

THE HOUGHTON STAR

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November 21, 2008

...have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Houghton Faces \$3.5 Million Deficit With Nominations for Cuts, Budget Process Underway

By Katarina Kieffer

Facing a \$3.5 million deficit and an unstable economy, President Shirley Mullen and her staff are initiating the difficult process of setting the budget for the 2009-10 academic year. Among the cuts suggested to help balance the budget are faculty positions, adjustments and cuts to off-campus programs, potentially including the London Honors Program, and cuts to student activity funds.

In an attempt to reach a balanced budget, both requests for funding and "nominations" for both programmatic and faculty and staff cuts have been presented by the President's staff to Academic Policies Council (APC), the Staff Cabinet, and Budget Colloquy. The recommendations from these three bodies will go back to the President's Staff, who will then settle on a provisional budget and present it for preliminary review to the Finance Council of the Board of Trustees in mid to late December. The budget will be finalized in February when it comes before the entire Board of Trustees for evaluation.

In the following discussion, it is important to remember that at this

stage, as Kathy Freytag, professor of Education and member of APC stressed, "the nominations are just that: nominations." Academic Dean Ron Mahurin also stressed the importance of remembering that any decisions at this point are "provisional and preliminary." No decisions are final at this point.

Determining Guidelines

According to minutes from meetings of APC earlier this year, APC affirmed that the Star Lake Program as well as fall and spring London programs should be further scrutinized. The committee also agreed to carry out "program reviews of Sociology, Computer Science, French, and Physical Education" at the request of the President's staff. In forming the process for nominations, it was agreed that "strong programs, such as Education, Music, Intercultural studies, and Biology/health sciences" should not be asked "to weaken themselves," in addition, that resources should not be diverted from these "front porch programs" that help draw students to the college and "are working well."

The nominations for cuts originated from the President's staff, who, according to Mahurin, received input

from the Open Box survey that took place last year, and from the Budget Colloquy, who were charged with evaluating programs and priorities of the College as a whole.

The guidelines for Budget Reallocation for the 2009-2010 school year include three sections: Overall Goals to be Accomplished, which include working toward greater financial sustainability, refining clarity of mission and the role of each department within that mission, and increasing revenue; Principles of Budget Reallocation, which include preserving the front porch programs, looking at programs and positions that can be dropped or modified without loss of "core mission" or "overall instructional mission"; Outcomes of Proposed Budget, which includes strengthening of perceived core programs, such as Sciences and Education, preservation of "distinctives, like music, professional preparation, and global engagement," as well as preservation of the Christian Liberal Arts mission.

The Role of the Academic Policies Council

APC is made up of elected faculty • *Budget continued on page 3*

Student Profile: Kirstie Chen

By Amy Buckingham

Kirstie Chen is currently a first-year graduate student at Houghton on the music program. She graduated as a Music Education major in May.

STAR: Tell me a little bit about your background.

KC: "I was born in the United States, lived and attended public school until 6th grade when my family moved to Taiwan to care for my grandparents. My parents were classmates in college in Taiwan, then came to the States for grad school and got married. We lived in an apartment in Taiwan's biggest city, Taipei, for about 7 years. I could ride my bike anywhere. It was great. As I began my college search, family friend told me to look into Houghton so I visited campus and was sold. Consequently, my sophomore year, my brother Tim arrived in Houghton as a freshman. At this point, my mother moved to Houghton as well, while my father stayed in Taiwan to continue caring for my grandparents. I graduated in May as a Music Education major with an emphasis in Piano."

STAR: Why did you choose Houghton for graduate school?

KC: "When I graduated, it was with the intention of work for a little bit before getting my Masters. In New York State, a masters is required in whatever you want to teach, so I knew I would eventually be going back to school. Instead of getting a job immediately, I saw that opportunities for me to study in Houghton as a graduate student were becoming available. I was really happy about this because of how much I enjoyed my time as an undergraduate student. I also realized that there was still so much I could learn from the professors of the graduate program in music. I'm also happy because of the relationships I had formed with some professors and undergraduate students and the opportunity to still interact with those people."

STAR: Can you describe the graduate program for me?

