



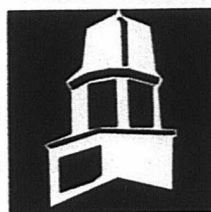
The Ties Between  
Houghton and the  
Wesleyan Church  
Page 3

From the Archives:  
Former Dean Writes From  
Sierra Leone (1930)  
Page 5



From the Editor's Desk:  
Why Houghton Can't  
Handle a Bike Share  
Page 7

100  
YEARS



# THE HOUGHTON STAR

Volume 106, Issue 6

October 23, 2009

## Board of Trustees Unanimously Passes OS Recommendations

by Joel VanderWeele

On Wednesday afternoon, President Shirley Mullen announced the unanimous and unqualified passage of the 15 recommendations brought before the Board of Trustees by the Organizational Sustainability (OS) Taskforce. The announcement was made during a community report following the Board meetings earlier this week.

According to Mullen, the general outcome of the Board meetings was a "strong affirmation for the overall direction of college" outlined in the recommendations. The Trustees did not change any language in the recommendations, but some recommendations were modified by the OS Taskforce prior to the Board meetings to

reflect comments received after the initial presentation of the Recommendations on September 29.

Whereas the initial



recommendations proposed to "develop [a] plan to move FYHP London to [a] new model and/or location," the recommendation passed by the Board proposes to "develop a more cost effective

alternative to the London Honors program. This may be a London program on the model of the East meets West curriculum, a semester-long program elsewhere, or a more cost effective delivery of the current program model."

The OS Taskforce corrected the language of the Personnel-Faculty recommendation from resizing the "teaching faculty to range of 88-92 FTE (Full-Time Equivalents)" to resizing the "teaching faculty in the range of 88-92 full-time teaching faculty and an overall FTE between 100 and 105."

The original recommendation about the Athletics department simply called for a \$100,000 reduction in athletic spending, but the new version was expanded to

*Trustees cont'd on page 2*

## New Vision Week: The God Who Calls, Rescues and Repays

by Colleen White

Each year New Vision Week is meant as a time to help students focus on hearing and answering God's call to serve the world. For the first time, Global Christian Fellowship and the Class of 2012 collaborated on this event and organized a week of special chapels and seminars about a God who calls, rescues, and repays.

The partnership between GCF and the Class of 2012 was formed last year, when current sophomore students, including Erika Harlow and Kyle Johnson, felt the desire to, according to Johnson, "put together an event that challenged us to think more deeply and more clearly about a Biblical definition of justice, and what it means for us in our world today."

Professor Paul Shea, faculty advisor for the event, hopes that students will realize that the week was unique in its focus on what being a Christian in today's world is all about.

According to Shea, in the 1960's, New Vision Week was called "Conquest," and was mainly a fundraiser for missionaries from Houghton. The events raised over \$20,000. Since then, fundraising has diminished in importance during New Vision Week, and the Christian worldview at Houghton has softened considerably from a Crusade-like "conquest."

Shea believes that today, "Christians are going to have to be a little saltier." In order to reach people who have never before heard of Jesus Christ, Christians must identify with the persecuted and the suffering, bringing "the whole gospel to the whole world," according to Shea. New Vision Week seeks to address this very need by educating students on the problems people face worldwide and by presenting opportunities for students to get involved in fighting against them. These opportunities were presented during the first half of the week by the missionary organizations that set up tables in the campus center,

*New Vision cont'd on page 2*

## Intercultural Studies Group Visits UN

by Ben Tilson

While most students, staff and faculty returned home or took time to rest during the October Break, a group of 32 faculty, staff and students visited the United Nations (UN) in New York City.

During the two-day trip, the group met with UN representatives from the World Council of Religions for Peace (WCRP) and World Vision, visited the Sierra Leone Mission to the UN and toured the United Nations headquarters.

Sponsored by the Dean's Office, the Intercultural Studies department and by students themselves, the trip was an opportunity for students to be exposed to a key global institution, to discuss the role of faith in public life and to connect the classroom with the world.

"Strengthening the praxis and the theory," said Dr. Ndunge Kiiti, who organized the trip, was an essential purpose for this visit.



photo courtesy of Ian Galloway

The group took a guided tour of the United Nations and saw the General Assembly hall, and artwork donated from member states.

According to Kiiti, students need to see the application of what they are learning in class and to have exposure to institutions that are highly influential in today's world.

"In many places where we send students," Kiiti said, "the

United Nations plays a major role in policy and development strategies and is a rallying point for masses of people around the world. Houghton students need to understand these types of institutions as a component

*UN cont'd on page 3*

# THE WORLD IS THERE

by Derek Schwabe

## Windows 7 Released

Microsoft Corporation released their long awaited new operating system, Windows 7 on Thursday. The international corporation hopes to regain the trust of the world's PC users, since the introduction of the poorly received Windows Vista three years ago. Critics across the world disapproved of the late Vista, dubbing it slow, intrusive and incompatible with many other programs. Yet already, critics are claiming that Windows 7 will not make the same mistakes. The new release comes at the relief of impatient consumers including students and business people. Recent surveys indicate that more than two-thirds of corporate computers are still running the eight year old Windows XP system.

## Iran agrees to Nuclear Fuel Deal

Iran consented to a proposed agreement Wednesday to export nearly 75% of the country's stores of Uranium. The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency announced that the pending agreement is awaiting final approval from U.S and Iranian of-

ficials. Under the proposed plan, the majority of Iran's nuclear fuel would be relocated to France and Russia for Enrichment. By forging this agreement, the US, France and Russia hope to lead Iran toward progress in limiting her ability to quickly produce and utilize nuclear weapons, and ultimately to calm ongoing tensions between Israel and Iran.

## Buffalo Homeowners Fight Foreclosure

The greater Buffalo area continued to experience the backlash of economic downturn as an unusually high number of homeowners fought to avoid disclosure this week. Despite the encouraging words of economists and analysts, situations have yet to improve for many homeowners who are finding themselves crippled in their attempts to pay mortgages and bills under waning or completely diminished incomes. In Buffalo alone, nearly 3,000 homeowners are at severe risk of losing their properties in a single foreclosure auction to be held next week. Hundreds of them crowded the courthouses this week in an attempt to slow or halt the auction process. Similar situations continue throughout the Western New York region.

