



THE HOUGHTON STAR

Volume 105, Issue 3

The Student Newspaper of Houghton College

September 26, 2008

SGA Sponsors Voter Registration Initiative

By John French and Ryan Ledebur

As the November 4 election date draws near, the Student Government Association (SGA) is sponsoring an initiative to encourage Houghton students to register and vote. The 2008 race for the U.S. presidency has been marked by the highest voter turnout in history, and the enthusiasm has been especially marked among youth aged 18-24.

More first-time voters participated in both parties' nomination contests than ever before. The SGA would like Houghton students to be part of this movement. "For most students—myself included—this election marks the first time that they will be able to vote in a presidential election," said Peter Savage, SGA President. "We want to encourage civic participation in every way that we can."

Two of the anticipated "battleground states" in the November contest are Ohio and Pennsylvania. Both states also send hundreds of students to Houghton each year. With the national election occasionally hinging on as few as a couple of hundred votes—the final margin in Florida in 2000 was a mere 500-odd votes—Houghton students could conceivably play an important role in deciding the next United States president.

Conscious that the election is receiving wide attention in the national press, the SGA hopes to capitalize on the fervor of the media in an effort to increase student participation. High voter turnout among the general electorate, it is hoped, will be mimicked by high turnout among students. To this end, the SGA is assisting students in their efforts to complete voter registration and to obtain absentee ballots.

This year, the SGA has made voter registration as convenient as possible by directing students to online tools which simplify the process. The SGA is encouraging students to use the RockTheVote.com system to fill out their registration form, before printing it off and mailing the form to the SGA via intra-campus mail. SGA members will then prepare and send off the registration forms

• *Vote continued on page 2*

Hoselton Forum: The Value of the Entrepreneur

By Katarina Kieffer

The first event in this year's Hoselton Series took place Tuesday night with a showing of the film "The Call of the Entrepreneur," which addressed concerns about the ethical aspects of business relations and defended the value of free-market enterprise.

The Hoselton Chair of Private Enterprise and Ethics, which sponsors several campus events each academic year, is an endowed position funded by the nonprofit Hoselton Foundation of Rochester. Richard Halberg, professor of Business, is the current Hoselton Chair. According to Halberg, the purpose of the Hoselton Forums is to "stimulate dialogue...better understand private enterprise" and help students develop the "moral compass necessary to make private enterprise possible."

In light of the current turmoil on Wall Street, the central focus of the film was timely. Focusing on the question "are entrepreneurs essentially virtuous, or vicious?", the film argued that "need" rather than "greed" drives most people to develop new products, and defended the "moral virtues" of the entrepreneur: patience, persistence,

creativity, vision, and faith.

Drawing on the examples of a small-town self-employed farmer in Michigan, an investment banker in New York City, and a media magnate in Hong Kong, "The Call of the Entrepreneur" attempted to show the diversity of entrepreneurship and defended the entrepreneur as acting out of the god-given creative impulse rather than self-interest.

Noting that many prominent American religious leaders tend to pinpoint the worst examples of businessmen and women and declare business evil, the film countered the view that most entrepreneurs are attempting to get rich at the expense of others.

In fact, the film called the idea of the zero-sum game, in which benefits come only at the expense of others, the "great economic evil." While entrepreneurship is in essence an individual enterprise, there is a large communal aspect to the free-market system. In the planning stages, risk is inherent in any new enterprise, but the financial networks of banks, lenders, and borrowers that has developed allows for shared risk and removes the possibility of a single individual's decisions resulting in catastrophic failure.

The creative impulse innate in humanity leads the would-be entrepreneur to focus on what his or her fellow human beings "need, want, or desire": looking for needs that have yet to be fulfilled and developing a product to fit that need. The film insisted that this focus on "the other" is also communal in nature; the entrepreneur shapes his or her business around the needs of his or her fellow human beings.

Student reaction to the film was mixed, with some students affirming the general premise of the film and others feeling that deeper problems were neglected.

Stephen Ross, a junior, said he felt the film "reiterated the value of free markets and the role of the banker in today's world...Free markets are what give [the creativity of the entrepreneur] the hope of life, and bankers, or lenders, can give these novel ideas a breath of life."

Senior Luke Sanford felt the "well-done and fairly provocative" film "presented the entrepreneur in a new light" by focusing not only on the typical small business owner but also on similarly principled self-made bankers and leaders of corporations. Sanford added that the film seemed particularly relevant,

• *Hoselton continued on page 2*

FYI Service Day Offers Intro to Service Learning

By Amy Buckingham

FYI Service Day, which is first year students' first exposure to service learning at Houghton, took place this year on Saturday, September 20.

First year students were involved in volunteer work in Allegheny County and even in Buffalo as a part of general education requirements for the First Year Introduction class. This class is required of all students as preparation for the college lifestyle and workload.

Around 295 students participated, including 25 FYI leaders and about 270 first year students.

The different area organizations that provided opportunities for volunteer work include a number of different camps in surrounding areas, as well as churches, the Houghton Nursing Home, the Accord Association, the Powerhouse Youth Center in Fillmore, the Fillmore Little League fields, and the Office for the Aging.



Photograph by Laura Jackson

First year students work with the Buffalo-Niagara Riverkeepers

Services provided to these facilities included general cleaning and scrubbing, scraping and painting, weeding and sawing, among other projects.

Traveling the farthest were the four First Year Honors FYI groups, comprised of the freshmen who will

participate in the First Year Honors Programs in the spring. They trekked to Buffalo to work with the "Buffalo-Niagara River Keepers" in cleaning up the area around the Niagara River.

Also traveling to Buffalo

• *FYI continued on page 3*

Inside
this
Issue...