KC: "For the two year graduate program, students take one or two classes a semester, and some choose to involve themselves in an apprenticeship as well. Apprenticeships are jobs that graduate students can do to pay for tuition. Some of these include the running of Symphonic Winds concerts and Prism. My apprenticeship includes tutoring, being the TA for Keyboarding and teaching free lessons. Apprenticeships often take up a lot of time and its hectic trying to fit in practice and the workload. With my performance degree, I am required to put on two concerts while in the program. There are about 22 music graduate students right now, although not all of them are full time. The main professors of the graduate program are the Drs. Johnson, Dr. King, Dr. Galloway, Dr. Hilleh and Dr. Ro. The program is still being built and the administration is taking steps to move it from being seen as an extension of the undergraduate program to a more professional program. Depending on time management, it has some similarities to the undergraduate program, although we are given a few privileges, like the absence of chapel requirements and we don't have any time constraints on the music building. I'm very grateful for the program and I appreciate all that Houghton is doing to move it along for the future."

Woolsey Lecture Series: William Abraham

By Ryan Ledebur

On the evening of November 13, Houghton College hosted Dr. William "Billy" Abraham as the speaker for the Woolsey Lecture series in Theology and Culture. President Mullen began the evening with some remarks about Professor Emeritus Warren Woolsey, the lecture series' namesake. Warren Woolsey, Mullen said, had three distinctive characteristics: he was committed to Christianity, yet took nothing for granted, he brought action and talking together, and he committed himself to engaging the whole globe and taking the faith to where the "real questions" were.

Following a virtuosic performance of "We Shall Behold Him" by piano professor Bill John Newbrough, Dr. Michael Walters introduced Dr. Abraham to speak on the topic of "Civil Religion: Prescription, Problem, or Pufferfish."

Dr. Abraham—who, incidentally, is of Irish decent—began his remarks by discussing the extreme prevalence of religion in America as compared to other Western countries, saying that Europeans are frequently astounded by the sheer number of churches in any given American town. This prevalence of religion has a strong role in what Abraham deemed his main topic of discussion for the evening: civil religion. He defined civil religion as a form of religion that gives expression to values of civic and public life.

The form of civil religion particular to America is one of the most defined and well-developed, having its own sacred sites (Mount Rushmore, the Statue of Liberty, etc.), its own sacred scriptures (The Federalist Papers, the Constitution, etc.), its own key persons (John Locke, Thomas Paine, Abraham Lincoln, etc.), as well as other pieces that make it not altogether unlike other "religions." Even America's history has its own biblical model to it: a beginning (1776), an exile (Civil War), a resettlement (the World Wars), a quest for purity (the Civil Rights Movement),

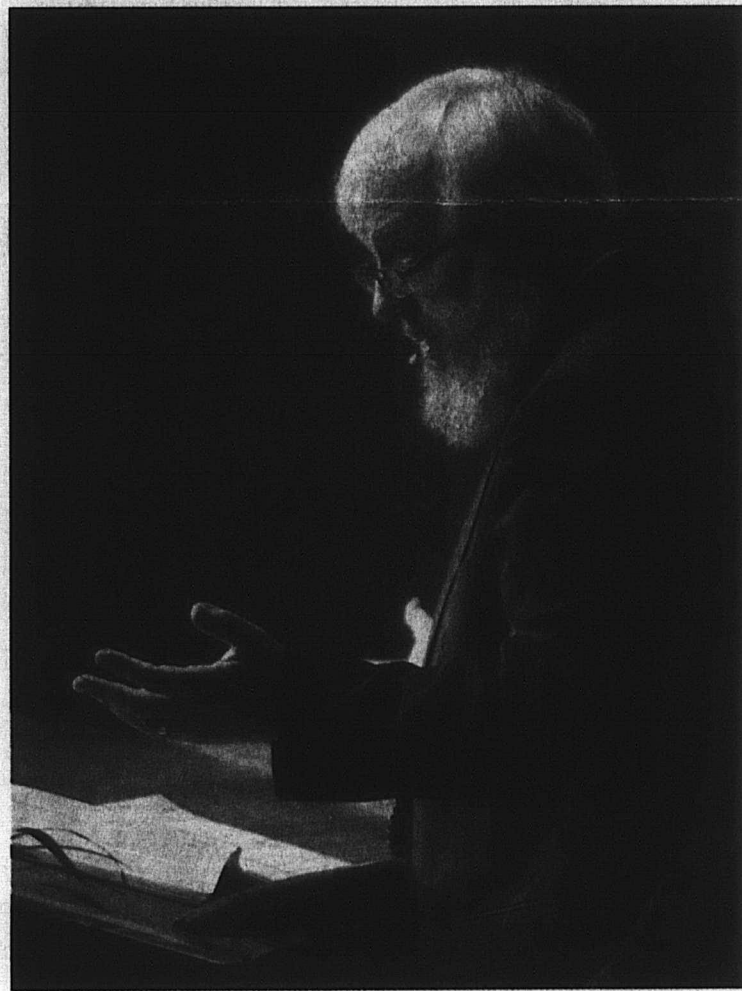


Photo by Ian Galloway

Dr. William Abraham expounded a new theory of the function of civil religion in America in his lecture on Thursday evening.

an interlude of tragedy (the Vietnam War), and now, a great change (the 2008 presidential election).

