

Social Justice Advocate James Keady Visits Campus

By Rebekah Miller

A call for social justice was delivered to Houghton students in last Monday's chapel. James Keady, co-director and founder of the Educating for Justice Campaign, "Behind the Swoosh," presented a call to action against the leading sports footwear producer, Nike. Several years ago, Keady resigned his position as assistant men's soccer coach for St. John's University in protest against the school signing a contract to promote Nike in return for sponsorship. In his address, Keady specifically attacked the company's use of sweatshops in third world countries.

His claims were straightforward. Nike's factories strongly discourage their employees in third world countries from forming independent unions to protect their personal rights and liberties. In addition, Nike denies its workers a reasonable wage to "meet their basic needs for living with dignity, regardless of the country." These two issues, while problems considered in and of themselves, are also interconnected. Daily wages can only stay low if unions are prevented from pushing for higher pay and better conditions. Without the introduction of unions into the workplace, "workers have less power to struggle together for

their full economic and civil rights."

Keady blames Nike's mistreatment of their employees on greed and a corporate drive for "maximum profits," which places the good of the company over the good of its employees. In a pamphlet answering frequently asked questions concerning the "Behind the Swoosh" campaign, the point is made that Nike's abuses also include its tendency to exploit cheap labor markets instead of "remaining committed to its employees."

While he specifically focused on Nike, Keady also acknowledged that other key sportswear companies, such as Reebok or Adidas, also use

"artificially low" wages and discourage the development of unions.

In an effort to induce crowd participation and the audience's empathy, Keady's presentation began with an 'experiment' in which he had audience members check the tags of each others shirts to discover in which third-world country individuals shirts were made. Other efforts to engage the audience included questions to which the audience could respond either vocally or with hand-raising. Kevin Dibble, a student sitting in the front row, was also chosen to 'volunteer' as the employee of a Nike sweatshop.

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New Faces, Same Results: Houghton Women Off to Surprising Start

By Ben Tsujimoto

Despite the graduation of eight contributing seniors and an injury to 2006 leading scorer Beth Kowalczyk, the Houghton Highlanders women's soccer team has quickly meshed as a unit and jumped out to an 11-2-2 record. To balance the infusion of young talent, the improvement of last year's reserves and a strong defense have propelled the team to the NAIA National Top 25. At 7-0 in the American Mid-East Conference, the Highlanders are alone at the top; Notre Dame and Roberts Wesleyan College are close behind at 6-1 and 5-2 respectively.

Leading the charge is junior striker Hannah Swift, who torments opposing defenses with her quick turns and

creativity. With 17 goals thus far, Swift has found the net with consistency despite Kowalczyk's absence. After spending the summer in Brazil, the Houghton forward has returned with a hint of South American flair. "[The experience in Brazil] was incredible. Soccer has come from being strictly competitive to now a joy and gift back to God," Swift notes.

Despite her scoring prowess and AMC Offensive Player of the Week award, Swift remains modest about her accomplishments, focusing on her role within the team. "There are times to dribble and take girls on, but there are vital times to see the field and find your teammates," she points out. "You have to be smart about plays on the field and quick to decide what to do with the

ball. Other players are wide open when more than one defender is sent to cover you. It makes it exciting to see this distribution and other teammates scoring."

With Swift occupying the attention of opposing defenders, many underclassmen have converted their scoring chances. Lauren Haggerty, a freshman forward, is second on the team with five goals, netting a hat-trick against Carlow University. Even more impressive than her finishing has been Haggerty's ability to win '50/50 balls' at midfield. Freshman forward Amy-Kaye Mitchell has provided the Highlanders an efficient scoring spark off the bench with five goals on only eight shots. Meanwhile, Carolyn Tomlinson, a freshman defender, has

not been shy about joining the attack, tallying three goals thus far.

Replacing four senior starters, defenders Kaylan Reynolds, Rebecca Dix, Carolyn Tomlinson, and Rebecca Smith anchor a backline that has conceded only two goals during their nine-game win streak. Graduates Jennifer Switzer and Kim Gehl have influenced a young but organized back four; Reynolds comments, "From last year's senior defenders, I learned that communication in the back is essential." Goalies Becky Wakeman and Lauren Foster have been productive in net; while Foster has started more frequently, Wakeman has proved nearly impenetrable in relief. When asked who will see the majority of minutes

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OUT THERE

By Thomas Lerew

Congress Awards Dalai Lama Top Civilian Honors

The United States Congress recently awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the Dalai Lama. This medal, which is the highest honor a civilian can receive from the government, was presented to the Dalai Lama by President Bush in a ceremony last week. The Dalai Lama has been in exile from China for nearly fifty years and is now living in Tibet. China quickly condemned the honor, adding that the act has 'gravely' hurt relations between the two countries.

