth Day, which has taken place on April 22nd for the last 30 years, is American in origin, but has spread worldwide, and is now considered an International holiday. This last weekend Houghton College campus experienced an Earth Day celebration unrivaled in recent memory. Activities were designed and executed in such a manner that everyone in the community from children to the most aged of professors would be able to participate. According to David Petersen, head of the 2001 Earth Day Organizing Committee, the main goal of this years celebration was to "get the people out into the

elements physically: down to the river, on the river itself, out into the woods, going through trails,

entity. Most of the organizational meetings were attended by students who were willing to volun-

Original illustration by Kevin MacDonald



and also the education that was delivered through those activities. It is something that I really like.... combining education with experience." This goal was effectively reached when students were able to participate in the guided walks, ride the river from Houghton to Fillmore and when they were able to view the displays in the campus center and then go out and apply their new knowledge.

The Earth Day Organizing Committee, although loosely tied to the Evangelicals for Social Action, was a fairly separate

teer their energy and time to a cause that they believed in. The help of Dr. Kettlekamp in the organization of the canoe trip was also appreciated by all those that rode the swift spring thaw of the Genesee on Saturday.

The weekends activities were numerous, and ranged from adventurous to spiritual. On Friday, students were able to tour the greenhouse at their leisure, with expert botanical knowledge from Kadrin Getman readily on hand. In the afternoon, a rousing mountainbike trip was taken by a few hardcore bikers up to Moss

Lake. Saturday saw its own share of fun, with a morning and afternoon canoe trip and several walks during the day. These walks, guided by David Petersen, Laura Tolly, Hanna Alsdurf, Kadrin Getman and Steven C. Erickson, took place in a variety of local ecosystems. One walk, led by Ms. Getman, was entitled "Houghton Creek Stomping" and its participants followed the Houghton Creek upstream until they reached an area that is currently being logged. The group examined the logging area and the felled trees, and discussed the pros and cons of tree harvesting. Another group hiked along the edge of the river and examined the myriad of animal sign and tracks in the muddy banks. The sunrise walk was a joy for everyone involved, with chattering birds and a cool morning breeze fueling their sleepy bodies. Unfortunately, the most anticipated event, the hot air balloon rides over the quad, never took place. The gusty winds of the late afternoon forced the committee to call off the balloon rides, but David Petersen assured me that every effort is being made to reschedule, possibly for this coming weekend.

Those who signed up on the list will still take priority.

On Sunday, a worship service was held around the fire pit by the ski slope. Dr. Hartman provided the guitar-work behind several hymns and worship songs, and Mat Hardy, Paul Inge and David Petersen read selected verses and a short talk was given, outlining the need for a wondering spirit and perceptive eye. Those who attended the early morning service were not disappointed, as the perfect weather and presence of the Holy Spirit left everyone fulfilled.

## Why Earth Day?

The need for a special day, set aside as Earth Day, is a somewhat startling necessity. It says a great deal about the condition of modern life, that we need to remember the Earth. Even something as simple as gravity won't let us get away from the Earth for too long. As our food is handed across countertops and produced in factories, as a car ride from South Hall to the gym takes the place of a short walk, as incandescent light bulbs burn away energy long into the night, we become steadily more separated from the

Earth. As Houghton students and community members, we feel sorry for city kids that don't understand where milk comes from. But how much do we know about the process behind the chicken patty on our plates, or the heat that seeps up into our bedrooms night after night? Earth Day has been set aside as a day in which we reflect on the reasons why we are able to live the lives we have been born into and become so accustomed to. It is a time to realize the impact that we are having on the worlds mightiest rivers and oceans, on

the unseen air that keeps our blood flowing, to understand, as a child does, that when the grapes in the bowl have all been eaten, they are gone. Forever.