Within American civil religion, there is a preexisting division between the prophetic leaders who excoriate and judge to change the direction society is heading, and the priestly leaders who comfort, give inspiration, and foster unity. Abraham associated prophets with a liberal political ideology and priests with a conservative political ideology. While this would make it appear that America has almost two separate civil religions, the leader

of the nation, has the ability to act as prophet and priest at different times as the situation demands. As such, Abraham claimed that the election of Barack Obama represents the Messianic tendency of civil religion, as he is not just a mere political superstar, but the "glittering new high priest" of American civil religion.

The most unique aspect of civil religion, Abraham posits, is that it dissolves our notion of what a religion really is since it exists alongside Judaism and Islam as well as Christianity. We tend to

• *Lecture continued on page 2*

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Worship out there

By Joel VanderWeele

Supertanker Hijacked

A Saudi Arabian oil supertanker was hijacked by Somali pirates on Saturday, more than 400 miles off the coast of Kenya. The *Sirius Star* is the largest ship ever to be hijacked, holding two million barrels of oil worth more than \$100 million. The crew of 25 is reportedly safe and foreign ministers are currently in negotiations with the pirates to get the ship and its crew back safely. The supertanker joins at least eleven other vessels currently under pirate control, including the *MV Faina*, the cargo ship which was captured in September while transporting military supplies, including 33 tanks. The waters off the coast of Somalia at the mouth of the Gulf of Aden are considered some of the most treacherous in the world, as the country has been without a functioning government for over 17 years.

Stevens Loses Seat in the Senate

Republican Senator Ted Stevens has lost the race to represent Alaska in the United States Senate. More than two weeks after the election took place, Democrat Mark Begich emerges victorious by a margin of 3,742 votes. The tally will become official in the first week of December, but election officials suspect that a re-count will be needed to confirm the official outcome of the election. Stevens is currently embroiled in a federal investigation into seven counts of corruption. The veteran Senator is accused of taking free gifts from oil executives and lobbyists in return for fewer regulations on the oil industry in Alaska. In the event that the re-count favors Stevens and he is convicted of the charges, the 84-year-old would likely be expelled from the Senate and replaced in a special run-off election.

Congo Conflict

United Nations troops were fired upon by Congolese militia on Wednesday. The attackers were part of a group called the Resistance Congolese Patriots and were allied with government forces until earlier this week, when they began fighting with the retreating Congolese military. Meanwhile, rebels led by Laurent Nkunda have upheld their promise to withdraw from their positions in the eastern sections of the Democratic Republic of Congo to allow United Nations aid envoys through the region. The U.N. force is currently made up of 17,000 soldiers and police with 3,000 more peacekeepers expected to join them early next week. Nkunda claims to be defending his fellow Tutsis from Hutus that fled Rwanda after the 1994 genocide. The U.N. has accused both Nkunda's rebels and the Congolese government of atrocities.

G-20 Summit

Finance ministers from the 20 largest economies in the world convened in Washington last weekend to discuss how to solve the global financial crisis. Although many believe that getting Americans back to the shops is the solution for financial woes, many leaders of the G-20 warned that the American-consumer model for global wealth was the cause of the current crisis. One of the primary focuses of the summit was how to stimulate consumption in places outside of the United States. Many also complained that the transition in the White House created a vacuum of American leadership, making it impossible to come to any substantive agreements. President-elect Barack Obama chose

to honor his pledge of "one American President at a time" and did not attend the meetings, but sent former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former Republican Congressman Jim Leach as representatives. The summit will reconvene on April 30, 2009, when Obama will have been in office for 101 days.

Wildfires in California

Conditions in Southern California remain volatile as windy and dry conditions continue to feed the fire, but officials are hopeful that all three wildfires will be contained by the end of the week. The fires have destroyed over 800 homes and scorched more than 42,000 acres of land. Worst effected was the Sylmar district of Los Angeles, where nearly 500 mobile homes were destroyed. One of the fires that began in Santa Barbara County, just north of the Westmont College campus, appears to have been caused by a bonfire at the local Tea Estate. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has declared the wildfires an official crisis, allowing the four affected counties to receive state and federal funds to begin the excavation and rebuilding processes.