Sick Immigrant Sparks Investigation

Congress is investigating the case of a Mexican national carrying tuberculosis who has been granted access across the American border and onto flights myriad times. Both the Center for Disease Control and Department of Homeland Security were aware of the man's condition but failed to communicate with each other regarding the situation. Both institutions have been quick to defend themselves, citing communication problems and inadequate federal and international guidelines on the subject.

Books Become New Campaign Tool

2008 U.S. Presidential hopefuls continue to author books, trusting them to communicate more about their personality and background than media appearances. Nearly all the presidential candidates have released an autobiography. In her recent work, "Living History," Senator Hillary Clinton details how outraged she was at being rejected by NASA for astronaut training because she was a woman. In "Turnaround," Governor Mitt Romney discusses his personal trials with managing the scandal-ridden Salt Lake City Olympics. Candidates frequently put plugs in for their books, causing libraries to stockpile these books in preparation for the forthcoming in light of the 2008 elections.

Sudan's Other War

While the killing of over 200,000 people in the Darfur region in Sudan has recently been a focus of the world's attention, more trouble is brewing in the southern region of Sudan. In 2005, a "comprehensive peace agreement" was brokered between the Arab northern Sudan and black southern Sudan. Last week, southern Sudan representatives walked out of the Sudan's governing body in the nation's capital Khartoum. The peace agreement delineates acceptable policy-making process for peace. Experts say that if the peace agreement falls apart, the decimation in Darfur will be moderate by comparison.

Wildfires Threatening Western L.A.

Wildfires have been blazing through the area of Malibu, CA, just west of Los Angeles. Nearly 265,000 people were asked to leave their homes as the fire moved closer toward the 850-acre campus of Pepperdine University. To date, more than half a million people have been evacuated. So far, authorities estimate that well over 400 square miles have been charred by the fire. President Bush and California Governor Schwarzenegger have declared a state of emergency in the seven-county affected area and dispatched FEMA and 1,500 National Guard troops to support firefighting efforts.

Bin Laden Releases New Video Tape

Al-Qaeda head Osama bin Laden released a new video tape this week as violence levels in Iraq continue to diminish. The terrorist leader pleaded with recruits to refrain from following an actual person or leadership icon but rather to focus their energies in promoting the Islamic nation. He stated that the Islamic nation was more important than the promotion of a group or an actual nation-state. In response to the message, Richard Clarke, former White House chief counterterrorism advisor, suggested that "U.S. tactics are having some success."

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While audience response seemed enthusiastic during the presentation, not all Houghton students were impressed, and the presentation elicited some responses of outright frustration. Sophomore Micah Warf expressed his aggravation towards Keady's argument. "I appreciate Mr. Keady's fervor to address what is obviously an issue of global gravity," Warf acknowledged. But, he added, "Having grown up in Uganda, a sadly underdeveloped country, I can safely say that Mr. Keady has yet to understand that even a substantial increase in the wages of Nike employees may provide some short-term relief to a few, but is by no means a tenable panacea for the problems of third-world countries, which are founded upon governmental, cultural, and societal issues that reach far deeper than the footprint of an Air Jordan."

At the same time, Keady engendered a completely different response from

other students. Hillary Parsons, also a sophomore, was appreciative of the information that the presentation provided. It was "great that he gave us some practical ways in which to respond to the problem he described. He left us feeling like we wanted to help." Others expressed similar sentiments.

Keady gave several ways in which the student body could assist in this call for social justice. While a boycott was not encouraged to protect the jobs of workers in third-world countries, Keady advocated a campaign for the disclosure of wage rates of Nike's factory locations. This disclosure, it is hoped, will instigate open dialogue within the marketplace. A second option is to write directly to Nike expressing concern about their policies.

Keady closed by encouraging Houghton students to listen to their conscience and get involved both with the Nike campaign and with similar issues of social justice.

Do you want to be a *model* for the Art Department?

The Art Dept. needs male or females of all shapes and sizes to pose as models! It really can't get much easier than sitting around doing nothing, can it?

Payment is through the work study program and will require a "red" card and student I.D. number. Modeling sessions are two hours with frequent breaks (approx. every 15min).

Interested? Contact Ronald.East@houghton.edu. Include availability and whether you would like to pose for an anatomy study (swimsuit required), portrait, or a clothed figure study.



Salsa Extravaganza Draws Rave Reviews From Crowd

By Laura Jackson

Houghton community members turned out in droves for the first-ever salsa-tasting event on Monday in Java 101. Brian Webb, director of the Intercultural Student Programs Office, orchestrated the event. "It's National Hispanic Heritage History Month, and I wanted to do something that would get the community involved," Webb said, explaining the reasoning behind the night. The idea of having a salsa-tasting contest was suggested and seized enthusiastically. Faculty and staff were asked to contribute a dish of their best salsa and plans were made for a salsa extravaganza.