Field Hockey
Update

Page 5

From the Editor's Desk:
Who stole SPOT from
the students?

Page 7

Artist of the Week:
Jessica Stoddard

Page 8





THE WORLD

By Joel VanderWeele

Finland School Shooting

A Finnish student opened fire at a Kauhajoki, Finland college on Tuesday, killing 10. After terrorizing the campus, Matti Juhani Saari turned the gun on himself and later died in the hospital. Police visited the shooter earlier in the week after he posted a violent video of himself shooting the gun on YouTube. In the video, Saari claimed, "whole life is war and whole life is pain. And you will fight alone in your personal war." After interviewing him, the police determined that they did not have enough evidence to revoke his firearm license.

Four Dead, Thousands Ill in China From Tainted Milk

50,000 children have been treated after a huge supply of tainted milk was sold throughout China, killing 4. The contaminated milk contained melamine, a fire-retardant that causes kidney problems. Chief food inspection official, Xiang Yuzhang, reassured the media that the scandal was under control and that no more tainted milk would be sold.

Bombing in Pakistan

Islamabad was rocked by a massive explosion last Saturday as a truck loaded with 600 kg of explosives crashed into the Marriott Hotel. The explosion started a fire that burned for 8 hours, killing at least 54 and injuring 266. Allegedly, a number of Pakistani officials had a meeting scheduled at the hotel on Saturday, but changed venues at the last minute. The Marriott, an American-owned hotel, was the first five-star hotel to be built in Islamabad and is a favorite meeting place for foreign diplomats and politicians. Early reports indicate that the Tehrik-e Taleban Pakistan, the same group that killed Benazir Bhutto last year, is the leading suspect in the case. Recently elected Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of Bhutto, vowed to confront the threat and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Election Update

As they prepare for the first Presidential debate of the general election tonight, both campaigns are busy putting out the flames of potentially harmful stories. Recent disagreements between Senators Barack Obama and Joe Biden about a recent ad campaign and the AIG bailout have the media speculating that the Obama campaign is not as well-oiled as some suppose. Meanwhile, the entire GOP, Senator McCain included, are receiving much of the blame for the financial crisis on Wall Street. While Obama is enjoying a slight lead, national polls remain tight enough to inspire

many media sources to explore what would happen in the event of a 269-269 electoral tie.

Hostages in Egypt

11 tourists and eight Egyptians were kidnapped near the Sudanese, Libyan, and Egyptian borders on Friday. Egyptian officials say that no political demands have been made by the kidnappers, but a ransom has been set at 15 million dollars. The hostages have allegedly been taken from the Gilf al-Kebir region into Sudan. The eleven tourists include five Germans, five Italians, and one Romanian. The German government has taken the lead in negotiating the terms of their release.

Financial Crisis Continues

U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is urging the politicians in Washington to act quickly on a \$700 billion bail-out plan to stabilize the economy. So far, Republicans and Democrats have been united in their skepticism towards the bill, citing concerns that money will be taken from taxpayers to save the wealthy companies on Wall Street. The bail-out plan follows reports that the FBI is currently investigating Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Lehman Brothers, and AIG for possible misconduct, especially in dealing with mortgages. Earlier this week, Wall Street took a two day plunge, but recovered slightly when billionaire Warren Buffett invested \$5 billion in Goldman Sachs.

Local: Buffalo Route 5

Western New Yorkers are fighting the New York Department of Transportation's plan to rebuild the elevated Route 5 Expressway. Buffalo Councilman Michael Kearns has been very vocal in his opposition of this plan, claiming that a new elevated expressway would cut off 80 acres of lakefront property that could bring huge economic and cultural gains to the city. Supporters of Kearns believe that opening up that lakefront land would be a momentous step towards rebuilding a struggling city.

Flooding in India

Much of north and east India are under water after monsoon rainfalls hit the state of Orissa. The flooding displaced 4 million people and stranded hundreds of thousands without power or access to roadways. So far, two hundred deaths have been reported, but officials expect that number to rise. Following complaints that the Indian government has not done enough to help the ravaged region, the Indian Navy has been deployed to aid in relief and rescue measures.


• *Hoselton continued from page 1*
as "entrepreneurship can be a bright spot in the dismal mess that is our current economic crisis—in a free market economy anyone who feels they have a good or service that has demand can start a business no matter what the current status of publicly traded businesses are."

Junior Sophie Huber agreed with Sanford on the "provocative" nature of the film, saying, "It struck somewhat of a nerve." She felt, however, that "The Call of the Entrepreneur" failed to address the larger problem of discerning where need ends and greed begins: "I really think that we're getting so wrapped up in our acquisition of wealth that we're not even recognizing our selfishness anymore. What is 'need' then? As Christians, I think it is imperative that we ask ourselves whether our motivation is to 'co-create' with God 'to continue creation,' as the documentary kept mentioning... I think it [could be] dangerous to pretend that we are all 'little gods' walking around in the business world, creating and tearing down for our own pride's [sake] when there is a world of suffering people whose lives could

be changed if we'd simply take the time to be selfless."

When asked after the film about the distinction between need and greed in light of current events, Halberg acknowledged that the crisis on Wall Street is a result of greed "both on the part of the lender and the part of the borrower." This greed, however, is not inherent in business itself—it's simply a symptom of a poor approach to business. He criticized the mentality that "there are only so many pieces of the pie," the zero-sum game approach that the film also condemned. Halberg insisted that this mistaken mentality, based on self-interest, is one of the reasons it is important for Christians to be "salt and light" in the business world and emphasize the "social responsibility" of business.

Finally, Halberg stressed that "there are no easy answers" to questions incited by the workings of the financial world.