Mammoth DNA Mapped

Scientists have mapped nearly all of the woolly mammoth genome using hairs found on a long-frozen carcass unearthed in Siberia. Evolutionary biologists are now examining how closely related the mammoth was to the modern elephant. Early models suggest that elephants and mammoths split from the same ancestor about 6 million years ago. This is the first time an extinct animal's DNA has been successfully sequenced. The new technologies used to arrange the DNA promise to both aid species conservation and unlock the mysteries of animal development.

Stem Cell Success

Claudio Castillo had surgery to replace her windpipe four months ago after a serious case of tuberculosis collapsed her lung making it impossible to breathe. Instead of getting a windpipe from a donor list, doctors grew a replacement organ from the Barcelona native's own stem cells. Four months later, the bioengineered organ has not been rejected, despite the absence of the usual powerful immunosuppressant drugs that usually accompany organ transplant. Castillo is now able to climb stairs, go dancing, and look after her two children without discomfort, activities that were impossible before the operation.

Obama Assembling Well-Stocked Cabinet

President-elect Obama continues to appoint Cabinet officials and fill staff positions ahead of his January inauguration. Fmr. Sen. Tom Daschle was named of Secretary of Health & Human Services, while buzz increased over potential nominees to head to the Treasury, much of it centered on Larry Summers. Meanwhile, media speculation increased over whether Sen. Hillary Clinton would be offered the position of Secretary of State. The financial activities of her husband and former president Bill Clinton are said to be undergoing a thorough vetting ahead of any offer. The Obama transition team has indicated that it will announce its entire national security team -- including the positions of Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense -- at a single event sometime around Thanksgiving.

Lecture continued from page 1

think of religion as utterly exclusive, yet civil religion is practiced by everyone; we think religion has to do with the supernatural, yet civil religion is centered on a public identity; civil religion undercuts the idea that the U.S. is a secular nation.

Civil religion in America was the Christian solution to the problem of the Enlightenment, Abraham stated. It addressed the inescapable question of how to be active in public life while still being authentic to the faith. In doing so, it followed two basic precepts: First, every inch of the world is owned by the Lord, and second, we must love our neighbors, particularly through our voting choices. Other options for the relationship of religion with public life could have included the creation of a state church, banishing religion from civic life, or sectarian separation from public life. None of these is an appropriate solution that would allow for proper Christian involvement in the world.

In general, Abraham said that there were three objections to a civil religion. First, some may say that civil religion is a form of idolatry, that it substitutes the state for the triune God. In response to this, Abraham argues that this can only happen when we confuse the definition of God with the definition of the nation-state. Abraham stated that the similarity between the God of civil religion and the God of Christianity is much the same as the relationship between the God of Christianity and the God of Jews and Muslims.

Second, some object to civil religion saying that it is merely a cloak for coercion and manipulation. Abraham disagrees with this assumption, saying that, although you can never escape civil religion, there are no penalties for ignoring it. This allows for the free interaction of the church and the state.

Finally, opponents may argue that civil religion is a distraction that draws people to a superficial religion that inoculates them from the real thing. Abraham replies that civil religion cannot possibly substitute for the real thing, but it can simply be another way that people do what they have done for centuries: substitute an outer practice for an inner reality. This final objection, Abraham said, is especially illuminating and it is at this point that he finally explained the relevance of the pufferfish.

The pufferfish is the second-most poisonous animal in the world, yet it can be one of the most delicious delicacies when prepared and eaten properly. In the same way, Abraham believes, civil religion can be lethal if not properly utilized. Civil religion serves a contingent and limited purpose; only the

full resources of the Christian church can meet the needs of the human soul. Only the power of the Spirit, often working through Christians, can meet these needs and put politics in its place, which is not that of a God. Abraham continued, saying that civil religion is not meant to answer the questions at the core of life. It cannot and should not be the Bread of Life to humankind. Ultimately, this pufferfish of civil religion is a dangerous delicacy, but it is NOT the bread and wine of heaven and, if it is improperly consumed, it will poison us.

Following these remarks by Dr. Abraham there was a brief time of questions and answers and a reception in the atrium of the Center for the Arts.