## New Vision cont'd from page 1

and in person from missionaries who visited several classrooms. Seminars were also conducted on Tuesday on the topics of Islam, sports ministry, teaching overseas, women in the mission field, and short-term and career missions.

New Vision Week is not only for students who believe they have been called to full-time missions, but also for everyone who calls himself a Christ-follower.

Cindy Austin, Houghton's missionary-in-residence, was careful to emphasize this point. All Christians, regardless of their field, are called by God to be "full-time Christians," part of which includes being aware of what God is doing around the world. She pointed out that even if one isn't called to be a missionary, there is a good chance that one will be called to support someone who is.

During Monday's chapel, Dan Smeenges, speaker for the week, pointed out that the deepest need for Christ in our world can be found here in the United States. Smeenges stated that in Phoenix, AZ, there are 10,000 people working in the sex industry, many of them children and slaves. Smeenges has seen the effects of human trafficking firsthand through his work with Cross Cultural Connections in the Middle East and is bringing his experiences here to Houghton to tell students about the need for Christ's light in the darkest places of the world.

Senior Kylee Shaffer, co-coordinator of New Vision Week, feels that human trafficking was the topic that most-needed to be brought to the attention of the student body. As Austin stated, the best measures against human trafficking in the future will be prevention through education.

## Trustees cont'd from page 1

include the development of a plan for "expanding opportunities for competitive sports" and "strategically allocating scholarship funding." As part of a directive to the administration, the Board also stated that the average tuition discount for athletes should be the same as the discount for non-athletes.

Other points of the directive included maintaining the strong core of the residential undergraduate educational program, maintaining the science programs, and a focused "rifle" approach to marketing, contrasted with a broad "shotgun" approach.

According to Mullen, the directive also expressed "great appreciation for the initiative and creativity" exhibited by faculty in developing the current Off Campus and Honors programs and affirmed the importance of both Off Campus and Honors programs for admission, retention, and "the richness" of an overall Houghton education in general. Having said that, the other side that they wanted to be equally strongly communicated is their concern that all of the Off Campus programs and the Honors programs be brought together within a coordinated vision and framework under the auspices of the Office of the Academic Dean and financed in ways that tend appropriately to the indirect costs of these programs and cost-effectiveness within the larger college mission.

In the recommendation regarding Advancement, the former version called for a "focus on continuous levels of strategic activity rather than periodic campaigns" and the modified recommendation affirms the importance of continuous levels of strategic activity "punctuated by [capital] campaigns."

According to Student Government President Zach Adams, SGA began drafting a resolution to bring before the Board about two weeks ago, after the initial presentation of the recommendations. The resolution, spearheaded by Senator Clara Sanders and finalized via e-mail by the SGA over October break,

recommends, "that the Board retain the semester-long model for the London First-Year Honors Program, make external study-abroad options an urgent concern, and sustain the athletic budget to the greatest extent possible."

The SGA resolution also calls for "fiscally responsible decisions that do not compromise Houghton's diversity, distinctiveness, and commitment to a Christian, liberal arts education, especially in regards to theological education. We ask for ample opportunity to be informed of and involved in any future such recommendations, and not just those that are seen as concerns that might interest the students. We hope to participate as members of a community of compassion which values Christian service, humility, and honesty during difficult times. We submit this resolution to affirm our desire, responsibility, and right to be involved in the decision-making process, acknowledging our place in the symbiotic relationship of faculty, administration, and students."

In an official response to the SGA resolution, the Trustees wrote, "The entire Board read the resolution in full, and expresses sincere appreciation for the positive manner in which the ideas were presented. During its deliberations, the Board considered the concerns which were raised, and the resolution is being forwarded to the Administration to ensure that these concerns are properly considered. The Board believes the [Organizational Sustainability] Task Force has been very conscientious about considering the needs and interests of students, both in the short term and the long term. The task force members indeed want to provide the optimal educational and spiritual value for our students and we commend that sincere concern."

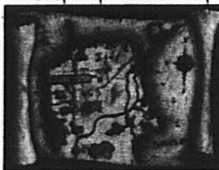
Overall, Mullen was very pleased with the outcome of the meetings and reported, "it was probably one of the best Board meetings that has gone on in the last number of years at Houghton, at least by the testimony of the Board members." ★

The more marketable skills young people have, the less likely they or their family will resort to selling themselves into slavery.

A film about the abolition of

slavery in Great Britain, "Amazing Grace", will be shown Saturday evening, and a special Koinonia service on Sunday evening will end this year's New Vision Week. ★

## Rothenbuhler Treasure Hunt × Nov. 6th



No. Virtually impossible. It's not a good way to describe it. Race? Ok. Not great, but ok.



## "The Strongest of All Possible Relationships": Examining the Link Between Houghton and The Wesleyan Church

by Naomi Woolsey

The relationship between Houghton College and the Wesleyan Church is "the strongest of all possible relationships," according to Prof. Carlton Fisher, philosophy and former Dean of Academic Administration explained that Houghton College is legally "owned and operated by" the Wesleyan Church. It was founded by the Wesleyan Methodist Connection, as it was known in the late 1800s, and is "run according to rules designed by" the denomination.

He also noted that the College is not domineered by the Church. While the Wesleyan Church has tight controls over membership on the Board of Trustees, Houghton College is granted a "reasonable degree of operational autonomy."

People use several terms to describe the relationship between churches and their colleges: "affiliated with," "sponsored by," "founded by," etc. According to Fisher, in a sense, all of those terms are accurate in Houghton College's situation, because the Church owns the College.

In comparison with most other colleges, Houghton College's connection with the Wesleyan Church is

very strong. Dr. J. Michael Walters, professor of Christian Ministries and Director of Ministerial Education, used Roberts Wesleyan College as an example. Roberts is merely affiliated with the Free Methodist Church, so, according to Walters, "there are more limitations on what the Free Methodist Church can say" to Roberts than there are upon the Wesleyan Church in its relationship with Houghton College.