On the surface, Houghton College seems to be a pretty serene place. In comparison to a dirty city, covered with pavement and refuse, Houghton seems to be almost heavenly. But our resource usage and environmental impact is certainly not negligible: More than 1400 showers are taken every day. More than 3000 light bulbs are lit nightly. Hundreds of gallons of gasoline are spent every day. Hundreds of

houses and buildings are kept at a comfortable 76 degrees F all winter long. And all this is happening right here on our campus. Maybe you have heard all this since elementary school, and it is beginning to sound a little tired. But this is God's call: To be stewards of the Earth and His majestic creation. I ask, which is worse: to know what is right and not do it, or to be ignorant? Well, we don't have the excuse of ignorance any longer. We know what we are doing to the Earth. And every instance in which we ne-

Continued on page 5



# Moss Lake

## A Natural Wonder Growing In Our Own Backyard



Looking for some peace and quiet? Some strange plants and insane fish? Wish you didn't have to travel into a different time zone to find some entertainment? Try Moss Lake of Canadea, NY.

After being saved from peat-mining exploitation in the 1950's, Moss Lake became a nature preserve. This area, named a national natural landmark in 1973, contains as its centerpiece,

a 15-acre bog. Moss Lake is a "kettle hole" bog. A kettle hole forms when a huge piece of ice breaks from a glacier as it retreats, eventually melting into a giant puddle without drainage streams. Plants readily took over in and around the water, multiplying and dying rapidly without total decomposition, causing a layer of peat to form. Peat is a dark, nutrient rich, highly acidic soil that is common

in higher latitudes and bogs like Moss Lake. This stagnant, low-oxygen environment creates a unique and diverse ecosystem, supporting many kinds of rare plants and animals.

From the trails through the woods surrounding the bog, a visitor will be able to spot many interesting species. Large animals such as beavers and snapping turtles make their homes in the water, which is also utilized by a great variety of birds (rumored to have included a bald eagle among their numbers in recent years). Plant-lovers may be privileged to come across the large, pink orchid-like blossoms of the lady-slipper flower in mid-spring, along with a great assortment of other botanical gems.

As its name implies, one of the most fascinating features of Moss Lake is a common moss, or rather, the way it has grown in dense mats that float upon the surface of the water. Extending from the shores of the bog, these mats cover a large area of the

water's surface and can be up to nine feet thick. They are referred to as "quaking mats", and are composed of layer upon layer of moss. The mats are so thick in places that they can support the weight of a human being (though boardwalks are provided to prevent damage). Strange plants such as carnivorous pitcher plants and sundews, which supplement their diets with insects, grow upon the moss, alongside more familiar species like cranberries.

Whether you are a biologist, a photographer or just looking for a place of silence and solitude, Moss Lake will meet your needs. The bog is a beautiful example of God's creative power, and it offers a refreshing breath of peace in this all-too hectic world. To get to Moss Lake, turn right at the college entrance sign (when leaving from the campus) and follow Rt. 19 about a mile to Sand Hill road, a dirt road on the right. Follow Sand Hill up, and watch for the Moss Lake entrance on the left.

### IV

The frog with lichen back and golden thigh  
Sits still, almost invisible  
On leafed and lichen stem,  
Invisibility  
Its sign of being at home  
There in its given place, and well.

The warbler with its quivering striped throat  
Would live almost beyond my sight,  
Almost beyond belief,  
But for its double note-  
Among high leaves a leaf,  
At ease, at home in air and light.

And I, through woods and fields, through  
fallen days  
Am passing to where I belong:  
At home, at ease, and well,  
In Sabbaths of this place  
Almost invisible,  
Toward which I go from song to song.

Wendell Berry

**Why? continued from page 4**  
glect our impact is another slap in the Creator's face.

For some, Earth Day is every day. They ride bicycles and bring their own mug for coffee. They sleep when the sun is down and work and play when it is up. But more importantly, they are engaged in an attitude of examination. They require of themselves that they are aware of the

impact that they are having, and seek to make it a positive one. A prayerful attitude will allow one to act responsibly, and a dialogue with God will cause one's actions to be righteous and blame-free.

Earth Day is a time to raise awareness. If you are already aware, then pass it on. And if you are not, well, there is no better time to learn than right now!