The film was produced by Jay Richards, the director of Acton Media, and a research fellow at the Acton Institute. Richards spoke at last spring's Hoselton Forum. 

• *Vote continued from page 1*

to appropriate locations.


Students are also encouraged to apply for an absentee ballot. The step-by-step guide available at GoVoteAbsentee.org guides students through the process of obtaining an absentee ballot. Printed forms can be dropped off at the SGA office or sent via intra-campus mail. (Please note: all absentee ballot applications must include the address of the student's county registration office.)

It is also hoped that the election season will heighten interest not only in the federal government, but also in local governments like the SGA. "This election is an important opportunity for Houghton students to become involved on the federal level, as this election represents our future," said J. Scott Wallace, SGA Vice President. "But it may also be an opportunity for students to learn

more about what the SGA does at Houghton on a more local level."

Jennifer Steinhoff, SGA Commissioner of Communications, agreed. More than just a "prime opportunity for students to get registered to vote," she suggested, the registration drive itself is "a good example of a way in which the SGA can serve the student body."

Any form, whether for registration or absentee ballot, that includes a student's social security number or other confidential information should be sealed. It is essential that students be responsible for the accuracy of the information on these forms since the SGA will be sending them directly to each student's county Voter Registration Office without opening them.

All forms will be accepted until 2 p.m. Tuesday, September 30th, to accommodate the earliest state deadlines for voter registration. 

BENEFIT FOR EMILY CRIKELAIR TONIGHT



8pm

java 101

come out & support.



Houghton College Hosts Groundbreaking Worship Conference

By Clara Giebel

This weekend, our college hosts the Houghton Conference on Christian Worship, September 25-27. With multiple lectures and workshops spread out over three days, the event marks the first time that Houghton College has put on a conference of such breadth and caliber.

Houghton previously played host to several day-long conferences focused on worship and the arts in 2006, using a grant from Calvin and the Bread for the Journey worship resource grant. Those events, however, pale in comparison to this year's offering. There are four main events open to the public which all are welcome, including students, community members, and any who choose to participate.

According to John Brittain, Dean of Chapel, area churches who participated in the 2006 workshops were very appreciative of the experience, and there was a great deal of interest for similar future events. Removed

from many other resources due their rural locations, regional churches looked to Houghton as a natural partner uniquely suited to this sort of endeavor. With strong departments of both music and religion/theology, faculty and community members possess ample experience and expertise in their areas of specialty. This weekend's conference hopes to take advantage of these strengths and provided a much-needed resource for area churches.

President Mullen has been a strong proponent of the project, stipulating only at the outset that the conference "must get John Witvliet" as keynote presenter. The task was not easy, as Witvliet is a difficult man to schedule due to his work as a professor, author, Director of the Calvin Institute

This event marks the first time that Houghton College has put on a conference of such breadth and caliber.

of Christian Worship, husband, and father of triplets. Over the course of 18 months, Judy Congdon, professor of Organ, made arrangements for Witvliet's attendance, and it is the college's great pleasure to welcome

him as this conference's keynote speaker. He will be speaking throughout the conference, giving Thursday night's lecture as well as leading a Saturday morning workshop.

Multiple speakers from outside the Houghton community will also be participating in the conference. Jeff Barker is a speaker from Northwestern, a Christian college in Iowa, where he works as a professor of Theater. He will be holding workshops on dramatic presentation of scripture, and the narrative, story-telling nature of the Bible, as well as being actively involved in the worship services for the conference.

Other speakers include Michelle Grimm, who will speak on world music and congregational song, Dianne Maynard-Christensen, who will speak on Easter Vigil, as well as several pastors and leaders from nearby churches to participate in a panel discussion on worship planning.


Presenters from within Houghton's faculty include Congdon, Jonathan Case, professor of Theology, Kelvin Friebe, professor of Old Testament, Brandon Johnson, professor of Conducting and Vocal Music,

Houghton Conference on Christian Worship

- **Thurs, Sept 25, 8:00 p.m.:** Plenary Lecture by John Witvliet
- **Fri, Sept 26, 11:00-11:45 a.m.:** Chapel with John Witvliet
- **4:30-5:15 p.m.:** Vespers
- **Sat, Sept 27, 10:30 a.m.:** Closing Communion Service at Houghton Wesleyan Church

These Worship Conference events are open and free to the public

and Sharon Johnson, professor of Piano.

As the one responsible for most of the planning of this conference, Congdon hopes that in this conference, as well as in any time of worship or learning, the focus of the participants will be on God himself, and how they might praise and serve him. 

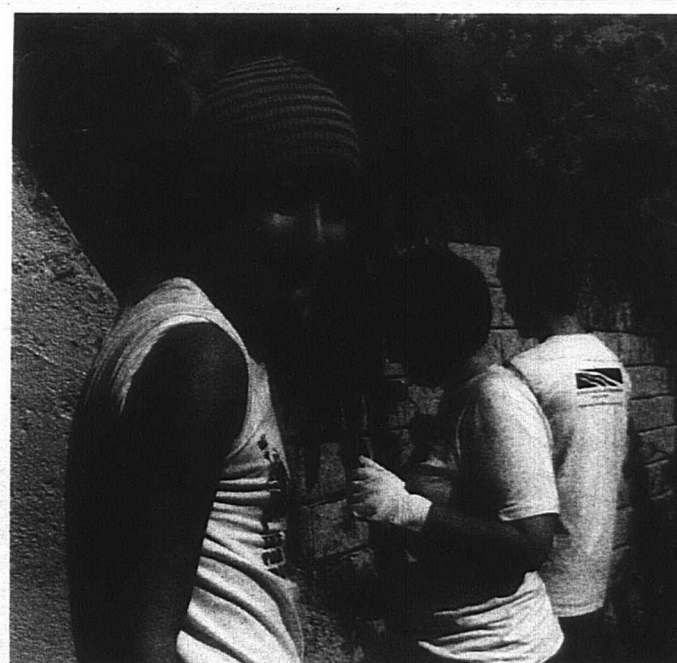
•FYI continued from page 1

were the students involved in the Journey's End Tutoring program, which works to help refugees in the Buffalo area learn English. They underwent a day of introduction and training in addition to their normal FYI Service in preparation for their ongoing commitment to the program.