President Shirley Mullen commented that the Wesleyan

Church "accepts responsibility for the ongoing presence of Houghton College, to carry on its work," and the Wesleyan Church has a specific work in mind for the College.

The General Board of the Wesleyan Church feels a "responsibility to bear witness to God as the source and center of all truth, and to provide its own youth as well as all others who wish to share with them an education which relates learning to God and His plan for the universe."

A booklet called "The Standards of The Wesleyan Church

denomination's and the universal church's] mission of redeeming individual persons and society as a whole." For this reason, "the educational structures which the denomination maintains must give high priority to the training of some persons for professional church leadership and of all persons to be productive members of the body of Christ."

The four Wesleyan liberal arts colleges, Indiana Wesleyan, Oklahoma Wesleyan, Southern Wesleyan, and Houghton, "specialize in viewing the whole range of learning as it relates to God's plan and purpose, in

mission--"to exalt Jesus Christ by evangelizing the lost, discipling the believers, equipping the church, and ministering to society."

Houghton College contributes to the mission of the Wesleyan Church beyond forming scholars-servants and leaders for the church. Many of the faculty are members of the Wesleyan church, care very much about their denomination, and serve it to the best of their abilities. Religion department faculty preaches in Wesleyan churches and has contributed to a Wesleyan Bible commentary series and a series of books on Wesleyan Theological Perspectives.

The General Board asserts in the Standards for Educational Institutions, "while it is in its legislative assemblies that the Church defines its faith, the whole Church in all of its parts is involved in the work of improving the definition. It is out of the struggle of pastor and people on the local level with faith and life, and out of agonizing questions and discussions in college and seminary classrooms that possible refinements reach the floor of district and general conferences."

Houghton College is unique among the Wesleyan colleges. According to Fisher, it has historically been the most "liberal artsy" of the Wesleyan Colleges, as well as the least Wesleyan in regards to its student population (Wesleyans generally make up no more than 20 percent of the student body). Houghton College therefore occupies a mediating position between the wider evangelical world and the Wesleyan Church, and its policies, mission, and interaction with the Wesleyan Church reflect this complexity. ★

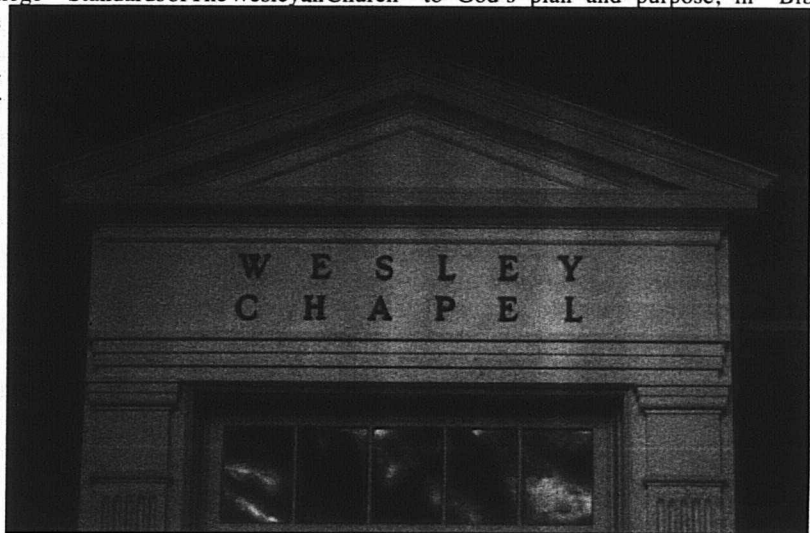


photo by Wesley Dean

**Houghton College is owned by the Wesleyan Church which intends to have the school be a maker of professional and lay leaders who redeem individuals.**

for Educational Institutions" details the denomination's stated purposes and plans for its schools. Each school will provide students with "a biblical worldview...opportunity to study a broad range of interests in a community of faith, and... a Christian perspective from which a wide range of professions and vocations may be pursued."

Alongside this broader aim, the Wesleyan Church also intends for its educational institutions to be suppliers of "professional and lay leaders to carry out [the

blending the various departments of knowledge into a meaningful whole, and in providing for the application of all this to a variety of...vocational programs." At the same time, they too must give "high priority to programs specifically designed to produce professional and lay leaders for the church."

This suits the vision of the Wesleyan Church--"equipping and empowering churches for Great Commission ministries in the spirit of the Great Commandment"--and ties into its

**UN cont'd from page 1**

of global engagement." For many of the attendees, this visit accomplished just that.

Steve Grudde, a senior International Relations major, echoed Kiiti's sentiments, saying that "Houghton students need to understand the UN and its work around the world if they are going to be globally engaged."

"This experience connected with things I am learning in many of my classes," shared Anya Jones, a sophomore Intercultural Studies major, "It raised questions about how NGOs [non-governmental organizations] and the UN change

cultures. It made the entire process of policy development and implementation more tangible."

Recognition of the necessity of understanding global institutions was not limited to students in the Political Science and Intercultural Studies departments.

"This visit to the United Nations allows me to further develop a well-rounded approach to life. As I plan to engage in youth ministry, this experience gives me a broader repertoire of contexts from which to help youth internalize various biblical truths," said Joseph Chinn, a Christian Formation major with a focus in

Youth Ministry. Recognizing the important relationship between faith and global engagement via political institutions and non-governmental organizations was another central theme of the trip.

"We need to be increasingly challenged to see that faith is not a private matter," said Kiiti. "We are called to speak into situations, into institutions, and to be God's instruments in a broken world."

Representatives from the WCRP and World Vision shared how their faith-based organizations are engaging the UN in order to address poverty, injustice, peace and reconciliation, and other global

issues. The students' final stop, the Sierra Leone Mission to the UN, represents one way in which Houghton is attempting to engage globally as a Christian liberal arts college. While at the mission, Steve Grudde and Wes Dean, students who visited Sierra Leone as part of Dr. Ron Oakerson's May-term course this year, thanked the Sierra Leonean representatives and presented gifts on behalf of the college. The Sierra Leonean representatives in turn expressed hopes for future partnerships with Houghton College to promote development in Sierra Leone. ★

## Musical Theater Preview: Songs For a New World

by Laura Day

After months of diligence and hard work, the Houghton Musical Theater Association is ready for their premiere performance, a musical by Jason Robert Brown entitled "Songs for a New World." The HMTA began as a 3 AM conversation among friends, and has since grown into an organization dedicated to opening up the joys of musical theater performance to the entire Houghton campus.