*Editor's Note: On the right begins a marvelous essay on the importance of the realization of the consequences our actions have on the natural world. Due to space concerns, we have had to divide this essay between pages 5, 7, and 8. We apologize for the inconvenience and hope you enjoy the essay*

## This is Propaganda

### An Essay on the Need for Vigilance in the Natural World

A Chicago artist appreciated symbolism. And so she bought hundreds of feet of red plastic tablecloth and flew herself out to southern Oregon to mourn a clear-cut forest the only way she knew how. She nailed red plastic over tree stump after tree stump until she had buried eleven acres in blood-red shrouds.

No blood dripped from the bridge of my nose and the tree hadn't bled. It was daylight and I was following the Houghton Creek upstream; I had left the meager path in favor of the deep snow that covered the creek. It was daylight and I walked straight into a low-hanging branch-nose-first. The tears that dripped off my chin and melted the snow at my feet fell more from the surprise of a blow between the eyes than the concussion. When I hit the branch I had been walking through snow. Flowing water surrounded me as I deliberately stepped in the deepest snow hoping my feet would stay out of the water running beneath the snow cover. They did. Until the branch found my nose. I returned to firm earth as quickly as wet feet on wet rocks would permit and continued more cautiously-upstream.

And then, no more were the liv-

ing trees. The landscape change was as unexpected as the branch. With no more reason to watch for extended limbs, I quickly found a road of leveled mud, scarred with tire tracks and hoof prints. From the road I stared uphill: naked underfelled trees followed dirt headfirst down steep banks. At my feet broken branches and flattened brush littered the ground. Everywhere splattered saw chips pointed to tree stumps; neon spray-paint marked the next victims. As I stood before this current logging project I remembered the totality of the destruction I saw in Oregon. Destruction that necessitated a memorial. Faced with only the stump remains of a clear cut I was struck by helplessness; there was nothing for me to do, the artist had said the only thing that was left to say. But coming face to face with a current project, next to fallen and marked trees, next to the fresh manure of horses, the sadness that had once accompanied my helplessness turned itself into anger. And so I stopped up the road with dead branches and logs. I helped dead trees defend those not yet taken until I was too exhausted to lift their bodies any longer.

Continued on page 7



VOX

expressions

voice

of a community of faith

## Language Matters

Dr. James A. Zoller

Because it is mentioned often as a reference in discussions about bad stuff in movies, I got hold of *Pulp Fiction* recently to see what the fuss was about. If the film has become a cultural touchstone of some sort, I wanted to know about it.

When I finished watching, perhaps because I was also battling the flu, I felt emotionally wasted, overwhelmed, oppressed. My concern, however, was less with the murders, the beatings, the drug violence, the sexual violence - all gratuitous and most, in less graphic form, available on prime time TV - than with the onslaught of abusive language.

I hasten to add, defensively, that I had heard it all before. One would have had to hear a fair share of bad language in fifty years as an interested observer of wars and social movements, of changing musical styles, of literary and cultural shifts. Or even from being a sports fan. Furthermore, as a writer and teacher of writing, words have been my business, my life's occupation. What I am going to great lengths to establish here is that I am neither a prude nor an innocent. I'm betting you aren't either.

Nevertheless, the language of *Pulp Fiction* - especially variations on "f-" and its evil cousin "m-f-" - battered me into an emotional stupor.

Twenty-four hours later, as if I hadn't had enough abuse, I cued up *Do the Right Thing*, another film I felt I needed to see, and endured another two hours of abusive language. Less gratuitous violence, mind you, but the same words, the same debilitating effects.

Several things seem fairly clear to me from these films. One is that language is a powerful tool; it can build up, edify, encourage, clarify, motivate, and persuade. Language can also tear down, discourage, muddy, and brutalize. The one thing language is not is neutral. That old saying from childhood, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but [words] will never hurt me," is a useful defense against taunting but it is not true. Words can leave bruises.

