

At Long Last, New Bridge To Be Built Between Library and Chapel

By William Van Alen

On March 20, the Committee on Campus Bridges (CCB) authorized the construction of a new campus-spanning bridge. The bridge will be an enclosed structure that will connect the third floor of the library to the balcony of the chapel.

The CCB is a subcommittee of the Committee on Non-Housing Constructions (CNHC), which is itself a subcommittee of the Committee on Constructions (COC). The CCB is responsible for the upkeep of the many bridges on Houghton's campus, such as the bridge from Rothenbueler Hall to the Fire Hall parking lot, the bridge near the Randall Townhouses,

Lambein's bridge, and the famous bridge between the Chamberlain Center and the Library. Mark Saitta, one of the two student members on the committee, admitted, "When I was first elected to serve I didn't think they did much. But after a year of having a meeting every week and putting in about forty hours a month, I see this is one of the busiest committees at Houghton."

The recent decision by the CCB is the result of over eight years of research and planning. During the spring semester of 2000, the faculty commissioned the early stages of research into the bridge. Over the following eight years the CCB put together a comprehensive plan for building the bridge, including price estimates, architectural bids, and

permission from over a dozen different authorities on campus. These authorities range from the more common sources, such as the president and the board of trustees, to less familiar ones, such as the High Deacon of the Chapel and the Quad Oversight Council (QOC). "It was a long and arduous process," commented current chair of the CCB Frederick Maypletree, "but I think the end result will definitely be worth all the effort."

The bridge will be the largest architectural project undertaken at Houghton. It will span the entire length of the quad as it stretches from the third floor of the library to the balcony of the chapel, a total of 287 ft. Unlike the other bridges on campus, this

project will incorporate a suspension design, due to the consensus of the CCB members that there should be no support columns built on the quad. The pillars holding the supporting cables will be placed next to the library and the chapel, so as to avoid the new bridge affecting the quad, and will be 120 ft high. The supporting cables will be composed of a high strength steel wire called Badamantium, and will be supplied by the local high-quality material company Acier & Acero, based in Caneadea.

The CCB has proposed an ambitious schedule for erecting the new bridge before the 08-09 academic year. Construction will begin on May 11,

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Flourishing Equestrian Program Challenges Standard 'Western' Values

By Peter Shaffer

When she transferred to Houghton, a year and a half ago, junior Brittany Gentry didn't know a cinch from a girth, a lope from a canter. Like many students beginning work in the College's equestrian-studies program, Gentry was a child of her culture. "I was thoroughly Western in my whole outlook and orientation," Gentry says. Like many before her, what Gentry found at Houghton was a window into a wider world: the world of non-Western approaches to the equestrian arts.

National and international recognition has been growing for Houghton's

cross-cultural—even counter-cultural—program, which explores non-Western ideologies and practices to the exclusion of Western ones. Over the past several years, Houghton's program has received a series of awards, from the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the British Council, in recognition of its efforts in cross-cultural understanding. These awards have funded the acquisition of a number of non-Western horses, or "equine ambassadors," as program director Joanne Young calls them. "At Houghton," Young comments, "we don't believe that it's good enough simply to read about non-Westerners.

You have to experience them for yourself; you have to form relationships across the barriers that separate us."

What students like Gentry find, when they begin studying under Young, is that they must revisit their most basic assumptions about horsemanship. The common Western view, Gentry notes, is that "a horse is a man's partner in a long, hard day's work." Non-Westerners reject this picture in favor of a more radically egalitarian one, on which "a horse is a carefully trained athlete." Consequently, it can be difficult for students whose whole experience has been within the Western paradigm to adjust. "At first, I kept wanting to

stretch my legs," Gentry observes, "and Professor Young would holler at me, 'sit up straight, legs back; you're not a water-skier!' I had to become aware of my Western biases, and work to overcome them." "The non-Western outlook," says Young, "prizes craft and tradition over economic utility. Westerners tend to rebel against that."

Yet despite the transformative effect Young's program has had on many students, and notwithstanding the emphasis the College as a whole has placed on global engagement, the program remains controversial on campus. Some question the value of

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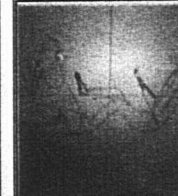
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Joel VanderWeele

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WORLD OUT THERE

By Pat Summitt

Campaign 2008 Update

Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton continue to campaign in Pennsylvania, where the next Democratic primary will be held on April 22. Facing fire for remarks made by his former pastor, the Reverend Jeremiah Wright, Obama recently delivered a lengthy speech on race on America, which both distanced himself from Wright's comments and served as an important benchmark in the history of American oration. Critics marveled at the courageousness of the speech, and at its utter lack of substantive policy content. In response, Clinton addressed rural workers near Harrisburg, PA and outlined why her experience as a white American in Bosnia made her ready to lead and "do important stuff" on Day One. Republican nominee John McCain enjoyed another leisurely week without a Democratic opponent, spending time in Florida ahead of more intensive campaigning later this summer. "I'm absolutely not thinking about retirement this week," he said. "Absolutely not."