FYI Service day garnered generally positive feedback from its participants. FYI leader Laura Jackson "appreciated getting to know the members of my group better while serving a community outside of Houghton." Jackson also noted that, despite the early time of departure, "Most of the freshmen I worked with were enthusiastic about getting started on location and they worked steadily while we were there."

Even students who hadn't been all that excited about Service Day found that the experience changed their views. Freshman Jessica Sword, who was involved with one of the groups working on campus, noted that, despite being initially reluctant, "Afterwards, I was appreciative of the jobs others have on campus that we pass by everyday."

Several participants, however, noted the importance of understanding what FYI service day means in a larger context. After her involvement last Saturday, Monica Sandreczki explained, "I think that service learning is a good idea, in theory. In my experience of being involved with different service activities, it often seems like the organization is looking for stuff for us to do so that we can feel good




Photograph by Laura Jackson

Service projects entailed various jobs, including cleaning and painting.

about ourselves [for our service]... Too often, we put a stress on what we can get out of it, trying to convince people that it's a good idea to volunteer because they get some sort of [personal] reward."

Sandy Stark, an FYI leader and a member of Nehemiah's Restoration, a student group committed to social justice causes in both the local area and the global community, also noted the importance of proper motivation for and dedication to regular service. "In order to be truly meaningful," Stark said, "Service learning needs to go beyond a one-time involvement as a freshman to

actually being part of a lifestyle that encourages being involved in the community on a regular basis."

Service-learning is one of the core tenets of Houghton College's philosophy of education; while first-year students have the most obvious opportunity to participate in a service-learning project, continuing students can also get involved. The Office of Service Learning provides information on curricular service opportunities for a variety of majors, as well as information on opportunities for community involvement. 



Photograph by Laura Jackson

Some groups traveled as far as Buffalo in their service efforts.



Rastrelli Cello Quartet to Perform Tonight in Wesley Chapel

By Clara Giebel

Tonight, September 26 at 8 p.m., an ensemble of four distinguished cellists will be performing in Wesley Chapel. The Rastrelli Cello Quartet, whose members include Kira Kraftzoff, Misha Degtjareff, Kirill Timofeev and Sergio Drabkine, has been captivating audiences since their formation in 2002.

The Rastrelli Quartet begins this year's Artist Series as what the Frankfurter Rundschau describes as "four Russian full-blooded virtuosi who [make] the four instruments sound as but one."

All four of these artists could pronounce the word "cello" before their own names, and have together made it their effort to plunder the wealth of music in traditional and non-traditional styles written for any instrumentation and champion it for the cello. The four cellists morph from the deep, lustrous tones of Russian romantics to the dusky cool of a jazz combo to the snap and fire of gypsy dance music. While they play Bach, Frescobaldi and Tchaikovsky, they are just as at home in the works of Brubeck, Gershwin and Chick Corea.

All of the arrangements are done by the quartet's own Drabkine, who reconfigures a broad range of music for the talent and timbre of the cello quartet.

With an ensemble of cellos one



Photo from Rastrelli website

Students can still obtain tickets for tonight's concert at the lunch hour in the campus center.

can achieve a breadth of music unimaginable with a group of other stringed instruments. Unlike the string bass, which is so large it becomes unwieldy for the performer, or the violin and viola whose higher pitch limits their dramatic range, the cello is versatile.

The Rastrelli Cello Quartet has toured widely in Russia, the United States and across Europe,

and is acclaimed as "riveting" and "pure joy." The quartet is just one example of the caliber and variety of performances available to the Houghton community through the Artist Series.

Other performances of this season include a fully staged production of Mozart's Magic Flute, a concert for duo pianos, a young award-winning piano trio, as well

as a production of The Spy by The Acting Company. Two years ago, The Acting Company's production of Jane Eyre was so well received that Dr. Galloway worked to secure the company again for this year.

Tickets are available free of charge to students and can be acquired during lunch and dinner hours in the campus center.



Book Review Essay: The Hyperrealism of "Twilight"

By Rebekah Miller

I had a crush on a vampire. He's fictional, of course, but if 'crush' is the word for the fluttery feeling that one gets when a certain someone is present, or a sappy feeling dripping in one's heart when one thinks of him or her, then I did indeed have a crush. I hate admitting it, and I feel very silly that I ever felt it, but each time I read the name 'Edward' I found that I was stricken by him.

This 'dazzling' vampire is the main character in the newly famous Twilight Series by Stephanie Meyer. Featuring four books: "Twilight," "Eclipse," "New Moon," and "Breaking Dawn," the series has caused a storm among readers of popular fiction. It has even been termed the "next Harry Potter." While I and many other Harry Potter fans are reluctant to let it reach that prestige at such an early stage in its career, there is no doubt that the Twilight series has been a major success. Just as with Harry Potter, there were long lines in bookstores for midnight releases.

My first introduction to the series was by a co-worker. My

immediate reaction to the series was one of reluctance. I was in no hurry to read a vampire love story. Yet, my co-worker at Chick-fil-a was determined that I should have a taste of Twilight. It seemed harmless enough, plus I was short on reading material. I figured I'd read it, find it ridiculously silly, and give back to her as soon as possible. It seemed harmless enough, and I was short on reading material. I figured I'd read it, find it ridiculously silly, and give back to her as soon as possible.