Second, certain words, words that once fell into categories like dirty or rough, are only occasionally used for their dictionary meanings. More often they are used for their power to demean, to intimidate, to display anger or venom. "F-", for example, even in a largely non-vio-

lent film like *Good Will Hunting*, where its constant use is inexplicable, seldom refers to sex. More often it is a fist, or a club, or a bullet, or a battering ram.

That this is the case can be demonstrated from the movies themselves. *Pulp Fiction* opens and closes with the same scene: a man and a woman, small time robbers, decide to rob customers at a restaurant where they are eating. Their demeanor has been calm; but when the robbery scheme is hatched they run about brandishing guns and yelling obscenities. The manic, threatening activity, the waving guns, the yelling, the obscenities are all of a piece. Interestingly, their robbery is halted when they cross a badder dude, a big-time hit man, who not only carries a bigger weapon but also slices and dices with "m-f-".

If anything, the point is stronger in *Do the Right Thing*. The Italian owner of a pizza business in a black neighborhood of Brooklyn gets into a shouting match with a boom box-toting young black man. It is an argument of long standing that had surfaced earlier in the day. But at a crucial moment, with voices raised above the angry, pulsating rap from the box, the nose to nose exchange of f-s and m-f-s escalates until the owner produces a baseball bat, smashes the box and kills the noise. This violence escalates into punching and choking and wrestling on the floor. Soon everyone gets involved, the cops show up, someone is killed, a riot ensues, the stores get burned. In the midst of all this, somewhere, the n-word appears, introducing a new, provocative element to the violence.

Bear in mind that I'm not offering a movie review here, just

an assessment of language brutality. The fact that we grow accustomed to such brutality is not an argument that these words really don't matter. In fact, our ability to ignore the onslaught of abusive language means we are capable of growing psychic callouses, of dulling our sensitivities to explosive and demeaning ways of speaking and possibly to the potential for violence as well.

Bear in mind as well that while our cultural language habits seem to be sliding down the tubes, it is not inevitable that your grandchildren will one day greet you with epithets. Our experience with demeaning terms, particularly the racial term n-, demonstrates that words can be phased out of common use.

A reasonable objection to abusive language is neither prudish nor archaic. Such an objection is a rational and responsible claim that language has meaning and value, that its use affects the speaker as well as the listener, and that word choice is a conscious speaking activity. While I would not want to see a world in which some legal body tried to legislate what words we might use, I would like to see us choose to change our cultural language habits away from the violent and the brutalizing.

Thirty years ago I remember reading about an incident in Texas. Allen Ginsberg, the free speaking spirit of the Beat movement, had been punched after a poetry reading in which he directed one of these terms at the audience. Bewildered by the violent response, Ginsberg is reported to have complained, "They're only words," to which the assailant allegedly responded, "Yeah, but down here we call them 'fighting words.'"

My point exactly.

## Willard's Wisdom

AN ADVICE COLUMN FOR HOUGHTON STUDENTS. SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO CPO 378

Dear Willard:

I think I've recently been attacked in your paper by a girl here on campus. When I first met "Bianca," she began our relationship by telling me she was from another planet. Two years later, when we were juniors, she started stalking me through Instant Messenger. But she underestimated me, and I discovered who she was. Broke her little scheme to bits. Tee-hee.

But I didn't think "Bianca" was a total psychopath until she wrote your column, with a completely fabricated scenario her mind concocted while she lay in bed at night, wishing she could some-

how be one of the chosen few included in my "brag factor." I think she's done this to other guys on campus as well.

My question is: How can I get this girl out of my life and out of my hair? How can I stop her from spreading her vicious lies? And how can I hook her up with some poor chap, so she can pour out all of her pent-up "something" out on him?

Sincerely,  
Alliteration Ain't Always Appropriate Here in Houghton

Dear Alliteration ain't always appropriate in Houghton,

I don't suppose anyone is exaggerating here, oh wait, so you're completely exaggerating. I was just checking. Tee-hee. Anyhow, is it as obvious to you as it is to me just how much you like and admire this delightful sounding young woman? Great, we agree on that. Back to the point, you have said some slanderous stuff about her, go beg her forgiveness, do not pass go. After you apologize for your ungentlemanlike conduct—leave her alone and for good this time.