Webb felt that in addition to providing an opportunity for good food and fellowship, the event would enable students to be more aware of what's going on in the world. "Just because Houghton College is lacking in Hispanic representation doesn't mean we should neglect celebrating a fairly significant part of world culture," he said.

Students who attended were



Photo By Candace Wilkinson

A wide variety of delicious homemade salsas tantalized Houghton's tastebuds.

enthusiastic about the idea of a salsa-tasting contest. "I think it's a great way to experience something we don't normally get here at Houghton College," said Laura Day. "It's also a good way to promote [cultural]

unity...and the college would do well to continue this cultural day idea." Day also noted how many people had come; the line stretched across the room several times in the course of the evening as students, faculty, and staff

crowded around the salsa table.

At the outset of the evening, there were eighteen different flavors of salsa. Many were tomato-based, although there was a diverse blend of other types; some were mango-based and one incorporated 45 chilies. One unique flavor included such diverse ingredients as apples, lime, and walnuts in addition to hot peppers.

"It was a very spicy array," said Daniel Tomlinson. "It left me salivating!" Anna Matejova also enjoyed the diversity. "I love how each of the different salsas has a unique personality – some are sweet, some are really hot, and they're all good."

Steve Grudda waxed poetic as he contemplated the tastes of the evening. "With one bite I was experiencing the high Mexican hills. The next bite led me to the Argentinian plains and I breathed in the musk of the cattle ranges...and then, all at once, I was in the Amazon jungle. All to say, it was a various and dynamic experience." Smiling a bit sheepishly, Grudda concluded, "The professors make good salsa!"

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Houghton College Philharmonia Presents Diverse Arrangement

By Heather Bennett

After weeks of rehearsal and preparation, the members of the Houghton College Philharmonia presented the first concert of their fall series on Monday, October 15. Under the direction of conductor Dr. Brian Casey, the orchestra performed music from around the world by composers William Walton, Alexander Borodin, Alberto Ginastera, and Edvard Grieg. The selections represented not only the diversity of the composers' nationalities, but also a variety of periods and styles. Ginastera's *Malambo*, for example, is a lively, rhythmic piece born of the composer's twentieth-century Latin American heritage, while Walton's *Portsmouth Point Overture* is a more

technical selection from mid-1920s Britain. Grieg's *Suite from Sigurd Jorsalfar* embodies the regality of the late 19th-century Norwegian court with heavy emphasis on the brass sections. Borodin's romantic Russian *Symphony No. 1*, though contemporaneous with Grieg's *Suite*, features the more lyrical strings sections.


The Philharmonia is nearly as diverse as the music it presented. Clarinetist Katherine Cogdill noted that "the group itself is both dynamic and diverse. There are a number of students from all disciplines; in fact, the concertmistress for the first fall concert is not even a music major but rather a writing major with a music minor!" Furthermore, she commented that she is "honored that non-majors and community members

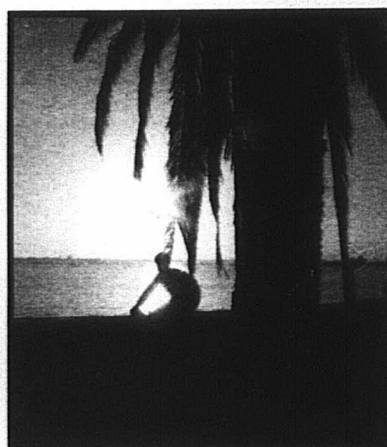
have just as much of an opportunity to be a part of the ensemble as music majors. I think that the diversity brings a unique element to the group overall."

Principal Violinist Elizabeth Zook agreed; she said that she was "excited to see non-music majors joining up" and is "looking forward to playing the rest of the year with Philharmonia." Zook noted that, "there was a lot of music and a short time to pull it all together," but "felt the orchestra kept a healthy perspective working up to and during our first concert."

Viola player Sheri Tuttle likewise felt that the first concert "went very well." Like Cogdill, she commented that she is proud to be playing with all of the very talented members of the orchestra

and happy to be a part of pieces like Ginastera's *Malambo*, her favorite selection because it is "very upbeat and just fun music to play."

It also turned out to be equally wonderful to listen to. The diversity of the pieces as well as the quality of the performance made for an enjoyable evening, to say the least. For those who enjoyed the first Philharmonia concert, as well as those who missed the event and wished they hadn't, the Philharmonia will be entertaining listeners once again with their upcoming concert on November 16, 2007. Join the diverse members of Houghton's orchestra as they once again present a variety of music from around the world. 



Houghton Down Under Update

A warm g'day from Down Unda' to all you bogans out wup wup in the hamlet of Houghton! As we approach mid-spring and things begin to warm up here in Australia, we think of you and the challenges of winter yet ahead of you – facing the wrath of the CFA wind tunnel, avoiding maintenance's green snow-blowing sidewalk plow, walking into class with your hair frozen stiff, and for those of you brave enough to do so, shivering on the cold metal bleachers, cheering on your fellow Highlanders. Our hearts go out to you, mates, as we throw some more prawns on the barbie and barrack for our favorite footy teams.