Women's Final Four

Just four teams remain in this year's Women's March Madness tournament. LSU, Stanford, Tennessee and the University of Connecticut will battle it out in Florida for the 2008 title in a tournament already notable for its high scoring and record number of converted lay-ups. Reigning national champion Tennessee is the favorite to cut down the nets in Tampa Bay. Key for the Lady Vols will be the play of Alex Fuller, their 6'3 junior forward from Shelbyville, Tennessee. When asked about Fuller, NCAA President Myles Brand expressed confidence that "he would provide a spark for his team during the Final Four." When told that Fuller would be participating in the women's Final Four, Brand hesitated before replying that "all women are of

course welcome to attend this year's Final Four in San Antonio."

Mugabe Somehow Loses

In a strange twist of events, authoritarian leader Robert Mugabe sponsored elections in Zimbabwe this past week, but appears to have managed to lose the contest. Rigging elections is generally a prerequisite skill among dictators, and the result sent shockwaves through other totalitarian regimes around the world. "Frankly, we're shocked," said a spokesperson for North Korea's Kim Jong-il. "We thought that he had knocked off all of his opponents."

Cow-Human Cross Embryo Lives Three Days

In what many are calling a miracle of modern science, cow-human embryos have been created in a lab at Newcastle University in England. The embryos had, however, a predominantly human genetic make-up and were described as "99 per cent human" and only survived for a meager three days. This news did not impress historians who noted that Robin Crowfeather, a stenographer for the town court of Milton, New Hampshire in the 1890's survived for a full 68 years as a human-bird hybrid.

Cleveland Indians On Pace to Shatter Single Season Wins Record

On Wednesday, with Fausto Carmona taking the mound, the Cleveland Indians defeated the Chicago White Sox to remain undefeated on the season. At this rate, the Indians will far surpass the current record for wins in a single season set by the 1906 Chicago Cubs at 116. Centerfielder Grady Sizemore is also poised to set numerous personal records. He is currently on pace to hit 81 home runs and tally 324 RBIs. These impressive numbers have led to wide-spread speculation that the 2008 Cleveland Indians may be the best team in MLB history. The Indians are now 2-0.

SGA "Really Important," Says SGA

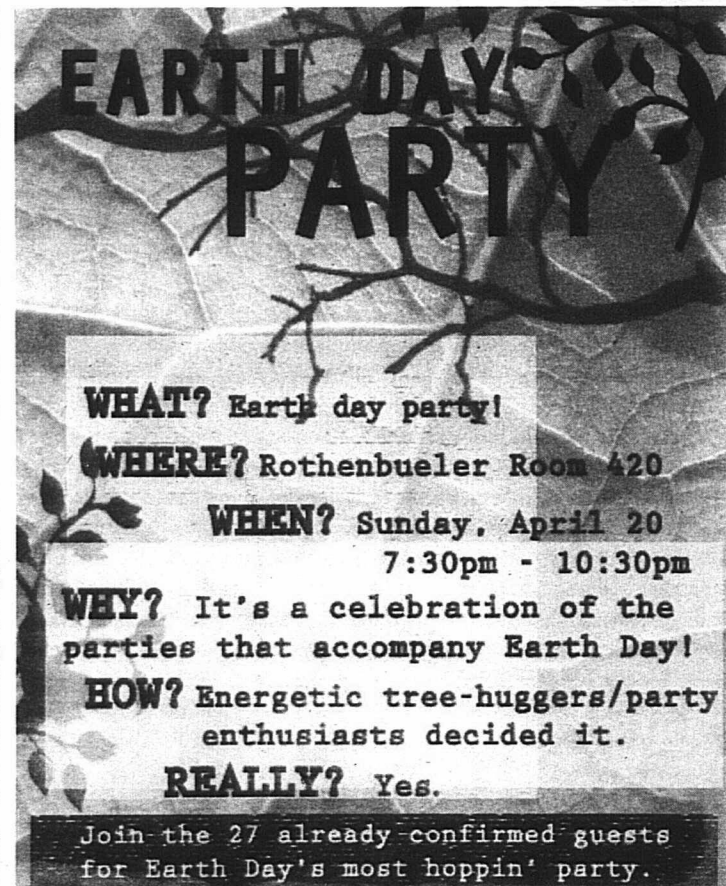
By Jason Shambach

Fresh off a victory in the run-off election for the SGA Presidency, president-elect Peter Savage has declared that the Student Government Association (SGA) is "still really important," and encouraged students to think of all positive developments at Houghton over the next twelve months as having been inspired by the SGA. "Just think of all the resolutions we've passed," he pointed out. "Next year, we're going to pass even more - and we'll feel really good about it, too."

Newly-elected SGA Commissioner of Finance Jonathan Brooks agreed. "I think that the SGA can do a lot of good over the next year," he said. "I'm not actually familiar with what they've done this year, but next year, we plan on reducing tuition, curbing

the college's financial excesses, and providing additional funding to student organizations who want to send students abroad on summer mission trips." When told that the SGA did not have the ability to accomplish any of these goals, Brooks replied, "Oh."