For future reference, running away from your problems is not a good solution, you have to face

them like a big boy.

It is never okay to humiliate or degrade another human being for your own satisfaction or "brag factor"

One more thing, why don't you send me her number, she sounds like a great gal.

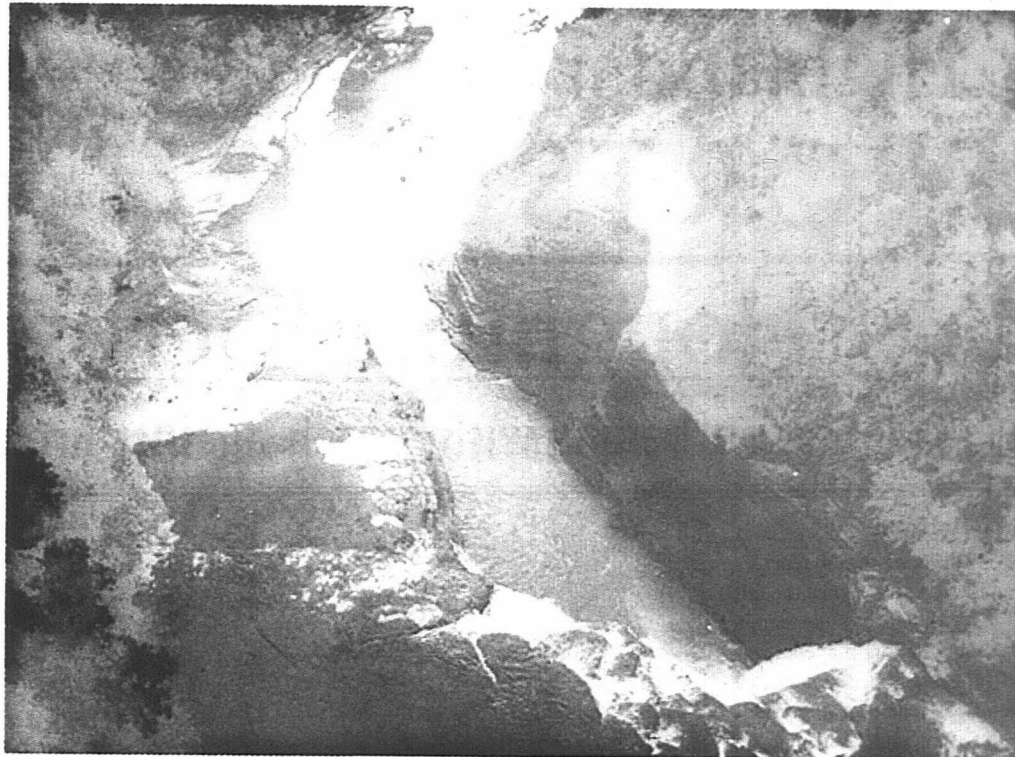


## Propaganda continued from page 5

In Oregon-trees are cut like blades of grass, picked up like toothpicks and indiscriminately laid to rest in the nearest logging truck. Unlike the mechanized razing of western forests, the wood hugging Houghton's creek is being chopped with a chainsaw and pulled out by a team of Clydesdales. In Oregon people chain themselves to trees and destroy logging equipment by spiking trees with heavy nails. A girl in Houghton obstructed the logger's trail with dead limbs until she grew tired and a boy protested by peeing on machinery that had retired for the day. In Oregon an artist's symbolism mourned an old-growth forest killed for its lumber, killed for money. Even as the treeless soil slides into Houghton Creek and the horse team is asked to haul out another load, the forest has not yet been killed. It is not time to mourn.