Currently, the HMTA is attempting to produce one musical theater work per semester, and, according to director and co-star, junior Angela Iannacone, much thought went into the choosing of *Songs* for the pioneering performance. First of all, each of the cast members (senior Josiah Armstrong, '09 graduate Brett Potts, sophomore Amber Payne, and Iannacone) had unsuccessfully attempted to organize a performance of this musical in the past, and this production is literally a dream come true for each of them. In addition, each of the performers has a love for Brown's work, due to its simplicity, honesty, and profound truth. According to Iannacone, Brown's lyrics "state the truth without the frills, but are still gorgeous."

*Songs* is a minimalist work in many senses, and it is filled with relatable narratives that the cast wants to convey to their audience. J. R. Brown is a Jewish composer from New York City, so his narratives contain a unique sense

of spirituality, and a longing for the hope of a promised land. Armstrong felt that "whether it's the humor, the anger, the joy, or the depression, [the performance] will hit you at a gut level that will make you react."

This musical is singular in that it contains very little dialogue. Rather, the messages are in the almost non-stop singing. Accompanied by the instrumentals of junior Nolan Miller (synthesizer and piano), graduate student Kirstie Chen (piano), and freshman Micah Armstrong (drums), the music goes from gospel to funk, jazz to rock, and touches on everything in between. Equally important, however, is the acting which works with the music to bring to life the stories of each character.

There will be two performances of *Songs* this Saturday, October 24, one at 2 PM and one at 8 PM. Tickets are \$5 each, and are available in the campus center during mealtimes. ★



The Houghton Musical Theater Association will perform *Songs for a New World* Saturday, October 24. photo by Laura Day



*Songs for a New World* is filled with relatable narratives the cast wants to convey. photo by Laura Day

## Field Hockey Team Continues to Build Momentum

by Nicholas Fredette

As Rachael Snelgrove leads the Highlanders in her second season as head coach, she continues the process of building another strong Highlander sports team. This year, the Field Hockey team has a record of 5 wins, 7 losses. The team is a very young one, with only three seniors on the roster, and several freshmen who have had to step up and play.

When asked about the young age of the team, junior Cala Galioto said "Small but mighty. This is the expression we use regularly to encourage each other and keep in mind that we CAN. Our team is young, but very skilled, and I'm excited to see how it continues growing this year, and next."

Despite the challenges of a young team, the Highlanders have

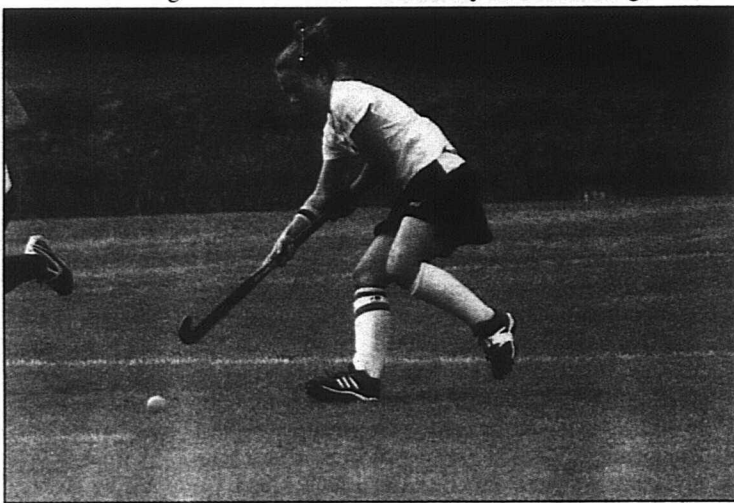
found offensive performance from both veteran seniors and freshmen, with two of their top four goal-scorers being seniors, and the other two being freshmen. The

team has played well together, and has formed a cohesive group both on and off the field. Their strong sense of team unity has been backed by an even stronger sense

of faith.

The Women's Field Hockey team engages regularly in time of devotion and prayer, and is a "great group of girls who love to play hockey to glorify God", as senior Goalkeeper Brianna Dawson put it.

The Highlanders are coming off of a strong 3-2 win against Wittenberg University, in which freshman Ashley Engle scored one, and assisted on the other two of the team's three goals. Fellow first-year student Rachel Stefanski picked up a goal, as did senior captain Ashley Hoffman. The team plays three of their next four games at home, and looks to carry their momentum into their game against SUNY Brockport. The game will be held at noon on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Come support your Highlanders! ★



Captain CJ Lang charges in the Houghton vs. Mansfield University Homecoming game. photo by Mike Wise



## GCF Hosts Coffeehouse

by Jocelyn Matuskiewicz

In cooperation with GCF (Global Christian Fellowship) and New Vision Week, the International Students Association held their annual coffeehouse this past Tuesday, attracting an enthusiastic audience. In an international spirit, the coffeehouse started slightly later than planned, but continued for over an hour, highlighting stories and experiences presented by missionaries from around the world.

Roughly twenty students and visiting missionaries conversed and reminisced about what it's like to be the foreigner in a strange land and the "fun" encounters that ensue. A frequent topic was linguistic faux pas that created humorous situations in other countries. Another was the slowly acquired taste for cockroaches and grub worms. One related the time that a pair of flip-flops had been used to beat the infestation of roaches found in the bathroom. Others warned their listeners to always check if hot dogs in other countries are individually wrapped, and to double-check the appetizer you thought was crayfish, just to make sure it isn't scorpion, a local delicacy in several areas of the globe.

It's all part of the experience, as they say. One missionary (who wished to remain anonymous) encouraged everyone to spend "a month...a few months...years" in another country to experience a different culture. Living overseas is not for everyone, he said,

but it is good for everyone to give it a try, just to see where God can use you.