Despite lingering apathy, many students are confident that next year's SGA Cabinet will indeed prove itself to be important. Amy McKinstry is a freshmen living in Gillette Hall who, like close to 60% of her dorm mates, jumped at the chance to vote for Peter Savage in the SGA election. "I think that Peter will definitely continue to turn heads next year," she said. "His ability to inspire confidence and desire among students is startling, and I think that that's a trait that will serve him well as he works with Houghton administrators."



EARTH DAY PARTY

WHAT? Earth day party!

WHERE? Rothenbueler Room 420

WHEN? Sunday, April 20
7:30pm - 10:30pm

WHY? It's a celebration of the parties that accompany Earth Day!

HOW? Energetic tree-huggers/party enthusiasts decided it.

REALLY? Yes.

Join the 27 already confirmed guests for Earth Day's most hoppin' party.



Mullen Proposes Bold New Plan to Strengthen Houghton Community

By Francois-Marie Aroet

Earlier this week, in what has been described as the defining moment of her Presidency thus far, President Mullen released a five-year plan to strengthen the Houghton Community.

According to the document, the first and smallest step towards the strengthening of the Community will be the implementation of a new slogan for the college. An avid Cleveland Cavaliers fan and holder of two PhDs, President Mullen—who has become quite fond of the NBA's newest ad campaign—proposed that Houghton's new slogan be "Houghton College: Where Community Happens."

Mullen also plans to change the name of the institution shortly after the new slogan catches on. Ideally, Mullen plans to phase out the name "Houghton College" in a series of minor changes. As a first step, the school will next become known as "Houghton Community College." Addressing concerns that this will create confusion and imply that Houghton has become an academically-challenged state school, Mullen rebutted, "With our

struggle to maintain SAT scores and our unreasonably high GPAs among many majors, I don't think we need to be afraid of comparisons to community colleges." It is a sign of the Community's strength, she said, that the college will be able to be renamed as "Community" in just a few short years. (The slogan, however, will remain the same, and will read as "Community: Where Community Happens.")

Mullen has also drawn up blueprints for a massive construction project that should contribute to the strengthening of the Community. Shortly after the bridge connecting the library to the chapel is completed, an impenetrable glass dome will be erected to cover the entire Houghton campus. "I've gone on record before as not liking the phrase 'The Houghton Bubble,'" said Mullen. "My main point of contention with the term is that bubbles burst; they pop. A strong Community does no such thing." The dome should help solidify the Community by limiting access to the outside world. Some minor problems, such as ventilation and snow build-up, have yet to be worked out. However, Mullen—who will soon


have four PhDs—is confident that she can find adequate remedies.

The most controversial move of all, however, is Mullen's desire to utilize a little-known drug known as CGH (Community Growth Hormone). If approved by the Board of Trustees, Mullen's plan would have all Houghton students taking weekly injections of

CGH. Some have objected to the use of CGH, claiming that the communal growth it yields is unnatural. "You see these kids all hopped up on CGH in a lot of Christian communities," said Dean of Chapel John Brittain. "You look at them, and you look at their age, and you can just tell that their love for community is manufactured." A member of the administration that requested anonymity vigorously defended the use of CGH, however. "If our goal is to be the best Houghton that we can be," they said, "then that means doing everything we can to strengthen the Community. We can

spend hours in the chapel engaged in corporate worship, but CGH will really give us the boost we need to peak as a Community. Besides, other Christian colleges are doing it, and if we don't get on board then we'll be putting ourselves at a competitive disadvantage."

Mullen's final proposal is also her most ambitious: assuming all goes

well, she will work to have all academic programs at Houghton abolished so that Houghton can focus all of its energy on strengthening the Community. This final element of Mullen's proposal, though criticized by a number of prominent faculty and student voices, was defended by incoming Academic Dean Ron Mahurin. "Honestly, it's clear that President Mullen values the pursuit of the intellectual life, evident in her nine PhDs," said the new Dean. "What we can't do is let these things get in the way of Houghton's number one mission: strengthening the Community." 

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training riders and horses to perfect five-minute routines when they could be driving cattle all day in the hot sun. "The world is changing and Western values will continue to expand," comments Robert Black, Professor of Business. "And that's not a bad thing. Western values bring with them a spirit of freedom and openness that you don't typically associate with non-Western contexts." Others counter

that this is precisely the imperialistic attitude that has fomented a "clash of civilizations" over the past several decades. "This is the legacy of


Constantinianism, this unreasoned preference for the bullwhip over the crop, the Big Skies over the Grand Prix," remarks Meic Pearse, Professor of History and author of *Why the Rest Hates the West*.

But Pearse has his own misgivings about the program and its contributions to cross-cultural understanding. "Isn't what they're calling 'non-Western' riding really just English riding?" he asks. "And isn't England 'The West', if anyplace is?"