I loved it. I couldn't put it down. It's the first book in a long time for which I actually sacrificed sleep. Everyone I know that has read the book has been equally hooked: It's an easy read, and one of those books you can devour without too much thought. Reading it is effortless. Not disgustingly romantic, Twilight safely balances plot with action, romance with drama. With the introduction of the mysterious and alluring character of Edward towards the beginning, the reader is immediately hooked into the story.

Twilight focuses directly on the relationship between Bella and

• Review continued on page 5



Changes in Field Hockey Program Lead to Successful Start

By Margaret Boecker

The Houghton College Field Hockey team has seen a good start to their season despite big changes from last year. New coaches, a new line of defense and new learning techniques all present changes that can be "challenging at times," according to junior Ashley Hoffman. "But as the season goes on, it is exciting to see the new things we are learning come together as we find success with them."

Currently boasting five wins and two shutouts this season, the field hockey team has not been overwhelmed by the changes. They have revealed their determination to win, and done just that; their record now stands at 5-3 after a victory against Nazareth on Tuesday.

"Going into the game we knew Nazareth would be a tough team, but we felt ready to play them," commented senior Arryn Prince. The game ended in overtime with a goal from Jenny Huyett within the first minute. It is the second game this season that they scored in overtime to beat the opponent 2-1.

The Highlanders came into the season with a positive outlook in spite of adjustments in the program, and players note that they have remained unified despite challenges on and off the field. "Each girl is devoted to this team and has really dug deep to make it work," senior goalkeeper Ashley Farr confirms. "I think the team has done an awesome job of working together through our challenges."

The most obvious change in the field hockey program is that of a new coaching staff. Head coach Rachael Allison comes to Houghton



Photo from Houghton College website

The field hockey team is implementing new strategies, methods of play and seeing positive results.

College with coaching experience both at the high school and NCAA Division 1 levels. She played field hockey at Messiah College and as a senior served as co-captain, helping her team place as national runner-up in 2005. Allison went on to attain her teaching certification at University of Pittsburgh while serving as assistant field hockey coach at Robert Morris University. At this time she also coached high school field hockey and was assistant coach for high school lacrosse.

Meghan Radimer is a 2007 Houghton graduate and returns to her alma mater as Assistant Field Hockey Coach. "It is great to be back

at Houghton and to be involved with the field hockey team," Radimer says of her experience so far.

The loss of three starting players, including Ashley Pink in goal, have caused this year's upperclassmen to increase their level of play. Farr took over the position of keeper and has filled the shoes skillfully with a record of saves to shots at about 68%. The loss of the other two seniors—both defensive players—left the team with Prince as their only returning defensive player. Freshmen Jillian Watts and Ashley Daigler have joined Prince in the defensive line, so far demonstrating the ability to perform up to par. Hoffman has been a standout player having scored 10 of the Highlanders' goals this year, and sophomore Huyett is second in the lead with 5 goals on record.

To help the girls prepare,

Allison set specific technical goals before the season began. These goals stress game basics; however, additional rules were set by the team to encourage qualities such as integrity of character, positive communication and joy in playing. "The team got together to set five specific goals that I believe help to define the 'culture' of what our team is all about," Allison said. This combination of technical aspects of the game and team-generated core values is what she believes is the key to the team's success. Due to the new standards, "there is a higher level of motivation to play hard and push ourselves," comments Prince.

Houghton will travel tomorrow to take on Seton Hill in Greensburg, PA. Their next home event is Wednesday at 4pm against SUNY Geneseo.

• Review continued from page 4

Edward. While their relationship is inevitable from the beginning, the book is never boring. Written from Bella's point of view, a large portion of the book is devoted to their time together and Bella's reactions to Edward as she comes to know him more closely. The reader comes to know Edward as intimately as Bella does, and is held in awe of his mysterious allure.

What causes this infatuation? Is it because the old adage "all the good men are taken" is true, and young women need a perfect character to dote upon? Or is it what critics of modernity term Hyperrealism, where the consumer would much rather participate in a more 'real' and perfect world than live his or her ordinary day to day life? While Bella is a very real character—with flaws, fears, and dreams—Edward's perfect, mysterious, albeit dangerous, persona captures the imagination. What's better than a real boyfriend? A vampire boyfriend, of course. The lines of fiction and fact are blurred and the

reader becomes bored with any real male whose skin doesn't shimmer in the sun.

After reading "Twilight," I consciously decided to stop reading the series. I am always a bit wary of things I like at first because it seems to me that generally, the more I work at liking something—be it music, books, or people—the more I appreciate it in the end.

And "Twilight" simply seemed too good to be true. I know the spoilers (thanks to the excited chatter of fans) and I've heard the last book doesn't quite measure up with the first. Supposedly, the key figures in the novel take to acting out of character, and despite the tough decisions and sticky situations that present themselves throughout the novel everything wraps up too neatly in the end. My main reason for not finishing the series, however, can be expressed more simplistically: I don't particularly like being obsessed with vampires. If I'm going to care that much about something, I'd rather it be real.

Celebrating a vintage past

and hopeful future.
the lanthorn



peace
one
small white line
from a silver star
through
quiet leaves
on a tall maple
and quivers
on the polished
beams
of a weathered barn

Anne Rabenstein
Lanthorn 1949

Coffee House:
Wednesday, 10/1/09
From 8 till 10

Submit!
Accepting till October 5th

Prose: 750 words
Poetry: 25 lines
Art: Photographs of work

No limit on number
of submissions

Think Tradition



Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

All of us received an email on Monday, detailing the community degrading procedure of "scanning and scrambling." After reading this email, I was outraged by the utter disrespect Houghtonites have for community. As anyone who has listened to our President speak knows, community is important, and the majority of Houghtonites claim "community" as one of the reasons why they came to, and stay at, Houghton College.