Things are going well here in the "Great Southland," but not everyday has been a day at the beach (though some have). We've been working hard, some of us blogging about Christianity and Postmodernism, others writing exegeses on the Book of Acts, and still others studying the social, economic, and theological framework of the city in which we live: Melbourne, Victoria. Our class advisor, Thom Kettlekamp, or as many affectionately refer to him, TK, has been a great help in getting us all started on various service projects in the area. We have been involved in dozens of church communities as well

as the Salvation Army, World Vision, several unique youth programs, and a local retirement home. The people here are very friendly and many great relationships have been developed even over so short a time. We can certainly see God at work in the community of Kingsley College where we study, as well as within the city of Melbourne.

Over our semester break a few weeks ago, we had opportunities to travel many places within Australia such as Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, and Cairns, among other cities. We have enjoyed interacting with kangaroos, koalas, platypuses, possums and emus both in wildlife sanctuaries and in the wild. Some students had a chance to visit the Great Barrier Reef, Ayers Rock, and the world-famous Steve Irwin Australia Zoo. All of which have been sources for some great stories.

With only six weeks remaining until our return to the U.S.A. (and glorious Dr. Pepper), most of us feel as though our time here has been incredible, but is going by very quickly. We miss our families, friends, and classmates, and we look forward to being home. Until then we will enjoy what is left of our time here in Australia, and hope we don't sound too Aussie by the time we get back. See ya lata'.

Australian Glossary:

Bogan = Redneck
Out Wup Wup = From the Country
Prawn = Shrimp
Barbie = Barbecue Grill
Barrack = Cheer

Australia is a beautiful country. Spending time in Melbourne has allowed us to get involved in their culture and enjoy the things that mean so much to them. Australia is very diverse in scenery and we have enjoyed the beauty of the ocean, mountains, flat lands, marsupials and native animals and birds that go along with it! -Jay Jennings

My experience here has helped me to appreciate many aspects of Melbourne and Australia. Melbourne is a unique city that embraces its multicultural population, emphasizes the importance of the arts and academics, and intertwines the presence of old and new gracefully. My time abroad has been well spent. -Stephanie Peck

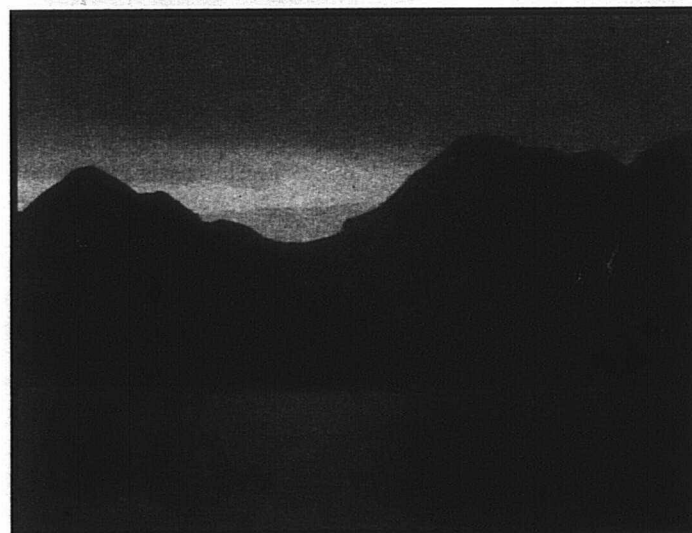


Photo credits: Jay Jennings, Steph Peck, Wesley Dean



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down the stretch, Coach Lewis responded, "It will depend on such things as field conditions, weather, and the circumstances of the game – determining how we can best match [the goalies'] individual strengths with what we need as a team."

Also, many Highlanders have been forced to adapt to new roles. Rebecca "Bucky" Smith, a starting striker in 2006, has moved to 'stopper,' a position that aids the transition from defense to attack. In light of the switch, Smith states, "It's a position I like because it gives me a good view of the field in order to distribute the ball without, for the most part, much pressure from the other team." Further, Smith stresses the influence of recent graduates Switzer and Bridget Toth. "I watched them for the last three years, and the great job that they did, and took some of their strengths and tried to incorporate them with being a central player." Coach Lewis praises Smith's contributions, stating, "She is a natural middle-of-the-field player and her new role as stopper suits her well. She sees the field and reads the game exceptionally