No one has satisfactorily answered these questions." Defending the program, Young replies, "When we talk about the origins of non-Western

riding, we're talking about a small island, with an ancient but embattled Christian community, surrounded by the increasingly urbanized descendants of several indigenous people-groups: Angles, Celts, Danes, Jutes, Picts and Scots. In Houghton's equestrian-studies program, we are exposing students and community members to the rich heritage of these peoples, and preparing them to serve with sensitivity among denizens of the former Angle-land." Associate Professor of Intercultural Studies Ndunge Kiiti agrees. "Anything that gets our students looking beyond 'the West,' in any of its several senses, is to the good." Pressed for comment by *The Star*, the Office of the Academic Dean issued the following statement: "for years, the College has been sending faculty over to England to teach. We

have consistently sent them east, not west."

Comparatively isolated from the winds of campus politics, even as they are exposed to the prevailing westerlies of western New York, the faculty and students up at Houghton's equestrian-studies facility don't fret over their critics. "I meet plenty of cowboy types around campus," Gentry says. "All they know is Western culture and values. Some are interested in transcending themselves. Some are content to make fun of our helmets, boots, and tights. We hope that our presence among them opens Houghton students to a greater appreciation of otherness." Adds Young: "we all live within fences; we're here to teach students to jump some of those fences." 



Undeterred, Proponents of Required Astrology Course Press On

By Carl Sagan

Lost amidst the furor surrounding the Integrative Studies discussion is Houghton's small-but-growing Astrology department. Not included among requirements in any of the I.S. proposals, department faculty have grown increasingly despondent as their suggestions for the inclusion of Astrology have been rebuffed. "The study of astrology predates Christianity by almost 1,000 years," commented Gustav Holst, Professor of Astrology. "At the very least, we'd like to be included as an option among the hard sciences. Students should be able to choose which discipline they wish to study, and Astrology offers a number of compelling lab courses."

Student opinion of the Astrology program is very positive. *Introduction to Astrology: Planets and Prediction* continues to score top marks among student exit surveys, and all of the five available Astrology courses are usually over-enrolled. "I actually thought I had signed up for Astronomy," said sophomore Mark Satta. "To be honest, I didn't even realize that it *wasn't* Astronomy until three weeks into the semester. Great class, though."

The suggestion that Astrology should be required, let alone taught, has faced ridicule from all corners. "It's not even an academic discipline," complained Carlton Fisher, Professor of Philosophy. "How could horoscopes and heavenly bodies possibly help our students?" Cameron Airhart, Professor of History, agreed. "I'm not sure what message we would be sending by allowing students to graduate with a Houghton degree having skipped out on *Western Civilization* but studied *The Twelve*

Astrological Houses: From Brahe To Newton," he said.

Holst disagrees. Part of preparing students for service outside of the Houghton context, he argues, is equipping them with the tools to discern guidance in the face of crisis. "There are going to be times in these students' lives when they feel that they cannot hear God's voice, when they cannot see God working in their lives," said Holst. "But you know who will always be visible? The stars and planets, that's who."

Holst added: "Except on cloudy nights, of course. And during the day."

The astrology debate is of particular importance as the faculty continues to discuss the Integrative Studies proposal that was approved by the Academic Policies Council. Daryl Stevenson, chair of APC, noted, "We're very comfortable with the proposal as it is now... the committee decided that requiring an astrology course was not essential at this time." And while many faculty members are upset over the reduction in total hours in the fields of history, philosophy and literature, few

professors expressed concern over the astrology omission. "It's a non-issue, in my opinion," said Paul Young, Professor of Psychology. "It's clear to me that psychology is much more scientific than astrology."

Associate Dean Darlene Bressler also opposes the astrology requirement. "Just look at our sister schools," she said. "When you compare data, reflect on the dual nature of scholar-servanthood, think outside the box, develop life-long learners and approach the Houghton education from a truly



Photo By Wesley Dean


Holst's sanguine demeanor is music to his students' ears.

liberal perspective that recognizes that most learning takes place outside of the classroom, you'll see that Wheaton and Westmont don't require astrology, so we shouldn't, either."

Members of the Business department, however, have argued that a renewed

emphasis on astrology might help Houghton recover finances that are tied down in other areas. Professor Ken Bates points to the other speculative programs that Houghton funds every year that do not provide the opportunity for prediction and financial windfall.

"To be quite honest, astrology properly understood could yield incredible returns for the college's general fund," he commented. "And really, it's no worse a speculation that arguing that some other programs bring in students each year. Like JV sports, for instance. At least some people actually believe in astrology."


Holst is confident that, with time, others will begin to see his point of view. "The celestial dynamics just aren't good right now," he admitted. "But as soon as Jupiter moves into the twelfth house, we could see Mars alter the midheaven-imum coeli axis, and all cosmos could break loose. And we all know what that means." 