In fact, many living in eastern United States believe that the time is right to celebrate, for forests have reclaimed their homes. The development of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries converted the eastern third of the country into pasture. Acres were clear-cut to create grazing land for livestock, acres fed an industrializing nation as its primary energy source, acres cross-sectioned the US in the form of railroad tracks. And when the demand for lumber exceeded what eastern forests could supply, the loggers followed the trees west. Farmers likewise moved to the Midwest searching for land that had not yet felt the consequences of poor management and overgrazing. The excitement and opportunity of the Western Frontier meant that the East went largely forgotten. Left to themselves over the last several decades, pastures slowly returned to forest. Bill McKibben writes in an article chronicling the return of the eastern forests, "This unintentional and mostly unnoticed renewal of the rural and mountainous East-not the spotted owl, not the salvation of Alaska's pristine ranges-represents the great environmental story of the United States, and in some ways of the whole world." And so, people celebrate.

Hike the cross-country trails or walk along Route 17; Houghton sits in the midst of a forest renewing itself. Everywhere the roots and branches of skinny Maple and Ash and Oak and Pine kick and elbow each other for nutrients and sun. But "renewal"-which seems to imply a return to the original forest-can be a misleading term, as Bill McKibben illustrates in the remainder of his article: "The smaller, denser stands of trees that mark a recovering forest mean changes in soil conditions, temperature and water availability. Beyond mere species, a recovering forest lacks the richness of in-



Letchworth State Park is one of the many local natural resources

teractions found in an ancient forest-the relationships between species big and small which are at the heart of any forest." As Houghton began to recover from being clear cut at the turn of the century, too many saplings could touch the rain and the sun. Adult trees, typically responsible for the discipline of a forest's youth, had all been destroyed. Without this competition, the plethora of saplings grew into the crowded, relatively uniform woods that help define present-day Houghton.

It is precisely because ancient forests are not the 'renewable resource' that logging companies claim that environmentalists battle with such intensity to preserve the remaining diversity of the West. Although the East can claim very little of the nation's ancient forest, we can claim three quarters of the nation's trees. As of 1999 our National Forests can also claim more timber sold than any other National Forests in the United States. Not far south of Houghton, Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest is dangerously close to losing 9000 acres to timber sales. So where are the tree huggers and tree spikers of the East? Why haven't environmentalists rallied to protect this environment? Why has Houghton let the logging go unnoticed? According to McKibben, "we have been trained to prize grandeur, awe, spectacle." An effect of what some call 'eco-porn'-the "barrage of photos and calendars and coffee-table books from the West." The glory of Yellowstone and Yosemite, Glacier and Zion have caused us to think big and think West. Perhaps we have simply lost the ability to appreciate, or are simply unimpressed with the beauty of our own natural surroundings. Or maybe we take our forests for granted. Given the cit-

ies of trees that surround us it is simple enough to indiscriminately chop a few dozen acres: What's a forest less a few trees? Besides, the trees will grow back. But as McKibben pointed out, the unfortunate reality is that haphazard cutting affects more than the tree now stump, it changes the nature of the forest ecosystem from water availability to species populations.

The wonderful gift of re-growth in the eastern United States, in Houghton, does not mean that logging secondary forest is acceptable and without consequence. The 'beauty strip' of trees concealing logging from casual view has not hidden the effects the careless log-

ging of private landowners is having on Houghton Creek and Houghton's community. The steep banks that line the creek lack a significant amount of rock to help keep them in place. As trees are cut down, the root systems that held the soil decay. A rain shower or the treading of an animal can loose the soil and send it down the steep and into the creek bed. The flood that brought Houghton Creek into the Randall Townhouses, into the Stewart family's basement over the summer was caused by an excited creek that carried a enough silt and debris to clog the tunnels that

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## TOP TEN...