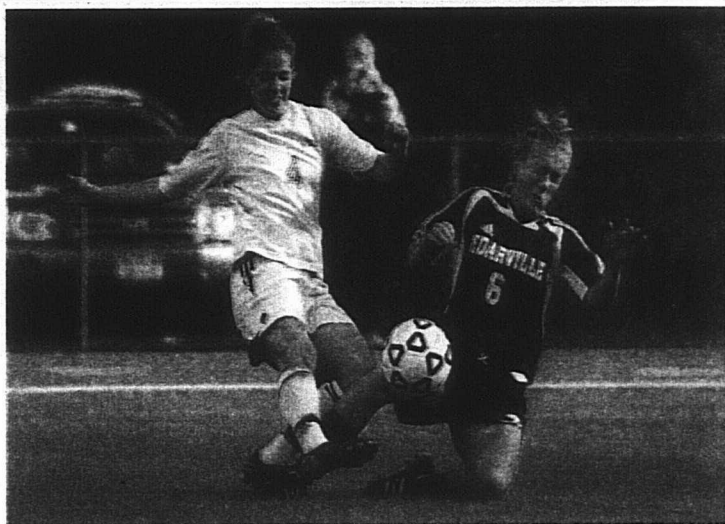


Photo By Mike Wise

Junior midfielder Mandy Lewandowski battles with her opponent to win the ball.

well and has been a key to this season's success."

While Smith has adjusted to a new position, defender Kaylan Reynolds has eagerly accepted a leadership role. "Before I would come off the bench, expected to at least maintain the level of play where it was, if not improve it. Now I am expected to consistently keep my level of play at its best throughout the entire match. If

I messed up before, I always had the fact that I wasn't the starting senior to fall back on." This willingness to take on new responsibilities and fill the void left by graduates has the team prepared for a national tournament run. Does the fact that this year's tournament is in Florida instead of Kansas inspire the team? Possibly, but the Highlanders aren't looking past the upcoming NAIA Region IX Tournament.

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After about an hour of salsa tasting, Aileen McCallum, owner of Java 101, introduced seven kinds of coffee from around the Hispanic world that were available for tasting. She described how coffee tasting is somewhat like wine tasting, in that there are many different elements a taster should pay attention to. McCallum named four elements to focus on: acidity, aftertaste, aroma, and body. Brazilian Santos, Columbian, Peruvian, Guatemalan Antigua, Mexican, Nicaraguan, and Costa Rican blends were all offered to attendees, who enthusiastically sampled each selection.

At the end of the night, three winners were selected based on the 102 votes submitted. The overall Best Hot Salsa was the tomato-based entry number 3, which belonged to Sarah Lingenfelter, Houghton's Media



Photo By Candace Wilkinson

Students enjoyed the free sampling of coffee.

Relations Coordinator. Gabe Jacobsen, the Resident Director of Rothenbuhler Hall, submitted five salsas, and two of

them tied for the Runner Up Hot Salsa. In addition to that success, Jacobson's Avocado Salsa Verde, entry number 8, won overall Best Mild Salsa. Entry number 4, Kathy Moore's Guatemalan Chapina Salsa, which included limes, cilantro, and other secret ingredients, won overall Runner-up. Moore, who is a native of Guatemala, teaches Spanish at Fillmore High School.

Webb expressed his pleasure over the salsa-tasting night's success, saying, "I've only been at Houghton a month, so it was exciting for my first event to go off so well. I love hanging out with college students and I think it's great that professors can participate in fun events with students outside of the classroom." Webb hopes the salsa-tasting contest will become an annual event "where students can judge the best salsa in Houghton."

LETTERS

A reader responds to last week's op-ed, "Calming the Rhetorical Storm: Redefining Sincere Environmentalism."

Dear Mr. Fisher,

It was with subtle delight that I read the first two-thirds of your commentary on the state of environmental discourse in contemporary society. Your clever references to the Pussycat Dolls and the efficacy of disposable coffee cups in the quest to save the planet peppered what I hoped would be another nail in the coffin of the old-guard-earth-doesn't-matter evangelical approach to the environment. Unfortunately, your assertion that environmentalism fails because it does not honestly present itself as a humanistic movement is fundamentally unsound. I agree that we as a species are ultimately making this planet inhospitable for ourselves and that this provides motivation for us to change our ways. I do not think, however, that this attitude characterizes all of environmentalism.

The theology present in your words suggests that if we somehow could survive and trash the planet at the same time, God wouldn't mind a bit – but this is a subtle form of idolatry. This planet and its inhabitants do not belong to us and we would do well to stop acting like gods in our regard for both. Our position here is that of caretakers. From the Christian perspective, we can get behind environmental movements that seek to bring about sustainability and restoration to the earth as a way of loving others and our present home. This is what we're here to do! Let us avoid the plight of the child who doesn't want to clean his room because he's the only one who spends time in there. I doubt that argument will carry much weight with our parent.

Daniel Black is a second-year Master of Music in Choral Conducting candidate.



Houghton Chapel Shock: The Poor are Still Among Us

It's a tragic reality, but should it really be such a shock to learn that Third World workers in Third World countries are paid Third World wages?