Heather Hill, a recent Houghton grad, is working closely with the ISA organization. "The intent behind the coffeehouse," she pointed out, "is to serve as a comfortable connecting place for students, faculty and staff, and the visiting missionaries." She clarified this by expanding her definition of "students" to mean "any and all students—not just missionary kids, international students, or students who have studied abroad." While the turnout might not have been as large as the ISA had hoped for, Heather commented that "that the same spirit was there" as in years past, and that it accomplished its goal of linking people together and putting people into contact with each other on both global and local levels.

ISA aims to bring an international perspective to Houghton College. As well as helping to ease the transition into a new culture for students in missionary families and international students, the organization also sponsors functions like Chai Time and "International Dress Day". The group is also responsible for hosting the International Banquet in the spring semester, as well as the much-loved ethnic restaurant treks.

The ISA Coffeehouse was part of Houghton's New Vision Week, held annually in efforts to inform and engage students about God's work being done around the globe. ★

## from the ARCHIVES

*From the Archives is a series of articles pulled from past issues of the Star. This article, entitled "Former Dean Writes," was printed in the May 2, 1930 edition of the Star, and was written by Alice Jean Hampe McMillen.*

*The current Star staff finds this article particularly relevant given the Houghton's renewed emphasis on the country of Sierra Leone. Selected by Emily Rinehart and Stewart LaPan.*

British West Africa is only a name to most people who have never been on this coast. So it was to us about a year ago. Then we landed in Freetown, the only city of the colony of Sierra Leone and the ocean port. We opened our eyes. There were several buildings of size and proportions here such as we did not expect to see here. Streets were paved, the drainage was good, and the city water supply excellent. What interested us most, though, were the naked little black skins around the town.

After we boarded the wheezing little train to come up country we saw numerous little urchins clad only in their birthday suits or perhaps a string of beads. Since, we have learned that most of the children here are unencumbered with clothing until they have had time to grow-up. Now it is no longer a novelty, rather we look askance at the rare child that has a bit of cloth for a covering.

Before we reached our destination, we met a bit of Houghton out in this heathen wilderness. It was in the person of Flora Brect, better known in the old days at Houghton as "Brownie." "Brownie" she still remains and lives up to her name better with a few coatings of African tan. We all are the popular color out here and will be in style, for once in our lives, the fashion does not

change before we are due in America.

There is no use describing life out here. I had minutely portrayed to me before I came and I had no idea of things as they are; so why try to make you see. Come out for yourself and, after one year, of service, you will be wiser than a library of books can make you. I may say that I have seen much that I never saw before, heard things I never expected to hear, experienced more in one year than I did at home in five; and after it is all past, I have changed my philosophy of life a bit and am going on my way rejoicing.

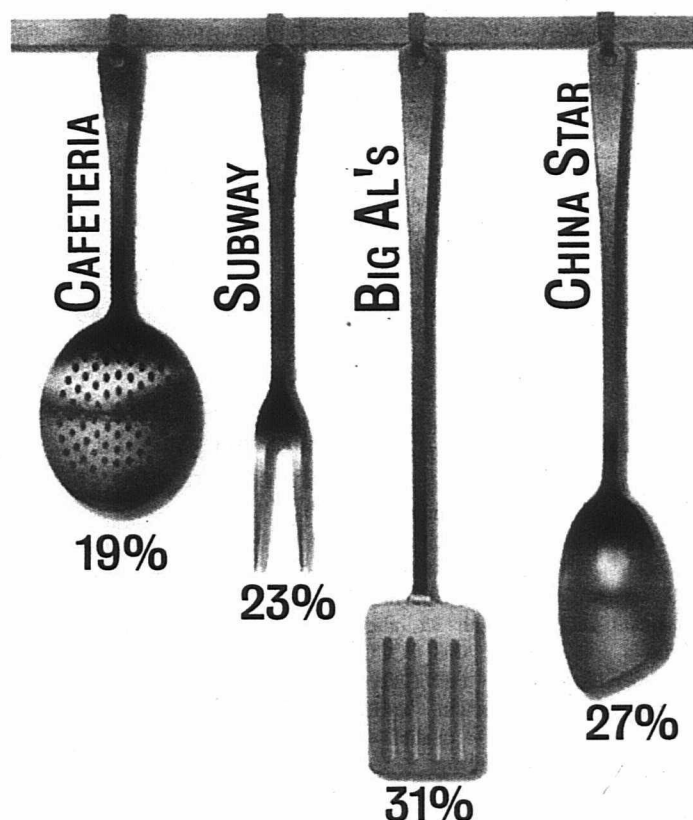
The important things in life are more important than ever before. I have a new conception of the great need of the human race. It is not a need of education, although one of our boys aptly puts it "Education is a bad sickness." It is not so much a need of physical aid though people in dire distress of body cry to us on every hand. It is an overwhelming need of Christ of Calvary. I wish I could make you feel it as I feel it after one year among pagan peoples.

I would urge you who to expect to do foreign service to prepare well for your work; but in your preparation remember that one thing most needful, if you are to do effective work, is a Spirit-filled life. Nothing you may learn can take the place of this requirement. We hope to accomplish nothing except as the Spirit of God works in our midst.

The Creole, who is a half educated black man, is a good picture of what knowledge may do without the gospel. He is nothing to be compared with the bush man in manners, taste, and other qualities that go to make a pleasing individual. If we do not thoroughly evangelize these people it would be far better to leave them in their primitive condition.

What is life, anyway, but a great opportunity to fulfill the great commission and make Christ known to every creature? ★

## WHAT'S THE BEST FOOD JOINT IN HOUGHTON?



CHECK OUT MORE ONLINE EXCLUSIVES  
AT [WWW.HOUGHTONSTAR.COM](http://WWW.HOUGHTONSTAR.COM):

NEW POLL, LOTR: LIFE ON THE ROCK, FILMS THAT WOULD MAKE  
THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE QUESTION YOUR SPIRITUALITY.