The email ended by saying "we will [be] implementing the monitoring system, if necessary, to encourage community accountability." Now, I am not sure what the "monitoring system" is, but I have detailed a modest proposal for a system I think would both work well and encourage community:

First, all students will be assigned a certain section in the chapel to sit; Second, each faculty and staff member will be assigned a section of the chapel to monitor; Third, in order to promote community by setting the proper example, the entire administration and Student Government Association will sit on the chapel stage.

For this method to work, we need dedication from all members of the Houghton community, so every member must attend every chapel.

Because I know that our leadership is truly committed to the Houghton community, I know that they will whole-heartedly embrace

this proposal. It is, after all, only by the example of our leadership that "scramblers" will understand the true importance of the chapel community. And, it is only through our firm resolve to see each and every member of the Houghton community (student, staff member, professor, and administrator), in each and every chapel, that we can truly begin the "process of strengthening our commitment to MWF chapel."

-Joshua Nolen, class of 2009

Dear Editor:

As I reflect on the last three years I have spent as a Houghton student, I am pleased to be able to say that my experience has largely been characterized by open-mindedness—even when there is disagreement. While it is surely easy for me to say this as an evangelical Christian with fairly moderate social and political views, I have not been ostracized for my more liberal leanings. I did not, for example, lose any friends when I registered as a Democrat, and I have not been ostracized for my less-than-conservative views on hot-button issues like abortion, gun control, and homosexuality. In fact, Houghton has been a place where I could grapple with such difficult matters and work toward biblical views, informed by the input of other community members.

It was with great frustration and disappointment, therefore, that I found my car (parked in front of the Flats) stripped of its political bumper stickers last weekend. After the zeal of my righteous

• Continued on page 7

WHAT'S YOUR TAKE ON THE ROCK?

This was a question we posed to a variety of Houghton students, and there were some interesting, humorous, and passionate responses. Here is a sampling of what they had to say.

It's a nice Rock. Really it is; a big, lovable, quality chunk of nature. It adds some unique character to the overall atmosphere of the quad area.

-CHRISTOPHER WAY, FRESHMAN

IT'S KIND OF A STRANGE GIFT.

-JILLIAN PARSONS, JUNIOR

To be honest, I haven't thought about it all that much. It's a sweet-looking thing-a-ma-jig, but it's not that big of a change.

-JORDAN EVERETT, JUNIOR

IT ROCKS. -NATHAN DEAN, FRESHMAN

Staring at the rock for long periods of time as a form of disciplinary action is not a bad idea.

-TIM CHEN, SENIOR

At first, I thought it was the ugliest thing I'd seen, but since it's not gold anymore, it's been growing on me. I sat on it one afternoon to read, and it wasn't too uncomfortable. I'll get used to it.

-JENS HIEBER, JUNIOR

It's awkward in its intentional prankableness, and visually irksome. -JEFF ANDERSEN, JUNIOR

Putting the Sabbath Commandment Back in Perspective

As campus discussion continues on the topic of Sabbath, it's important to remember the context of the original Sabbath law.

by Shane Marcus

Everyone at Houghton knows (or assumes they do) what to do for the Sabbath. Sunday morning, you get up earlier than you really want to, you find someone with a car, drive half an hour to church, hopefully get fed, come back to campus, and fill your time without doing your homework until Koinonia. At that point, of course, homework is fair game, so you begin the mad rush to do your reading for Monday morning's class. Why question that principle? It is likely how most of us grew up, and Houghton's policies almost sponsor the idea.

While I haven't been able to attend one of the sessions yet, I personally am very excited that the Residence Life staff is looking at the Sabbath as part of their Simplicity Initiative. So I don't want to say that we should not observe Sabbath at all, but I would like to question how Houghton as an institution views the Sabbath, and how we as individuals apply it in our own lives—if we actually do so.

Whether from a friend, an RA, a parent, or the college policy, most of us have probably felt the pressure to

abstain from doing our homework on Sunday (at least before Koinonia). The usual argument goes something like this: "It's the Lord's Day, how dare you work!"

But let's throw some darts at that balloon. First, why should the Sabbath be on Sunday? Second, what do you say to the person who truly enjoys their "work" and wants to be doing their reading or their practicing?

There really is no good reason why the Sabbath should be limited to Sunday. The Orthodox Jewish Sabbath is from nightfall on Friday to nightfall on Saturday. Seventh-Day Adventists believe that the Sabbath is on Saturday. Muslims have their day of rest on Fridays, and Buddhists every seven or eight days. Most Christians come together for worship on the first day of the week in remembrance of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Jesus Himself, however, made no statements as to whether we should observe the Sabbath on any specific day. And even if He did, can we reconcile the differences between the Jewish calendar and our own?

Jesus' own words seem to say that we should have more freedom on the Sabbath than usual teaching allows us.

All four gospels record Jesus healing on the Sabbath, asking questions like, "Which is lawful for the Sabbath, to do good, or evil?" and saying things such as "The Sabbath was made for man (to rest), not man for the Sabbath (to follow a rule)." Surely, if Jesus felt no need to refrain from helping others, taking a journey, or feeding Himself on the Sabbath, we should not either. Perhaps we could even apply the same reasoning to fulfilling our obligations: such as doing our homework.