By Dr. Meic Pearse

There are some people for whom everything is a surprise. And one visitor to campus last Monday was positively counting on a low surprise threshold among at least some of the denizens of Houghton College. Apparently, Nike pays its workers in an Indonesian slum a daily wage of \$1.25, which wouldn't even pay for the right sleeve of your terrorism-chic, Che Guevara tee-shirt. And Monday's chapel told us all about the disgraceful living conditions of those workers.

And really, they are a complete disgrace. The living standards of the two-thirds of this world's population who are poor may be rising, as China and India embrace the global market. But that's just on average. There are still many millions who fall through the gaps. And even for those on their way up, it's a slow ride — or rather, a grueling trek, amid official corruption and corporate bullying — and their lives remain none too pretty. You wouldn't want to be in their shoes.

Except that you are. They make Nikes, and you buy 'em. Now, I'm no big fan of Nike myself, but then I don't have a sense of identity so fragile that it needs to be artificially constructed with the help of overpriced name brands. The Bike, Dike, Hike and Like labels in Payless Shoes at 25% of the cost will do for me, thank you.

Anyway, the theory being touted by Jim Keady in chapel last week was that Nike can be pestered (or regulated, or legislated) into upping its wages to its Indonesian staff. Now, I know that it's an absolute requirement of all socialist theorizing that you are never allowed to ask what happens *after* we make the change currently being whined for — but let's do it anyway.

Nike doubles its daily wage to \$2.50. Then the guy from Big Swoosh comes and takes another chapel, telling us what a disgrace it is that some people are only paid \$2.50 a day. And unless you were here the first time he came and happen to remember, you react the same way you did last Monday to his opening pitch of \$1.25. It's still

not a lot of money. So: all together now on our favorite chapel hymn, the adolescents' version of the Communist Internationale. (Yes, you know the one: "This is so-o-o-o unfa-a-air" — followed by the sound of a teen's bedroom door slamming.)

So, if not \$2.50, then what? \$5, anyone? Ol' Swooshie is still coming here, and only a little less timidly. And, after all, he still has a good point: even five bucks will only buy you half of a tee-shirt with your favorite Cuban mass-murderer on the front. Maybe we should go for \$10?

Be honest: you don't know, do you? And why don't you know? It's because even you and Swooshie understand, really, that it makes no sense at all to go for, say, \$5.85 an hour. That'd bring the jobs right back home to Detroit. (Is that why all those union groups are gagging to have him come and speak?) So you don't go that far. All you know is that \$1.25 a day is an awful lot less than you feel comfortable with. Isn't it? And on that, at least, I agree with you.

Nike only went to Indonesia in the first place for the cheap labor. Swooshie knows that too, and thinks it's because Nike and all big companies are evil: Wal-mart makes Nike look like boy-scouts, according to him. Western corporations operate all over the world, and sometimes they do real evil. But even if going rough on people trying to organize a union is low-life stuff that has to be stopped, paying 3rd-world wages in the 3rd world is not in itself a crime, or even immoral.

Now let's ignore the rather obvious fact that, if Nike really did start paying \$2.50, \$5 or \$10 a day, the local labor markets would go nuts, people would be fighting one another to work there, and jobs would be handed out for sexual favors and a year's supply of guava juice to the man in HR. (Although, come to think of it, didn't Swooshie say that was happening right now, at wages of \$1.25 a day? And doesn't that tell us something about the poverty outside the factory gates?)

Ignore, too, what happens to the finances of Nike. After all, they're

stinkin' rich, right? They can do the charitable thing and just take a lower profit. Obviously, that will cause their share price to drop — which will in turn reduce their abilities to raise new equity to finance further investments. Alternatively, they could pass the extra labor cost on to the fashion victim in the Boston street. It's just that then they'd lose market share to Reebok ... which would mean they'd eventually have to cut back production somewhere. So which of those two options do you prefer, Swoosh? (I know: you haven't a clue.) Either way, the ability of Nike to employ people, in Indonesia or anywhere else, is undermined.


But those are just details. The big gorilla in the cage is this: the poor of the earth are disadvantaged, vis-à-vis you and me, in every possible way — wealth, access to water and electricity, housing, political power, education, the lot. Every way, that is, except one: they're poor — so they can undercut your labor and mine every time. And that's the *one thing* you and Swooshie want to take away from them! Yet you call it morality to take away their only realistic route out of poverty? If you make Nike raise the wages that were the main reason for opening up operations in an Indonesian slum at all, pretty soon they'll pull out to somewhere else with rather more in the way of indoor plumbing and the rule of law and rather less in the way of rats and ethnic skirmishes. Your Indonesians are left unemployed. How does your social conscience feel about that?

Now Jesus says that "the poor you have always with you," while the Enlightenment says he's dead wrong and that every problem can be fixed. I'll take my choice and you can take yours, but let's at least agree on this: we do have an unavoidable and overwhelming obligation to help the poor. But how do we turn obligation into action?