Now Serving Lunch  
Monday-Friday 11-2

See our Fall Menu at  
[black-eyed-susan.com](http://black-eyed-susan.com)

Music Begins Nov. 7th

585-466-3399

**Black-Eyed Susan Acoustic Café**  
22 w. main street, angelica

**Angelica Sweet Shop**  
44 W. Main St., Angelica  
585-466-7070  
[angelicasweetshop.com](http://angelicasweetshop.com)

Homemade Pastries and Breads  
Espresso • Penny Cakes • Fudge • Truffles • Biscuits

We bake to order with 48 hours notice

Your Neighborhood Coffee Shop  
Open Mon-Wed: 8-5; Th-Fri: 8-8

Join us for Scrabble!

# Star Spangled Spanner: A Response to Hauerwas

by Meic Pearse

Any discussion that has the effect of easing me into the role of patriotic American has clearly taken an odd turning somewhere. (As those who don't know me may be unaware, I'm not entirely from around these parts; those who do know me occasionally opine that I am not so much from a different country, as from an alien planet.) Yet last week, Stanley Hauerwas' lecture, "War and the American Difference", saw me wrapping myself momentarily in the good ol' Stars and Stripes, a spectacle that must have unnerved all who were forced to witness it.

Hauerwas made many really good points ("War damages our capacity to remember") and other more dubious ones. For one thing, he insisted that the relationship between religion and civic society is in a far better state in Europe than in America, and that the U.S. should move in a more European direction. And in a related point, he suggested that, since American Christians want to leave their offspring free to decide for themselves whether or not to follow Christ, yet allow them no such latitude in respect of taking

on American-ness, therefore the latter is more important to them than the former.

Hauerwas made a number of similarly stinging little points throughout the evening. ("If we have a Just War theory, why not a Just Adultery theory?" "America was born in violence.") Yet for all their ability to pull the listener up short with their apparent out-of-a-clear-blue-sky profundity, none of them survives a moment's intellectual scrutiny. Scripture everywhere

condemns adultery and nowhere commends it: open-and-shut case. Yet just-war theorists, pacifists, and others (I'm an 'other') must all alike concede that their own positions simply have to take account of the alternatives. So adultery and war make bad comparisons. Furthermore, all states, not just the U.S., were born in violence, and sustain themselves in the present only by the credible threat of its renewed use. Even Liechtenstein. If Hauerwas knows about the American Revolution from

his schooldays (or because he's American), well, bully for him. And, of course, like all wars, it was an evil thing. But you have to keep yourself in 'virtuous' ignorance about all the others to think there's anything

unique about it. Indeed, American writers made quite the opposite error to Hauerwas', seeing Europe as uniquely violent and the U.S. as inherently peaceful. This was a delusion too, of course — but perhaps with a little more historical evidence in its favor than Hauerwas' claim possesses.

So is American-ness more important to U.S. Christians than is their ostensible faith?

Doubtless there are plenty of whom this is true — and they will deserve all the tongue-lashings that Hauerwas can contrive for them. And even among many of the more devout, there are still plenty who have allowed nationalistic fantasies to color their Christianity. But Hauerwas' simplistic assumption — voluntary: unimportant;

compulsory: important — is fatuous. I don't choose my children's spouses; yet, when they were little, they wore exactly what clothes we bought for them. So does that mean...?

As for his contention that the U.S. should become more like Europe in respect of the relationship between religion and civic life, I'd respectfully suggest that this would be rather disastrous. I've taught Christian students there — and here. And here is better. For all its problems — naivety; merely cultural 'faith'; religio-nationalist delusions; you name it — rather more eighteen-year-olds here nevertheless have some kind of confidence in the gospel, over against its secular alternatives, than is the case in Europe. And a fair number of them have had a Christian schooling of some kind. (And no, I don't buy the critique about 'narrow, blinkered, fundamentalist schools and homeschooling'. Of course there's plenty of that, and it's not always good. But can anyone seriously claim that it is worse than the compulsory, amoral, nihilistic socialization that you get in state schools — on either side of the

Pearse cont'd on pg 7

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,

I'd like to correct one point in the STAR's article on the OS recommendations ("Campus Reacts to OS Recommendations") in the October 9 issue. The STAR credits me with tracking the yield rate among the top applicants to Houghton (academically-speaking) in the five years preceding the launch of the FYHP (which at that time consisted only of the London track) in 1996-97. In fact, it was the Admissions Office that compiled this information, which is the basis of the estimates concerning the impact of the FYHP on enrollment.

I'd also like to clarify one or two things in connection with the issue of faculty housing in London. At present, the college leases only two flats in London — one small three-bedroom flat and one small two-bedroom flat. These are part of a four-unit building that is owned by the Highbury Centre, which provides our student housing in their main guest house facility around the corner. There are no "top two floors" of faculty housing to sub-let (though the college has sub-let one flat on occasion during the fall semester).

It is not appropriate to focus on

one line-item of any given program, such as the cost of faculty housing in London, and then ask whether that's too much, completely out of context. The attention to this one factor is out of proportion to its real significance (particularly given the lack of cost-effective alternatives), and overlooks what ought to be the main concern, which is the value of the London programs to the college, taking into account the full range of their benefits, both academically and financially. If someone manages to create an alternative to the London FYHP that is as effective at attracting students to Houghton but at less cost to the institution, it won't "save money." It will "make more money" by increasing the profit margin (the difference between the cost of the program and the tuition revenue generated by the students who would very probably otherwise have gone elsewhere). As both the STAR and Gerard Gentry note, this might be possible. If it doesn't happen, however, and we lose more than (as few as) three or four students who would probably have come to Houghton had we retained our current program instead of replacing it with a good, but slightly less attractive option, we'll be no further ahead financially, and may well be worse off.