First-Year Student Doing "Okay, I Guess"

By Stewart Pryor

According to an exclusive report given at 11:53 a.m. yesterday morning, first-year student Blake Hanselm is doing "Okay, I guess." The report was made after fellow student Dan Javorski asked the question, "How's it going, Blake?" Witnesses of the interrogation claim that Hanselm attempted to avoid further questioning by averting his gaze and positioning his face so that the sides of his lips were pointing down in what is commonly referred to as a "frown." In a valiant pursuit of truth, however, Javorski was not put off. He followed up his initial inquiry

with the question on everyone's mind: "how was break?" to which Hanselm responded, "Fine, thanks."

A recent report made by the Student Life Committee confirms that similar exchanges have been occurring all across campus, with the highest concentration of interrogations located in the second floor of the Campus Center. According to a recent survey given by the SLC, 37% of Houghton students are doing "Pretty Good," 25% are "Not Bad," 22% feel "Okay," 10% are "Fine," 5% responded "You Know, The Usual," and 2% claimed, "I Love My Boyfriend... Like, So Much." 



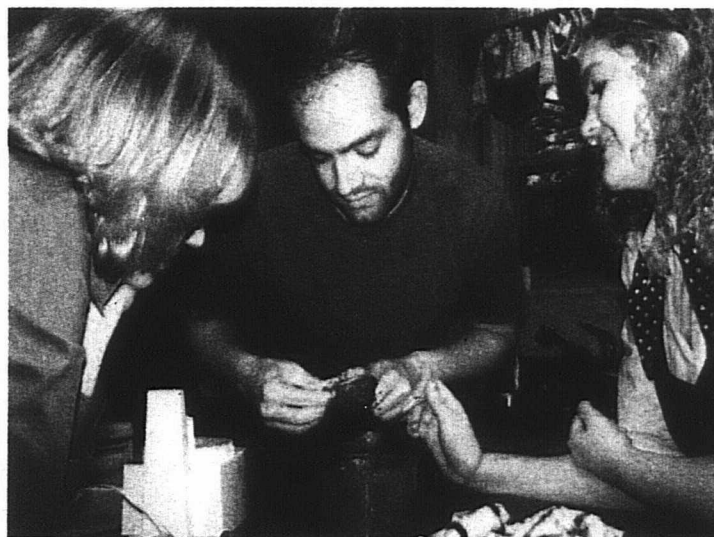
Record 289 Students To Celebrate Birthday On Same Day

By Chim Richards

In what one professor described as a "stunning coincidence," almost three hundred students plan to celebrate their birthday on May 10. A multitude of interviews conducted by the *Star* confirmed that most of these students, many of them seniors, were born almost twenty-one years ago.

Nevertheless, many remain skeptical. "Don't you think its odd," asked Professor of Philosophy Chris Stewart, "that this coincidence wasn't noticed until these students' final semester of school?" Other faculty and some administrators share similar doubts. "I just don't think its true," said Marge Avery of the Academic Records office. No student that the *Star* interviewed, however, indicated that they would celebrate their birthday on any day but May 10.

Senior Christopher Krowka is looking forward to the day's activities. "Yeah, for all intents and purposes, I'll be celebrating on May 10," he revealed. Jason Fisher was similarly enthusiastic. "It's crazy, but a lot of my friends will be celebrating their birthday on the tenth



Laura Thompson, Matt Hepler and Elyse Drum - all seniors - prepare for May 10.

of May," he said. "We'll be planning a fun birthday bash." Even students unwilling to commit to the May 10 birth date expressed sympathy. "Look, I'm not comfortable talking about my age," admitted William Airhart. "But I'll be celebrating my birthday just like all of the other seniors."

Few can remember a time when so many Houghton students celebrated

their birthday together. "I certainly can't remember a time when so many students were celebrating their birthday on the same day," said longtime Professor of History William Doezeema. "It wouldn't be related to graduation, would it?"

Indeed, frustrated members of the Office of the Student Life have struggled to plan graduation events for seniors. "We've tried to schedule

some student-oriented activities on the afternoon of the tenth, but thus far, only family members have been willing to commit," lamented Vice President for Student Life Sharra Hynes. "Many students said that they didn't want to miss out on any time being wasted." Even events scheduled for May 11 have received sparse enthusiasm. "I plan on doing a lot of sleeping after I graduate," said senior Ben Tsujimoto. Krowka, too, had rescheduled events originally planned for May 11. "Making a good first impression is a key to a successful job interview," he pointed out. "I had one scheduled on the 11th, but I think I can move that back to the 15th."

President Mullen, though unsure as to why no seniors wished to attend a party sponsored by the Office of Student Life, weighed in for 54 minutes on the admirable readiness of Houghton seniors to party in a Wesleyan context.

When informed that all seniors were celebrating on May 10, one student excitedly extended invitations to his party to the entire senior class. "I hope a lot of people show up," he said. "Otherwise, I'm going to have a whole lot of extra beer."

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and the committee hopes the entire project will be finished by August 23. "We really want the new bridge done before students return," commented, Houghton Vice President for Committees and chair of the CCB, "We want them to be able to use and enjoy it, instead of wondering about the half-finished project on campus." There will be a total of a hundred construction workers on campus to work on the bridge, many of whom will be legal laborers. Jason Fisher, the other student representative on the CCB, stated, "With the amount of manpower being used this summer, the campus will be a veritable Amish barn raising."