### Reasons to Order the Book of Top Ten Lists

Stephen Maxon

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>10</b> Each copy personally authenticated by the Safety and Security Office to prevent fraud</p> <p><b>9</b> If you don't laugh at least once at each list, I promise to apologize. In writing.</p> <p><b>8</b> Explanations make it possible for even freshmen to understand the jokes! Ha ha ha! I'm kidding! I love freshmen! Honestly! I mean it!</p> <p><b>7</b> The Campus Store won't ever try to buy it back</p> <p><b>6</b> Well, there was that time I mentioned you in a list. Remember that? Oh, you don't? Well, I'm pretty sure it was you... Better get one just to make sure.</p> | <p><b>5.</b> Every tenth copy comes with a Chia Pet - "the pottery that grows!"</p> <p><b>4</b> Delivery by Father's Day - nothing says, "I love you, Dad," like a book full of inside jokes about your college</p> <p><b>3</b> Every page comes with free ink!</p> <p><b>2</b> Over 40 lists and humorous articles for only \$4 - that's less than \$10 apiece. A *lot* less!</p> <p><b>1</b> Your email, conversation with me, or note to CPO 1209 will get you the book - and you can either pay now, or upon delivery this summer. Why? Because I trust you, and you're special. Really. You are.</p> |
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# Highlander SPORTS

For complete game scores and statistics, visit  
[www.houghton.edu/news/athletics](http://www.houghton.edu/news/athletics)

April 6- 25

## Houghton Lacrosse

### Season begins with match against Fredonia

Aaron Harrison

The lacrosse club recently played its first game since the fall of 2000. With only 5 of the team's 25 members having played organized lacrosse before, it was a challenge to reach an intercollegiate level of competition. The team practiced 3-4 times a week in the gym since January and only received their equipment after February break. The bad spring weather caused the club to cancel their first three games, one against St. Bonaventure and two against RIT. Finally the snow stopped and the club began to practice on grass 3 weeks ago. Their first match was against Fredonia, and the team was as green as the field they played on, and didn't know what to expect. Add to this the fact that Fredonia was rumored to be the best in the Western New York club league. In keeping with their rag-tag fashion, the team piled into a caravan of seven cars last Wednesday and headed to Fredonia, having never been on a lacrosse field. They arrived late and only had a few minutes to prepare before the game started. 2 of the guys only joined the team the day before the match.



The team gathers before the start of the match against Fredonia

Fredonia came out strong, scoring in the first few minutes and running the score to 5-1 at the half. Houghton's offense was lacking with the absence of attacker Eddy Acker (out on injury) and Stewart McFall (gone for ROTC), but they began

to come back in the second half. The first goal was scored by Peter Summer with an assist from Aaron Harrison. Second half goals were scored by James Carpenter and Daniel Kilpatrick, both unassisted. Houghton's defense did well holding back Fredonia's veteran of-

fense and allowing only 1 goal while being a man down. Robert Jones, the freshman goalie, had 8 saves. The final score was 6-3, giving the team a chance to gain much-needed experience. The next match is at home Saturday against RIT.

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usher the creek to the Genessee. As the soil slumps and whole abandoned trees lay in the creek-bed another flood seems inevitable. Animal populations inevitably slump as well. The absence of bears, wolves, many species of salamanders serve as health indicators for a forest where such animals call home. Logging companies have historically argued that animals prefer a habitat defined by its numerous forest-pasture junctions. And this is true. For deer.

As any farmer with fields, or any suburbanite with a lawn, or any vehicle owner will tell you, the deer population has exploded. With tree-lined pastures and the absence of natural predators-predators that prefer the thicker wilderness of trees-deer have multiplied to the point that the environment struggles to support them. Although deer starve over the winter months, are hit by cars, the Department of Environmental Conservation

in Western New York has decided upon a late spring deer harvest to save the crop-lands from being over-grazed by deer. We are the only predators left. Environmentalist Jamie Sayen notes that a healthy forest, defined by the restoration of native plants and animals to their homes, would sufficiently keep the deer population in check without the necessity of a human controlled harvest. Healthy forests, diverse forests, require fifty percent of the land-in large segments rather than narrow corridors-be given back to wilderness, according to many biologists and most environmentalists.

Follow Houghton's creek upstream. Hike until the logging hits you dead between the eyes. And then keep hiking. Follow the mud-built highways. Count the sometimes ninety-two rings of a dead oak; look at the soil sliding down into the creek. And prove to yourself that we don't have time to mourn. We have wilderness to save.



Decades to grow.  
Minutes to chop down.

Think before you cut.