- Chris Stewart, Professor of Philosophy

Dear Editors,

I wanted to offer a brief response in case there were readers who may have been disheartened at their job prospects based on an article in this week's star ("Career Services seeks to address Unemployment") While it is true that our students, like those nationwide, (See, for example, "Recession hitting college graduates hard" at collegenews.com, or "The Curse of the Class of 2009" at wallstreetjournal.com) are likely to face longer periods of unemployment or underemployment, Houghton graduates have historically done very well in the job market. Over the past decade we have seen 65% find full-time employment, 41% go on to graduate school (some combine the two) and only 5% unemployed (which reflects the national average during that decade of 5.8%). Additionally Houghton students enjoy high rates of graduate school acceptance and high GRE scores. When 400+ Houghton students participated with 35 other Christian colleges in a 2008 CCCU benchmarking survey on Career Services their satisfaction levels were average in 3 of 14 qualitative categories and above average in the remaining eleven. While I am deeply sympathetic to the challenges faced by graduates such as those mentioned in the article (and am indeed facing some of the same challenges myself!) I continue to remain optimistic about the exciting ways that Houghton alumni are

contributing to the Kingdom through their vocational pursuits. Finding that first job in a troubled economy will always present a challenge, but the liberal arts foundation at Houghton which prepares problem-solvers, communicators, researchers, and critical thinkers will remain an invaluable asset for our graduates and their employers.

- Tim Nichols, Professor of Education

**Disgusted?**  
**Delighted?**  
**Just confused?**  
**We want you to be part of the conversation.**  
Letters to the editor (signed) should be 350 words or fewer and be submitted by Tuesday at 7 p.m. to [star@houghton.edu](mailto:star@houghton.edu)  
The Houghton Star is dedicated to the free exchange of ideas, and encourages community members to participate in the discussion. Ideas expressed in these pages reflect solely the opinion of the writer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit any contributions for reasons of length or decorum.



From the Editor's Desk...

## Why the Houghton Bike Share Program was Dead on Arrival

by Amy Buckingham

I learned to ride my bike at the tender age of nine. A little late, I know, but my status as middle child subjected me to negligence and so the fact that I couldn't ride a bike wasn't noticed until it was my six-year old sister's time to learn. Despite this delay in learning, my enthusiasm was unfettered and I took to those two wheels immediately. Learning to ride a bike is full of lessons that many parents are keen to convey to their offspring and that I am glad to have learned. Learning to ride a bike helped me to better appreciate time alone, to observe nature and to take on the responsibility that comes with owning something significant. Having observed many other "I learned to ride my bike..." stories, I've concluded that this is a valuable time in teaching kids some sort of independence.

The joys of cycling are carried through to adulthood and encourage community, invoke the spirit of childhood and remind us, as adults, not to take ourselves too seriously. This can be seen in such events as the Tour de Fat, held across the country by the New Belgium brewing company, where anyone can participate as long as they have a bike and a costume. The annual world naked bike ride is an equally silly. Famed New York blogger, the Bike Snob, is disdainful of this tendency, saying, "Is there any news or pop cultural event around which

the people of Portland will not form some sort of kitschy theme ride? Do they just sit around waiting for things to happen or for people to die so they can put on stupid outfits and jump on their bikes?" (bikesnobnyc.blogspot.com) While serious bikers might be insulted by these rides, they do encourage a meeting of the minds through something as basic as a bicycle.

Beyond the benefits bikes have for an individual or for community relations, bikes have become popular amongst those who wish to be more environmentally aware. Many cities have sponsored "Bike to Work" days, while others have implemented large bike sharing programs. Montreal, London and Boston have Bixi, Washington D.C. has SmartBikes, and Brussels and Paris have Cyclocity. These programs are convenient, cheap, encourage an environmentally friendly lifestyle and have enjoyed relative success. A trip to Paris enlightened me to the beauty of this system, and I was profoundly disappointed when I was bested by the bike rental machine. You can imagine, therefore, my excitement upon receiving the notification e-mail about the Houghton community bike sharing system.

The bikes, however, were quickly mistreated and the system was neglected. Why?

Houghton is not the place for this type of system for two reasons: it does not function in the same way a city does and the community is given no reason to take care of the bikes.

One obvious conflict between the bike share program and the Houghton community is the fact that we don't need the bikes. Cities like London

and Paris use the bikes to promote green living and reduce noise. This is not the case at Houghton. Houghton is not a city. It is not plagued by the same pollution and noise problems that a city is. The students who are

using the bikes are the same students who would have previously walked between campus destinations. They are not using less gas and they are not honking less because these were not characteristics of their life before the bike sharing program.

The Houghton community, as a whole, cannot be expected to act differently than other communities. Yes, we might sign a paper that prohibits or promotes certain acts or ways of being, but when it comes to a more obscure issue, such as the respectful treatment of communal property, the size of Houghton is

actually a hindrance. For example, it is fairly common practice for students to camp out in the Campus Center with pillows and blankets. Because the size of Houghton encourages comfort and familiarity, these students feel no shame in using the public space in a private way. This arrangement is especially convenient for these students because they get all the benefits of a bedroom without the drawbacks of actually having to clean up after themselves. When the distinctions between public and private property are blurred, people will take advantage of the benefits without feeling responsibility for maintaining those benefits for others.

Just because this system does not work in Houghton does not mean that a more structured system cannot. This system would need to do more than just appeal to our better nature to care for the bikes; it would need to provide some sort of accountability. When leaving a note is all that we are supposed to do when a bike is in a state of ill-repair, the actual responsibility of the bikes becomes some sort of joke. Are we really expected to treat the bikes with respect when the consequence of not doing so is...nothing?

The issue is not with the idea of a bike sharing community, but rather with this particular system being implemented at Houghton.

*Amy is a senior Humanities major and is Sports & Culture Editor.*

Are we really expected to treat the bikes with respect when there is no consequence for not doing so?

*Pearse cont'd from pg 6*

Atlantic? At least the former leaves you in possession of a little information, and an openness to the cultural legacy of Western civilization. There are more youthful performers of classical music on this campus than you'd get in most of greater London.)

And then there's the really big transatlantic difference. For all its problems, there will still at least be an America at the end of this century, when Europe will be a succession of Muslim states. And that difference is directly related to the position of religion in civic life on both sides of the Atlantic. Here you can still be a professing Christian and participate in public life. Religion and the values associated with it have a measure of public support. Even its enemies have to go about pretending to oppose, not religion as such, but merely every actually occurring manifestation of it. Academia tries to shut out faith, and so do the media. But even they don't entirely succeed. And business, politics and most other walks of life remain wide open. But if you're religious in Europe, you had better

keep the fact very private. Or else.