There has been concern over the estimated cost of the new structure. When the CCB was commissioned, one of its restraints was to keep the entire

project under \$300,000. The Office of Advancement had already committed \$100,000 to the new bridge, and was expecting to raise the remainder of the funds before construction began. Eric Alcott, Houghton's outgoing Vice President for Advancement, reported that the Office of Advancement has surpassed its goal and raised \$1.5 million dollars for the bridge. Alcott said, "We received a great response from alumni and friends. Everyone we contacted was thrilled about a quad-spanning bridge." This was a relief to the CCB, which had previously procured substandard materials and labor for the bridge. Maypletree commented, "When we found out we had a total of \$1.6 million dollars we were thrilled. We were able to use Plan B, which consisted of reliable construction materials. I think this will

really benefit the students."

The added funding has also allowed for an expansion of the overall bridge idea. Previously, the bridge was to be used for the same purposes as the other bridges on campus, primarily as a transport for students. The surplus funding will allow for the new bridge to be used beyond this purpose. The CCB reports that the bridge will be also be used a "second campus center," according to Fisher. He continued, "We're planning on making the bridge 30 feet wide, the middle 6 feet being used for the walkway. The 12 extra feet on each side will be used as student areas. We'll put in couches, coffee carts, high tables looking over the quad—it will look really nice." The CCB is also considering a number of other ideas, such as a game center with ping-pong, billiards, and darts, as well

as student offices, which various clubs and organizations can utilize.

Student responses to the new bridge have been varied. Katarina Kieffer, a super-senior, expressed excitement about the idea. "I think a skyway-style student lounge looking over campus is a great idea. I could totally see myself hanging out with friends, writing papers, or chatting up boys up there." However, not all students approve of the new bridge. Timothy Bastedo, an active member of Nehemiah's Restoration, stated, "The bridge represents a corporate inroad to the Houghton community, that will inevitably result in a hierarchical power structure the likes of which will violate Houghton's communal purity."



Recent Chapel Inspires Entire Lunch Of Service

By Thrasymachus

After hearing Monday's chapel message on the AIDS, famine, and corruption that's plaguing "that one nation in Africa," Houghton sophomore Francis Ruach took a stand and dedicated the rest of his lunch to raising awareness for the troubled African nation he had just heard about. "These people are suffering from unbelievable hardship, and most people don't even know their nation exists. I am going to devote the rest of my lunch to helping these poor people," announced the Rochester native in a press conference held immediately following the "lunch-changing" chapel.

When asked exactly what nation the dedicated student was crusading for, Ruach responded, "You know, it's the one right above Andorra... I think it's called Guyana or something. We Americans don't bother to learn the names of countries in their native tongues, so I don't know the proper name for it."

Ruach continued to speak on the subject from the Wesley Chapel to the cafeteria located in the upstairs of the Reinhold Campus Center. "Here we are,

like, stressing about our next Western Civilization exam and these people don't know that there is such a thing as Western Civilization." Ruach went on to name all the "totally awesome" things the poor African nation was without. The list included "21-meal plans," "a translucent democratic system," and the "sweet expansion pack edition of Guitar Hero."


In an effort to better understand the plight of the African nation, Ruach resolved to forego the typical cafeteria fare and eat only rice for lunch. This decision was aided by the fact that, "German bar is really gross." The newly pronounced Intercultural Studies major also made an attempt to recruit other students to join him in his crusade. "You have two options: either you can continue to swallow American ignorance, or you can save Africans. EAT RICE!"

Fellow Houghton student Rodney Safeplain was impressed by Ruach's blustery enthusiasm. "At first I was thinking, 'who's the freak dancing around the table and yelling?' but when I found out he was recreating a traditional African rain dance, I knew this dude was for real. I think he had

mustard on his face."

Theresa Anderton, Ruach's girlfriend of 53 minutes, also "totally supports" his lunch-long dedication to the ailing African nation. "When I found out about his 'rice resolution' I knew I had found a keeper. This world needs more people like my Franky who are willing to dedicate their entire lunch to helping others."

The spokesperson for Saving the World One African at a Time (StWOAAaT) who delivered the chapel message, Jonathan Blackburn, was pleased he had such a positive impact on Ruach. "Sometimes I wonder if I'm actually helping anyone, but knowing that I have permanently affected the lunch of at least one person has made my time here on earth worthwhile."

Unconfirmed sources also report that Ruach once sacrificed his Biology class period for the soldiers in Iraq, has donated his mitten to the homeless in Buffalo, and usually leaves a penny in the "take-a-penny-leave-a-penny" tray. "But you'll never hear him talk about any of that," claims Anderton. "He's such a selfless guy." 