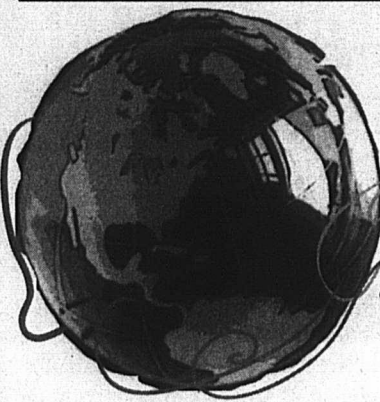
In addition to his Thursday evening lecture, Dr. Abraham gave a chapel talk on Friday morning. This talk, titled "Kings and Consequences," dealt with politics as it relates to ultimate reality in God. Abraham based his lecture on First Samuel 8. In this passage, the Israelites demand a king and, despite his advice to the contrary, God eventually allows them to have a monarch.

The United States, in its infinite wisdom, Abraham declared, has rejected monarchy. This was a good decision, Abraham said, but he added that Britain is not far off having treated their monarchs like professors—locked in an office until needed.

However, the United States does have, he said, a deep theological reading to its history. And based on this key statement, Abraham made two final points. First, he explained that most of what we get in politics is second best and penultimate. God takes people's freedom seriously, working in, with, and even through their bad choices. Our politics may be flawed, but Abraham enjoined students to be encouraged that it is not the ultimate reality.

Second, Abraham challenged students not to confuse political life with the ultimate goal in life: a relationship with God. For "all of this," referring to politics, will ultimately be insignificant. Abraham asked his audience to never underestimate the freedom that we have in this world and to never devalue the education that we are being offered. He encouraged everyone to make use of the full resources of the life of the church so that God the Spirit will nourish each of us to be all he wants you to be.

Abraham is the author of several books, including "Cannon and Criterion in Christian Theology," "John Wesley for Armchair Theologians," and "Crossing the Threshold of Divine Revelation." He is the Albert Cook Outler Professor of Wesley Studies at Perkins School of Theology.



global
CONFLICT week

"blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called the children of God."
matthew 5:9

monday, december 1

11:00am wesley chapel
12:00pm alumni dining room

commissioner macmillan
lunch discussion

tuesday, december 2

7:00pm schaller hall

"As We Forgive" documentary
[followed by student discussion]

wednesday, december 3

7:00pm van dyke lounge (fireside)

panel on global justice

thursday, december 4

12:00pm alumni dining room
7:00pm wesley chapel

gossip on campus discussion
peace and reconciliation service

sponsored by sga and nehemiah's restoration



Play On! Showcases Houghton Talent and Raises Money for Local Charity, Wellspring Ministries

By Shane Marcus

The third annual Play On! benefit concert will happen tonight at 8:00 p.m. in the Center for the Arts Recital Hall. The concert is a "coming together with other Houghton College students to glorify God and impact the community through Wellspring Ministries". Admission, of course, is free; but throughout the evening, donations will be taken to go toward Wellspring Ministries.

Wellspring Ministries is a organization, located in the Angelica and Belfast area, that runs a food pantry, clothing and supplies closet, and soup kitchen for the poor in Allegany County. They also serve as a temporary housing shelter, working to get people back on their feet and involved with local churches, communities and families. They primarily serve the Angelica and Belfast area.

The tradition of Play On! was started two years ago by a group of students in the Music in Christian Perspective class, a course required for all first-year music majors. One of their assignments was to complete some type of music service project. In previous years, students had organized trips to sing Christmas Carols at the nursing home, or helped with music

in chapel. But the ambitious group of Clara Sanders, Alyson Shipman, Daniel Lawson, Emily Stuart, Ruth Kenote, and Jewel Buckwalter went a bit further. Through conversations with Kathie Brenneman, they found out about Wellspring Ministries and decided they wanted to help.

Their original vision was to get many different people to come together and perform with various musical styles while simultaneously benefitting the

greater community. They did not want to be just one more musical performance event, but also to show and share the love of Christ. Past acts have included Broadway numbers, band performances, avant-garde jazz, as well as instrumental

ensembles.

The concert has many positive aspects that have helped each new year of MCP students to continue the tradition. First-year student Laura Danneker loves the event because the planners are not the performers. "It's an event that the whole student body can participate in, music majors or not." Without giving spoiling what's to come at this evening's performance, suffice it to say that students, faculty, and community members will all be performing tonight.

First-year student Emily Stairs gave

another perspective, "It's a fun event to plan, and the work load is pretty easy because there are quite a few of us to share the tasks."

Sophomore Hillary Trumpler was one of eight people who set up the benefit last year and said, "It was a lot of fun to coordinate and be a part of." Trumpler not only helped plan the event, but she also took advantage of the open auditions and sang a solo, as well as in a quartet.