Unfortunately, our culture leads us to prioritize 'feeling that we're doing something' over actually 'doing something.' So when it comes to this kind of issue, we are far more keen to assuage our own consciences (which are, quite rightly, offended by the

enormous gap between our own wealth and the wretchedness of the poor) by kicking corporate butt than we are to do something that really will help. And the hard truth is this: you can't pass the burden for that 'doing something' onto abstract entities or legal systems. You and I have to do it from our own efforts and our own giving. No socialistic measures or cramping the market will make the transition from premodern subsistence agriculture to modern-style living anything other than very hard. You only have to look at the history of the Industrial Revolution in America or Britain to see that. Of course, you could industrialize in even more painful ways than that: there's the Soviet example.

All the adolescent posturing about 'social justice' is having our morality on the cheap. If you really want to help the poor (as opposed to giving yourself the cheap thrill of righteous indignation), then you'll need to put your hand in your pocket and send some of your own, real money to Indonesia. But at least consider giving it to someone other than the Nike workers, because many folks there are even more needy. And how am I so sure of that? Because that'll be how Nike found people who saw making shoes for babified Westerners at \$1.25 a day as an improvement — and took the jobs.

OK, so you're a student and you think you can't afford it. O yes, you can. Next time you need trainers, do 3 things: 1) come with me to Payless; 2) calculate the difference between the price of Dike and Nike; and 3) mail it. 

Dr. Meic Pearse is Professor of History at Houghton College.

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Need Power? The Answer Is The Sun

Investing in solar panels could cut costs - and maybe even reduce tuition.

By Paul Masters

Have you ever wondered how much energy it takes to power an entire campus? You can imagine the power needed for over 1,000 community members plus students. With this in mind, I believe it is time for Houghton to explore a source of energy production that is efficient and clean. Solar power is increasingly becoming a great alternative energy source. It has no environmental impact unlike other sources of energy such as coal. With environmental concerns becoming more and more of an issue it makes sense for our college to try and reduce its environmental impact. In Romans 1, the apostle Paul asserts that God's image is stamped upon His creation.

As Christians, therefore, we should be concerned about God's image and

do whatever we can to protect His image. We should be frontrunners in switching from energy sources that harm the environment to alternative sources that do not have environmental impacts. Using solar power would help Houghton to contribute to the preservation of creation so that those in future generations can continue to view the divine attributes of God through His creation.

The biggest concern regarding solar power is its reliability. Obviously, this is especially a concern in a place such as Houghton, which experiences lots of cloud cover from the Great Lakes. Fortunately, advances in technology have made solar panels more efficient so that they can still produce even without full sun. Also, installing solar panels does not mean they would be the sole source of energy for the college. They can be hooked into the existing grid which means that when the panels are producing energy the college would

not have to buy as much from the power company. In the event of a damaged panel or a storm where production is not possible there would not be power outages because the college would still be receiving power from the current source.

Solar panels do have a large initial cost. However, disregarding catastrophic damage to the panels, the return is guaranteed. If Houghton could come up with the initial money to buy and install the panels they would easily pay for themselves plus some more. They would reduce monthly power costs freeing up that money for other projects, such as recruiting - or even tuition reduction. It seems to me this sort of investment makes sense for a college trying to attract students. If

Solar panels do have a large initial cost, but the return is guaranteed.

we can come up with money for a new bridge at Roth, a new floor on the library, a revamped campus center, renovations to the chapel, and an addition to the science center, it seems like we could come up with the money to buy and install a few solar panels. And unlike each of these other projects, installing solar panels would have an instant monetary return. Reducing costs may be just as effective in attracting new students because it will help to keep tuition cost from rising or even lower tuition.

Solar panels would be a great addition to Houghton College. They offer an opportunity for the College to reduce its environmental impact as well as an opportunity to cut costs. They will help keep students applying to Houghton by reducing the cost to come here. It's time to invest in a project that will almost certainly bring a great return to the campus.

Paul is a senior Environmental Science major.

From the Editors' Desk...

Misunderstanding the Swoosh

The plight of workers in developing nations is lamentable. But why blame Nike?

By William Airhart

I've never been much of a free-market conservative. Imagine my surprise, then, when Jim Keady visited campus to present a case against the excesses of capitalism, and I found myself shaking my head in disagreement. His chapel message, entitled *Behind the Swoosh: Sweatshops and Social Justice*, managed to make many well-meaning students feel guilty about the clothes they were wearing. But in pointing the finger at Nike, Keady encouraged a misguided understanding of the problems facing the citizens of developing nations.