Student Newspaper Announces New Writing Staff


By Rick Astley

This past week, the *Houghton Star* revealed that it had selected a new staff of writers to serve during the 2008-2009 academic year. More than thirty students and professors had applied to join the ever-growing staff of the college's official student newspaper. "Oh sure, we're very excited," said outgoing editor-in-chief William Airhart. "It looks like we've finally found some writers who are willing to actually write in support of Houghton's policies, instead of just endlessly criticize them like we have this year."

Former news editor Jason Fisher conducted most of the interviews. "They're a talented group of individuals," he divulged. "They'll do a much better job of finding things to write about that are actually interesting." Chief copy editor Timothy Bastedo agreed, noting, "At the very least, they won't make nearly as many grammatical errors as we did this year."

Additionally, editor-in-waiting Katarina Kieffer announced that more than three professors had agreed to author occasional opinion pieces over the course of the year. "We're proud of the diverse pool of professors that

we've tapped this year, especially that of Professor Meic Pearse and... wait, give me a minute... others." The entire *Star* staff was confident that next year, at least, the newspaper would be worth reading.

Along with the staff announcement, the *Star* dispelled recent rumors that the newspaper would *not* be hosting its annual Christmas Party and Table Tennis Invitational events next year. "Our financial struggles have been greatly exaggerated," commented Laura Thompson, the *Star's* business manager. "You should see all of the great stuff that we've been able to buy for ourselves this year." 

2007-2008 STAR Staff

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Associate Editor

Katarina Kieffer

Editors

Timothy Bastedo

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Jason Fisher

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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. Letters to the editor (signed) should be 350 words or fewer and be submitted by Tuesday at 12 p.m. to STAR@houghton.edu. Names may be withheld upon request.



Letter

To The Editor

Dear Editors:

As a student worker in the library, I have noticed that on every Prospective Student Day, Honors Weekend, and at the start of a new semester, there are always a large number of puzzled and confused people wandering around the library. These students (or student-hopefuls) – often accompanied by parents – come into the library, walk up the stairs to the second floor, and then wander around the stacks looking for the stairs that will take them to the third floor.

Eventually, they find their way back to the circulation desk on the first floor and ask how to get up to the third floor. The library tried putting up a sign to direct student how to get to the “Religion and Philosophy floor” – many librarians dislike the term “the Third Floor of the Library.” However, after answering the question of how to get to the third floor at least 100 times on event days, I’ve thought of a new plan.

The third floor of the library, which houses primarily the Religion and

Philosophy Department, needs a name. A good one, too. Almost every other building has a name, South is really “Rothenbuhler,” East is really “Gillette,” the campus center is really the “Reinhold Campus Center,” etc... Librarians proposed the name “Chamberlain Annex” last year, but this was not met with success. I have often daydreamed about having the third floor be named after me, but I have very little money and will most likely not give Houghton a large endowment upon my graduation.

Therefore, I propose to name the Religion and Philosophy floor, not simply after someone who gave Houghton a lot of money, but instead after someone who faithfully served Houghton College and who embodies the ideals we claim to hold. With this in mind, I can only think of one name for the third floor of the library: the Beach.

Joshua Nolen, Class of 2009

From the Editors' Desk...

Booze Cruise

A group of seniors reflect on the alcohol-free environment of their class trip.

From the Outgoing Senior Editors

A few weeks ago, the campus shut down for an entire Wednesday for our annual H.E.L.P. Day festivities. It was a raucous affair, filled with presentations about budgeting tips, entertainment choices, and how to make quick, healthy meals (assuming you can afford to spend \$500 at Wegmans every week, of course). As a part of the day's activities, seniors were required to attend Senior Salute, in which they dutifully filled out forms and checklists to ensure that they were ready to graduate in May.

At the one of the stations, seniors were asked whether they wanted to attend the senior class trip: \$30 for an upscale cruise during commencement week. It sounded swanky, to be sure; reluctant to stomp up the cash and commit to attending, though, we chose to put our names on the waiting list instead. If there were any cancellations, we would be the first to have the chance to snatch tickets. Privately, one of us took our class president aside and asked him whether or not there would be an open bar on the cruise. Alas, he sadly told us, we were out of luck, as the cruise was to be alcohol-free. Chagrined, we moved onto the next Senior Salute table. Even if tickets became available, we wouldn't attend.

It's a general rule of thumb, really: we don't usually pay exorbitant amounts of money to attend mind-numbing events without the prospect of an open bar. After another typical ring-by-spring flourish of activity over the past few months, we've received a number of wedding invitations for the summer. As was inevitable, many of these weddings have the misfortune of falling on the same day. How to decide which wedding to attend? If you can't make your decision based on geography or level of friendship, it's simple: attend the wedding with the open bar.

While the open bar rule is a helpful tool in determining between important recreational options, we've found that it is generally frowned upon at Houghton. In fact, alcohol remains largely taboo as a topic of discussion around campus. This is probably an outgrowth of Houghton's alcohol prohibition, as students don't want to risk speaking freely for fear of being accused of illicit boozing by a well-meaning but regrettably self-righteous fellow student. (After all, thanks to the twisted judicial policy currently on the books, they won't get to face their accuser during the appeals process.)