When God gave the law to the Israelites, He was doing so to a pastoral people. Seven days a week they wandered through the desert, travelling and working sunrise to sunset, corralling cattle, harvesting food, and hoping that someone in the family knew where their children were. The industrialized West has long since moved to eight-hour workdays and five-day workweeks. Sabbath, in one form, is provided for us in the assurance that we will never have Saturday or Sunday classes, and thus are mostly free to do whatever we want. Why shouldn't that include playing our instrument, reading Shakespeare, or arguing philosophy?

What do you think the Israelites did on their Sabbath if not enjoy their family's company and discuss the law and the mighty works of God among their people?

A narrow understanding of the Sabbath has us follow a rule for legalism's sake instead of living in the freedom to which Christ calls us. A Sabbath re-imagined and understood through Jesus' eyes and words could be filled with work, play, communion, and rest; all set apart in the knowledge that God is one, Jesus is LORD, and the Holy Spirit sustains our bodies and souls.

We could take our conversations past the small details of life, and try to see God at work in each other's lives. We could stop and remember that every good thing—including practicing music or analyzing a sonnet—comes from God. And whether or not we are doing some kind of "work" towards our education, we may find ourselves centered in a lifestyle that rests in God's sovereignty, and not in the self-centered ambitions we normally call work.



Shane is a senior Religion and Sociology major.



SPOT: Sit Back, Relax, and Enjoy (Their) Show

If it's not the students, then who is holding the reins this year on Houghton's most riotous and well-attended student event?

by Micah Warf

125 years old is a birthday worth celebrating. I think anyone would agree with that. Houghton College, my soon-to-be alma mater, is celebrating just that occasion, holding 125th events in conjunction with the traditional Homecoming festivities. I'm particularly excited about SPOT; I love the kind of anticipation that builds for it each semester, and I'm very excited to be in one of the acts this year.

During the audition process, however, something interesting came to my attention. The SPOT hosts for this year are students that have hosted the event previously. I asked about this, as I knew several people that had planned on trying out for the position of SPOT host, and wondered why veteran hosts had been enlisted. As it turns out, the 125th committee broke long-standing tradition this year by taking the auditioning and appointing of the SPOT hosts out of the hands of the current homecoming committee. At the same time, the 125th committee decided that SPOT would feature a "then-and-now" scheme, in keeping with the theme of the 125th celebration. To this end, much of SPOT will be a rehashing of material that has gone over well in the past, and the remaining portion will be composed of fresh acts, such as the one I'm a part of.

I'm more than just a little concerned with the way this is being approached. To start with, let me make it clear that I am against pointless rants against "the institution." I do not intend to criticize as a whole the work that the Houghton College administration

does, and does exceedingly well, for the most part, exceedingly well. Instead, I'd like to critique one aspect of their apparent philosophy in regard to student involvement, and I hope that drawing attention to it will engender further discussion.

SPOT, as it is laid out in the Policies and Procedures section of the Houghton Student Life website, exists to "provide a medium in which students are allowed to express themselves in artistic, creative, and humorous manners in order to provide entertainment for the student body."

The odd thing about this year's SPOT is that it's been taken almost entirely out of student hands. In the first place, the hosts were essentially chosen for the students by the administration. This is distressing: the SPOT host auditions are integral, as the success of the entire event largely depends on who has the drive, ideas, and sheer comedic genius to pull off what has become the most anticipated event of Homecoming Weekend. Even more troubling, these are hosts who have already had a shot at SPOT. They were fine hosts, to be sure, but the point is that SPOT is about inclusiveness and new perspectives: even if it was necessary to decide on hosts last spring so they could be working with the 125th committee through the planning process, it was not necessary to choose people who had already had their moment of SPOT glory.

Secondly, it is odd that SPOT this year has been turned into a sort of display case for vintage acts. I had a chance to talk to several other students at the auditions, and they were excited to make the event their own by doing something new and different from all other SPOTs before. This, after all, is a guiding principle behind the event. Instead, the framework of the show has already been set up, and the few current students whose acts are accepted are to be placed into the slots left open in the ready-made

architecture of this fall's SPOT.

This is all very strange, and unSPOTlike. I have been assured by the 125th committee and the SGA that if

there is sufficient student interest, a second, "normal" SPOT will be held later this semester. The fact that a "make-up" SPOT is being suggested, however, shows that there is an understanding of how abnormal it is to change SPOT in the ways that it's been changed; yet this abnormality has not yet been publicly acknowledged by the administration.

Now, there are aspects of these alterations that I can understand completely. First of all, it is the 125th, and that's a big deal. If I were calling the shots on organizing this event, I'd want to maintain a decent level of quality control so that I could be sure everything goes as smoothly as possible. Secondly, the nature of SPOT as a by-the-students and for-the-

students production lends itself to unpredictability, especially in the category of what some might term good taste or non-offensiveness. This is certainly a concern with the number and type of people that we have coming back to Houghton for the 125th, as any acts that to a current student might be considered as slightly pushing the limits of respectability might cause a larger reaction in an alumnus, or even a donor.

But did these concerns call for a large-scale takeover of the biggest student event on campus? The content, presentation, and aesthetic of SPOT this year have all been unrecognizably changed. By taking the wheel, the administration is, in essence, expressing a distrust of their students that is unprecedented and uncomfortable. By all means, they should feel free to make sure they've got somewhat of a handle on what's happening at SPOT; even a more stringent audition process would have been acceptable in light of the unusually broad audience that the event will have this year.

But to structure it to the point that it is deprived of its relevance, its creativity, and its presence as a vehicle for students to humorously express the quirks, foibles, and everyday life of Houghton, the message to current students is disappointingly clear: What you have to offer isn't quite enough, so we're just going to take this out of your hands for now. Once the adults are gone, we'll give you back your college.

Micah is a junior Philosophy major, and serves as Commentary Editor.