I should begin by expressing how pleased I am that Keady visited campus and sparked discussions that were not exclusively religious. We sometimes struggle at Houghton to have meaningful dialogue about subjects rooted in the secular arena. This is precisely where most of the action takes place in the world, however, and the base causes of poverty in developing nations are not primarily religious issues. Keady should be credited for his passion to improve the lives of sweatshop workers and for inviting much-needed dialogue at Houghton.

The difficulties that face many Indonesian employees of Nike is indeed troubling. It is worth pointing out, though, that almost 50% of the country's population lives on less than USD \$2 per day. There is also incredible corruption within the government, leading Transparency International to rank Indonesia 143rd out of 180 countries in its 2007 Perceptions Index related to corruption. The plight of factory workers is hardly Nike's fault. Vilifying Nike as a scapegoat to be held accountable for these social problems is not an effective response to poverty and corruption.

We can encourage Nike in investing part of their net profit to improve the

working conditions of its employees. Some might even argue that Nike has a moral obligation to do so. (Whether it would be prudent for Nike to invest in specific factory locales that neglect the larger population is a different - and more challenging - topic of discussion.) But Nike should not be *required* to do so. One company should not be held responsible for the sins of a corrupt national government and the willful ignorance of nations like the United States.

Instead, we should hold governments accountable, both at home and abroad. We should insist on transparency and the rule of law in developing nations to help them grow. Why didn't Keady focus on these issues? He has misdiagnosed the problem. Nike's aim as a company is not to save the world, but to meet a marketplace consumer demand. The problem is larger than Nike. It extends to a broader discussion of poverty and moral capitalism. Taking Keady's advice and signing pledges while focusing on the corporate ills of Nike will simply not lead to a solution.

Capitalism has many vices, many of which I am often eager to criticize. But signing a petition, investing in Nike stock, or buying only "Made in America" apparel, I'm afraid, is not the best that you can do. Instead of being mindlessly moved by tales of personal tragedy overseas, brush up on your knowledge of economics. Investigate how microfinance may be able to bolster slow economic growth. Contemplate the ethics of personal and corporate wealth creation, and decide whether capitalism relies on the exploitation of workers or instead involves mutual beneficence. Keady deserves credit for bringing the problem to our attention. But we can do so much more than gripe about Nike.

William is a senior Political Science major and serves as editor-in-chief.



Dawn Sits, oil painting



Phoebe, oil painting

featured artwork

MARIA ALLIANELLO

Note from the artist:

"If you could say it in words, there would be no reason to paint."

-Edward Hopper

Maria is a junior Art major with a Painting concentration.

if you would like to see your artwork featured in the Star, send submissions with titles and a brief description to STAR@houghton.edu

Addiction Complicates Fight Against Homelessness

In getting off the streets, many of the homeless in London face an uphill battle against drug addiction.

By Chloe Ackerman

"Imagine your doctor telling you that you are seriously ill. He books you into hospital for an operation. You go in, are shown to your bed and are asked what you want for supper.

The next day you sit by your bed, now familiar with the hospital and its regime. You wait patiently. The next day is followed by another. Nothing happens. The days turn into weeks; and then months. And one day a nurse says: 'Tomorrow you are going home.' 'But I thought I was seriously ill,' you say in surprise. 'Oh, you are,' she replies, 'But our budget doesn't extend to curing you. This is all we can afford.'" -- John Bird, The Mail On Sunday, February 2007

This is the image John Bird presents of the way the UK deals with the issue of homelessness. Essentially, government-funded programs provide soup kitchens, hostels, clothing and flats to homeless people depending

on the need, urgency, and of course, funds. It's a social program designed to keep legitimately poor people off the street. It generally does a good job of weeding out those who are homeless due to drug or alcohol addiction, which is why between 87-90% of homeless people in London are there because of addiction.

John Bird is one of the founding members of the Big Issue, a magazine which provides homeless people with ten free issues to sell on the streets, then allows them to buy more magazines as they sell. The Big Issue is a not-for-profit organization, designed to enable the homeless to make a living and gain both the skills and the resources to rehabilitate themselves.

One would think that, as founder of an organization aimed at helping the homeless, Bird would be sympathetic to them. Instead, he writes, "The people who are homeless through addiction are feckless, unstable, unreliable, incapable of holding down

a job, feeding themselves or cleaning themselves. You take them into a hostel, patch them up and put them in State housing on benefits and they continue to kill themselves....They are ill and should be 'sectioned' - lifted from the streets and confined in the care of the mental health system, behind bars if necessary."

Bird argues that, while not all cases of homelessness can be attributed to addiction, those that can need to be institutionalized and 'reprogrammed' in order to be able to live stable lives. In England, there are a few institutions which deal exclusively in rehabilitating the homeless. Bird reports a 60-70% success rate.

Is addiction a mental disorder? Is Bird right in saying the homeless should be committed? There are many people who aren't homeless, but still struggle with addiction. Is it really just the homeless, then, who are mentally unstable? Walking through London reminds me of this question daily.

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