Even so, it hasn't been easy for the eight students who planned this year's concert. Over the last month and a half, they have figured out how to advertise the event, held auditions, determined the program, and coordinated a reception. Through it all, they have maintained a lively sense of fun--"My favorite part

of the whole event was getting to make some unusual chapel announcements," Stairs said.

"It's encouraging to see so many original and creative auditions come out and clearly want to be involved," said Danneker. Even though it all started out as a class assignment, it has formed the beginnings of a tradition that Danneker hopes "will serve others, and glorify God in the process. It's much more than working for a grade." While everyone gets the chance to perform before their peers, the heart of the event is love for the surrounding community. The concert has stayed true to its original title, taken from the opening lines of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*: "If music be the food of love, play on!"

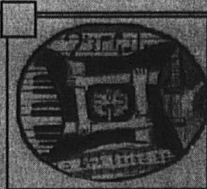
"It's encouraging to see so many original and creative auditions come out of those who clearly want to be involved," said Danneker.

The Third Annual PLAY ON! Benefit Concert

Friday, November 21
8:00PM
in the CFA Recital Hall

Admission is free
Donations encouraged

**All proceeds will go to
Wellspring Ministries**



• Budget continued from page 1

representatives, student representatives, and "resource members" who serve as sources of specific information about certain areas or departments. According to Mahurin, APC, on which he serves as chair, has been charged with reviewing and giving feedback to the President's staff and suggestions for refinements on the budget nominations. "Specifically, we're focusing the discussion in areas of our academic programs where changes in programs will allow us to reallocate resources where we need to grow-- particularly in sciences and education."

After the initial budget discussion in APC on Wednesday, November 12, the committee scheduled two additional meetings, one on Friday, November 14 for just tenured faculty members of the committee to discuss the issues specifically related to faculty cuts, and the other on Wednesday, November 19, for the whole committee to reach a consensus and pass the nominations, with recommendations, back to the President's staff.

Mahurin noted that for the time being, the majority of "faculty, staff, and students do not have direct access to the information" about specific nominations; "you can't do these things by a committee of the whole," he said. Mullen also affirmed this point, stating that this process "is a little bit experimental" because it attempts to involve more voices than have been involved in past budget decisions, while at the same time preserving an appropriate level of confidentiality about sensitive issues like potential faculty cuts.

Nominations for Cuts, Student Concerns, and Possible Effects

Specific nominations and numbers are not available at this point: most committee members interviewed confirmed the need to keep specific discussions about faculty nominations confidential, but most felt more comfortable discussing potential funding reallocations and cuts within programs.

According to Amy Labzentis, a senior and student representative on APC, there were three major areas of focus for the committee: one time cuts, permanent cuts or "expense decreases," and future sources of revenue.

As further clarification, Peter Meilaender, professor of Political

Science and resource member on APC, explained that some of the broad categories being looked at were revising "off-campus programs, rethinking the laptop program, consolidating jobs, and the potential sale of college property." Student Representative Michael Danylak said he was most concerned about the potential decrease in Student Activity funds: "SGA and CAB might take a significant hit" in the proposed budget. He also noted a potential one-time decrease in the Student Project Fund, which receives \$40,000 a year to fund "non-academic projects and initiatives." The SPF, for example, was used to help fund the Campus Center renovations that took place last year;

it often builds up over time, and sometimes isn't touched for years. Danylak was concerned about using this as justification for a cut, however, as "it seems almost to be punishing students for being fiscally responsible."

Labzentis also noted the possible decrease in student funding, but said she felt it was important for students to ask themselves, "How much do we really need?"

She spoke more strongly on the possible reallocations in off-campus programs. "Programs might start to look differently," she said, continuing that "I don't think it's any secret that the Honors programs, especially London, cost the school a lot of money." Yet, as an Honors student herself, Labzentis expressed the feeling that changing the format of London, perhaps to an on-campus model that takes a mayterm overseas like East Meets West, would "irreversibly alter the program."

Mullen affirmed the college's commitment both Honors and off-campus programs, stating that "the goal is to minimize negative impact on the programs we choose to keep."

Danylak also expressed concerns about changes in off-campus programs. "There are a lot of students that plan out their future" as far as off-campus programs go, he said, and these programs "may be a good part of the reason students come."

"As an SGA member and a student,

from a business perspective, students are the customers [of the college]. With a large tuition raise, the danger is that students may start to feel like they are paying more for much less," Danylak said.

Meilaender cited that approximately "one-thirtieth" of the total \$3.5 million would come from off-campus programs, which works out to around \$100,000.