The result, among much besides, is that marriage and traditional morality have been reduced to the social stigma of homosexuality in the 1950s, and so Europe is dying out. The only people having children are the tower-block dwellers on welfare, and not-yet-assimilated immigrants. (I'm exaggerating this, obviously — but the statistics vividly bear out the generality of what I'm saying.) And it's the Muslim immigrants' kids who will possess the future; they, at least, have a stable enough family life to be educable. Already the most popular name for baby boys in many European cities is — Mohammed.

America, it is true, has the same cancer eating away at it. But it is much less far advanced. High-school graduation rolls have been falling for years in the too-liberated-for-kids northeast, but those losses are balanced out by the religious heartlands of the midwest and the south. And the result is an overall replacement rate of births in the U.S. as a whole, working to the demographic advantage of ... well, of the likes of us.

Sorry, Professor Hauerwas, but the U.S. has nothing to learn but

salutary object lessons from Europe's relation of religion to civic life: a past of oppression by one, approved religion (varying from state to state) of the unapproved; and a present of oppressing all religions in the

name of 'tolerance' — to the actual demographic advantage of Muslims. Now: Can I have that green card, please?

*Meic Pearse is Professor of History*

### 2009- 2010 STAR Staff

Joel VanderWeele  
Editor-in-Chief

Micah Warf  
Associate Editor

Amy Buckingham  
Sports and Culture Editor

Monica Sandreczka  
News Editor

Mitch Edwards  
Commentary Editor

Sandy Stark  
Business Manager

Prof. Ben Lipscomb  
Advisor

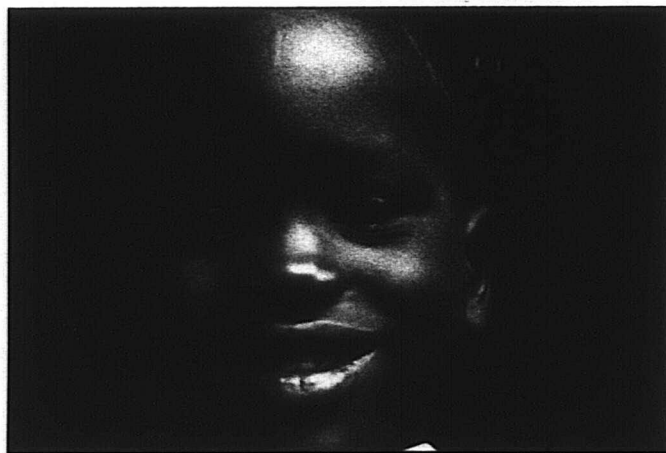
Laura Jackson  
Renee Roberts  
Stewart LaPan  
Emily Rinehart  
Colleen White  
Erika Bremer  
Joella Eppheimer  
Elisa Shearer  
Lauren Kososki  
Re-write Staff

Kristen Palmer  
Re-write Manager

Wesley Dean  
Staff Photographer

# artist OF THE WEEK

This week's edition of Artist of the Week consists of the winners of the Houghton in Tanzania contest run by Dr. Jon Arenson.



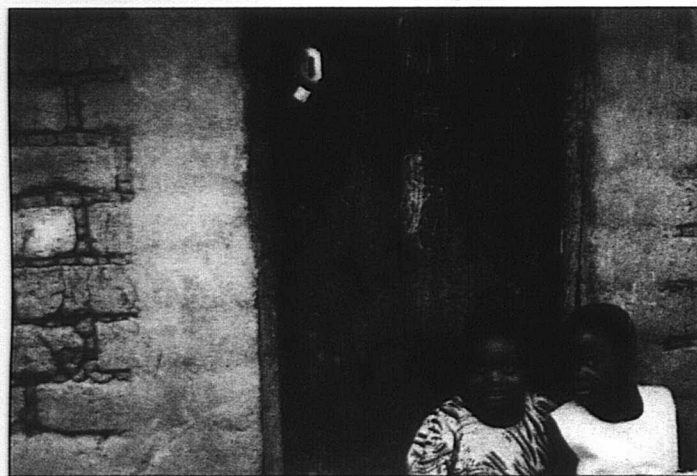
## FIRST PLACE

Wasafwa Child  
by Josh Turner

## SECOND PLACE

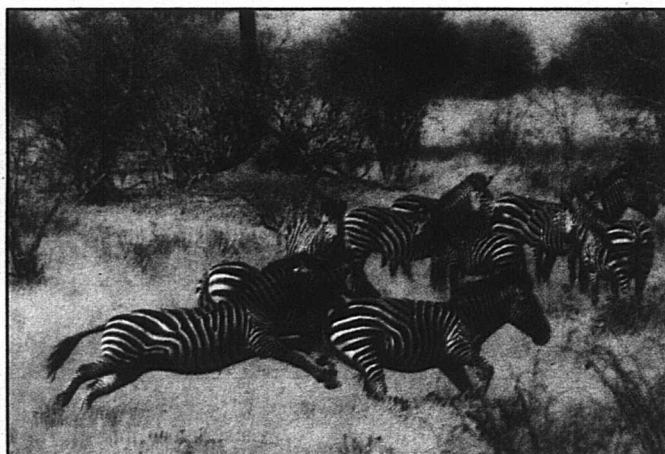
# HOUGHTON TANZANIA CONTEST

4 Village by Johanna Hummelman



## THIRD PLACE

Fighting Zebras by Jennifer Puccio



Bring your finished sudoku puzzles to the STAR office clearly marked with FULL NAME.

## sudoku CHALLENGE

THIS SUDOKU IS EASY

		8	6		5		9	2
9						3	6	5
	1				2	4		
	6				7	9		
		2	1	8	3			
5			9	2		8		7
1	3	7	2					9
				1			3	
4	5	6	7					1

		9	8	5				
	3				6			5
		4			3	2		
1					2	3		
	6		1			5		
8							1	2
			9	2				1
					1	6		
			3				7	9

Prize: Leroy Townes and the Lone Stars' album!

THIS SUDOKU IS HARD