It's a shame we can't be more mature and open about these things. (Even the *Star* this year has avoided the subject altogether.) Houghton's drinking policy is understandable and well warranted for students, as it serves everyone's best interests to have an alcohol-free campus. Allowing students to drink off campus might make us a more open and tolerant community, but it could have a boatload of adverse effects (like tacitly encouraging drinking and driving, and other nasty things). Our prohibition is probably for the best, but it has inspired an unhealthy fear or aversion to alcohol among far too many of our students.

What will happen to many of our graduating seniors in a few weeks, faced with alcohol consumption for the first time, but ill equipped to understand its complexities? We're not sure. In fact, they may be just fine. (A student research project conducted last fall found that 73% of Houghton seniors admitted to alcohol use on at least an occasional basis.) But we won't know, because we're not supposed to talk about it. It's too bad, really.

The outgoing senior editors would like to thank Gustav Holst for his contributing ideas and methods in this piece.

20 THE FIRST ANNUAL HOUGHTON STAR TABLE TENNIS INVITATION TOURNAMENT

players. Two more evenings of madness.

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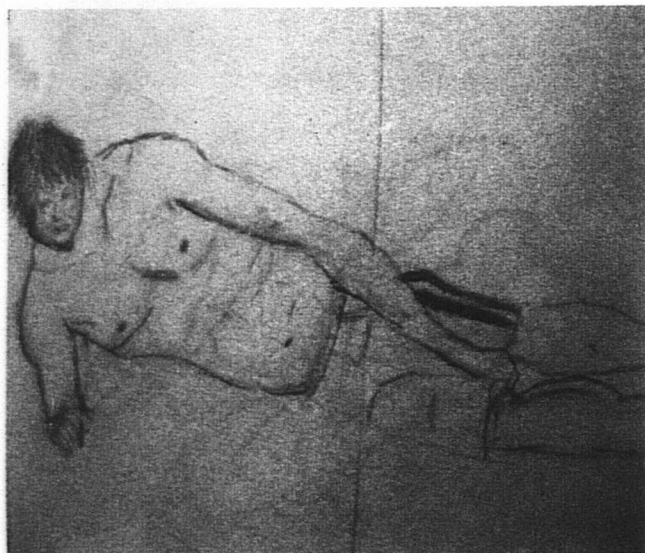
Round 2 april 5

Round 3 april 8



featured artwork

JOEL VANDERWEELE

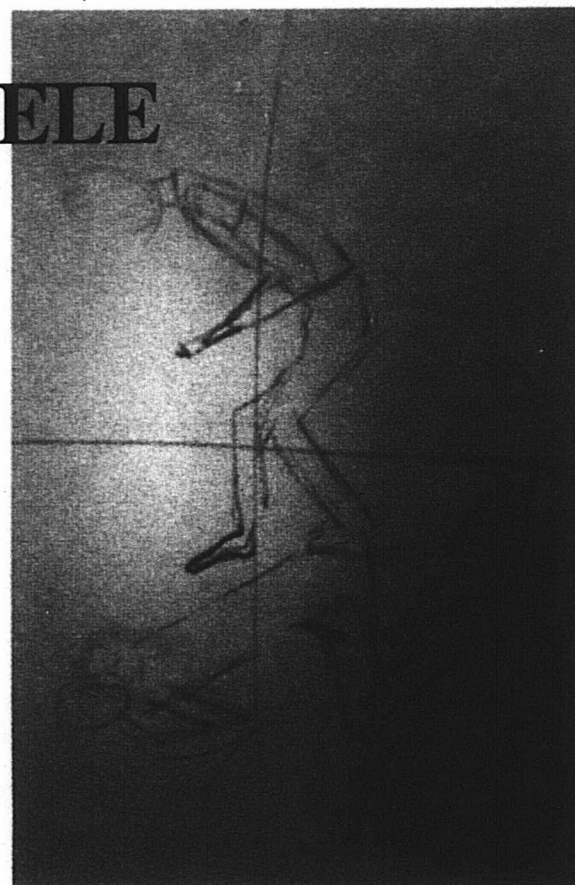


Ideal Forms, graphite drawing

NOTE

from the artist:

"I've always been heavily influenced by the superb art of the German Expressionist movement. The heavy lines and rough postures appeal to the raw and fiercely emotional side of me. Why re-create a photographic effect when you can tap into something deeper and draw with your



Balance, graphite sketch

soul? My art is the inner working of my soul expressed in terms of lines and shadows. If you reject my art, you reject me... and I don't deal well with rejection."

Joel is a sophomore Math and Philosophy double major.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

Submit completed puzzles with your name at the Star office. One correct puzzle will be selected at random and the winner will receive a Sudoku puzzle book!

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This week's puzzle is by Eric Liddle, a freshman Math and Computer Science major from Albion, N.Y.

He is currently in London, but remains a diehard Sabres fan.

Answer to last week's crossword puzzle is printed to the left.

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