• Continued from page 6

anger settled somewhat, I began to contemplate the implications of such an act. We each bear a responsibility to maintain Houghton's vision of being a Christian liberal arts college. As a community of learners, we can and should express our beliefs (respectfully, of course). What does it say about Houghton if we permit even a handful of students to shut down those who think differently? Constitutional rights aside, I believe intolerance of bumper stickers to be a symptom of something more serious than random acts of defacement.

I believe we profit much from debate, which obviously necessitates a difference of opinion. Yet my differing opinion was denied: the sign of my support for one of the presidential candidates was stolen, the sign of my feelings that the other candidate would be much like our current president was ripped off and ripped up.

Yet my view of Houghton remains

essentially the same, which is why I bother to write to the Star at all. Think of this letter not as a rebuke to the small number of students who desire to stifle difference of opinion, but as a call to the open minded members of our learning community to protect others' rights even when there is disagreement. For, as a famous political activist once said, "If we don't believe in freedom of expression for people we despise, we don't believe in it at all."

-Ailie Kilpatrick, class of 2009

Dear Editor:

Last Sunday, at the Simplicity Initiative's "Sabbath Celebration," Connie Finney spoke to about 20 students, faculty, and staff on the ski hill. She shared her concern for those who find it difficult to join the greater evangelical community in "sabbathing" on Sunday as a direct result of the college setting. These people may be students

(procrastinators?) whose papers are due Monday morning, or employees who work in food service or campus security.

The discussion then turned to whether we, as a deliberately Christian campus, should change our way of doing things in an attempt to relieve some of these pressures. Should professors alter their syllabi to allow for less weekend work? Would it be feasible to stage a campus-wide potluck on Sunday afternoons in lieu of relying on the cafeteria? Those in attendance expressed and discussed various opinions on the matter; however, it appeared most were reluctant to advocate change. Dr. Kelvin Friebe recounted a few of the stricter Sabbath rules to which Houghton adhered in past years, pointing out that while we don't want to marginalize sabbathing, we must also avoid institutionalizing it.

I applaud the campus for dedicating two months to considering the Sabbath, which often becomes

a topic of contention when it is introduced; however, I am concerned that our good intentions not lead us down a legalistic path. We do not need to appoint unwilling people to a committee that will pick apart our activities and decide which ones are or are not appropriate to Sunday. We should not disregard the importance of the Sabbath, but we must not miss the point of a day of rest, which is (like every other day) to honor God in thought, word, and deed. By all means, continue thinking, talking, and praying about the issue in the manner of last Sunday's Sabbath Celebration; but guard against rule-making, policy-implementing measures that blur the line between spirituality and legalism.

-Laura Jackson, class of 2010

Write to the Star!

Letters (signed) should be 350 words or fewer, and sent to star@houghton.edu by Tuesday at 8 p.m.



artist. OF THE WEEK.

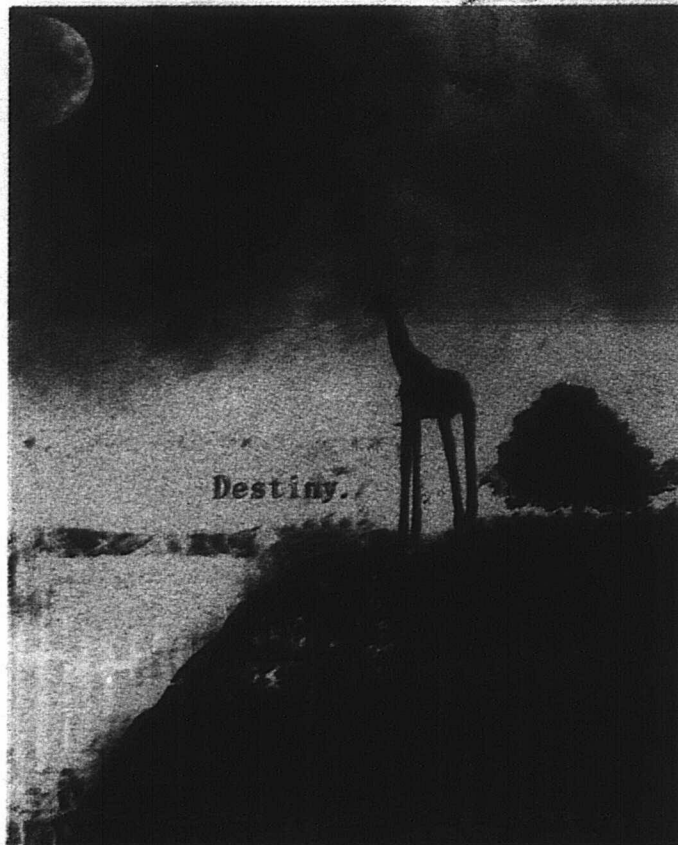
JESSICA STODDARD

Notes from the artist:

It's been five long, crazy years since I started doing digital art and working with Photoshop... what a long, strange trip it's been.

For more pictures, feel free to check out
www.flickr.com/photos/astronauthead

Jessica is a junior Communication major with an Art minor.



I Told the Giraffe its Destiny, digital art



The Dream Reader, digital art

2008-2009 STAR Staff

Katarina Kieffer
Editor-in-Chief

Micah Warf
Commentary Editor

Margaret Boecker
Sports and Culture Editor

Amy Buckingham
News Editor

Joel VanderWeele
Associate Editor

Clara Giebel
Cassie Gunn
Laura Jackson
Ryan Ledebur
Re-write Staff

Prof. Ben Lipscomb
Advisor

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

S
U
D
O
K
U

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

Submit completed puzzles at the *Star* office for your chance to win a Sudoku puzzle book!