Members of APC confirmed that Faculty cuts made up a relatively significant portion of the total number; "I don't think it's any secret that faculty cuts are being made," said Labzentis. "What is unclear is how many, and where."

"As much as possible," Mullen emphasized, "This should not be a fearful time for the community."

Christ Stewart, professor of Philosophy, confirmed that he had been informed that "around \$600,000 would come from faculty cuts."

For the purposes of the discussion on faculty cuts, APC was split between tenured faculty and the rest of the members; the smaller sub-committee of around five members was then asked to consider the more specific information about faculty and departmental cuts. Stephen Woolsey, professor of English and a member of APC, described the tone of the sub-committee meeting as "somber."

Mullen stressed that this process was designed to be as "appropriately transparent" as possible. "We will be alert to student feedback coming through traditional channels" like Student Government and the *Star*, Mullen said. "Students should speak to their fears," she added, saying that "as much as possible, this should not be a time of fear for the community."

Mahurin emphasized that, in coming weeks as nominations become more public, "we understand each one of us will have different needs, concerns, and priorities, but we must commit to having confidence" that "when and where we have disagreements, we will have confidence in the process and in one another that those concerns are going to get a fair hearing."

Mahurin also said that there is a place for "expressing interest and appropriate

concern" during this process; "there can be a tendency to assume the worst" in these situations, he noted, and "as a community we need to fight against that."

How Did we Reach this Point?

Mullen was quick to insist that this \$3.5 million deficit was not entirely unexpected; since her arrival, she has initiated a "three year remaking of the Houghton economy," and a deficit was expected as part of that process. When it became apparent after fall 2007 that enrollment was down, Mullen realized that a four-year problem was being created by lack of tuition dollars, and stated that the small class "has to work itself through the system."

The budget was balanced in 2007-2008, but only thanks to almost \$1,400,000 in estate gifts and annuity funds. For the 2008-2009 year, a struggle to balance the budget was anticipated for several reasons. According to President Mullen, the decision was made to increase financial aid for the incoming 2012 class through \$1.2 million in one-time expenses; she felt it was more important to "build momentum" in increasing the student body than to balance the budget for the coming year, and since "the tuition factor is something psychologically that people look at" when choosing a school, the move was a strategic attempt to get enrollment numbers up.

As such, it was planned that the budget would be balanced over a two- to three-year period, rather than during the 2008-2009 year. According to Mullen, this ideally would allow time for research and restructuring to be done to ensure that "resources were aligned with the mission of the college." The goal is to present a more comprehensive and far-reaching budget, and indeed part of the current process is to prepare an "Ideal Houghton Budget" that will indicate where the school intends to be in five to seven years. Apart from any deficit, Mullen emphasized, "this is something we ought to be doing anyway."

Yet the current state of the economy has complicated the plan. "The economic crisis has aggravated the deficit," said Meilaender. Mullen pointed out that, while the \$3.5 million figure is daunting, state colleges in the area have had to cut nearly 15% of programs, while Houghton is looking at around 10%.



Artist Series Review: Duo-Pianists Richard and John Contiguglia

By Clara Sanders

As an aspiring pianist, I eagerly anticipated Saturday's Artist Series—after all, two pianos must be better than one!—and was not disappointed in Richard and John Contiguglia, although I admit that their intriguing last name prejudiced me in favor of them before they even played a note.

As they synced their cadences so perfectly in time, I began to wonder how they have survived growing up together, studying at Yale and in London together and then jointly touring together their whole adult lives. Their playing, however, evidenced that the profundity of their shared music both accentuates and is influenced by their fraternal bond.

The Contiguglias opened with the *Partita, Op. 5b* by 20th-century Irish composer Howard Ferguson. This piece, although rather abstract, eventually engaged listeners with its open harmonies and often folk-like sound. It effectively integrated old forms with new styles and exposed the audience to the complexities of two-piano playing with its need for coordinated scales and slowly placed chords.

Freshman pianist Alissa Pocock was

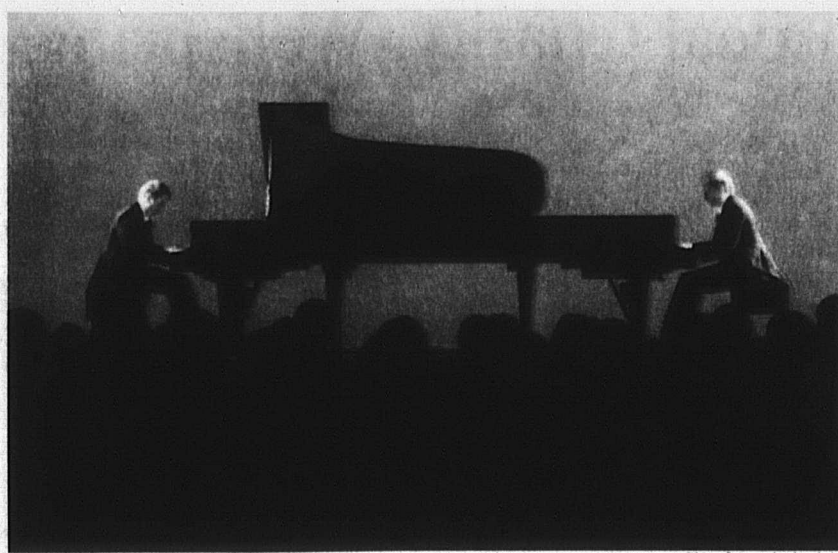


Photo from artists' website

Identical twins Richard and John Contiguglia will take their simultaneous musical act from Houghton to London this week, performing in the National Gallery on the 25th.

struck by the unity of the playing, explaining that "even unison notes that the two appeared to be playing together sounded as one (most of the time). It sounded like one piano."

Robert Schumann's *Andante and Variations, Op. 46*, broadened the atmosphere to a heart-tugging romanticism. The brothers' established partnership at the piano enabled a very intimate performance of the "intertwining... lines" that the program notes explained "is meant to suggest the mutual love of Clara [Robert's wife, also a famous pianist] and Robert, especially when one

thinks how they must have responded to the experience of performing this very personal work together." Although slightly distracted by concluding that I need to marry a pianist named Robert so that we can also play this piece together, I enjoyed identifying which

variation portrayed "Eusebius" and which embodied "Florestan," the introverted romantic and impulsive dramatic aspects, respectively, of Schumann's schizophrenic personality.

The brothers moved to benches side-by-side for the last piece before intermission,

Franz Schubert's *Variations on an Original Theme in A-flat, Op. 35*. Schubert wrote many delightful piano duets and these variations were no exception; however, the combination of his notorious long-windedness and the piece's

The brothers' established partnership at the piano enabled a very intimate performance.

placement directly following another set of romantic variations may have wearied many a sleep-deprived college student.

Perhaps I was sitting in a particularly dead spot in the chapel, but I missed the dynamic intensity needed in the climaxes

of the Schubert. I wish the brothers had chosen to perform on the older of the two pianos: Houghton recently acquired a brand-new nine-foot Steinway concert grand with a stellar action and gorgeous tone, but it is still too new to produce the sound needed to carry across the chapel. For an audience used to the reverberation and life of the recital hall, the relative loudness may have been slightly disappointing. The tenderness of the softer moments of the Schubert, however, provided a simple contrast to the complexity and thick texture of the Schumann.

The second half of the concert consisted of a sole work: the famous fourth movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony transcribed for two pianos by the 19th-century virtuoso and composer Franz Liszt. Although initially doubtful of this attempt and biased toward the orchestral version after performing it with the Houghton Philharmonia two years ago, I soon reconciled myself to the orchestral possibilities within the 176 keys on stage. Although this version of the "Ode to Joy" had no mass chorus accompanying it, the brothers maintained a sensitivity both to the markings on the full score and the overall spirit of the piece, keeping momentum through an exhausting twenty minutes to the final climax. This familiar work was a good choice to engage a diverse audience.

Junior Steve Grudda affirmed that "the second half was amazing" and he "didn't want the music to end."

"I think it was engaging for both music and non-music majors," he said. "You don't need to pass a music class to enjoy what sounds good. I'm not studying culinary arts, but I always find the taco bar engaging." Although the program could have been a little more varied, I enjoyed hearing the Contiguglias and we were quite privileged to hear the same concert that will be performed for Queen Elizabeth II at the National Gallery in London next week. The brothers' performance of three of their four pieces from memory attested to their dedication and seasoned internalization of the music they played so convincingly.

Men's JV Basketball Hits the Court Running

By Dan Albrecht

After two years without Junior Varsity sports, Houghton College has re-established the JV basketball team. Coach Drew Hannan, has found a solid group of guys that will work and play hard for him this season. There are currently eleven players on the team. Starters include Brian Rowlinson, David Dix, Scott MacBeth, Mike Fink, and Jesse Fink. It's clear that the other players are not there to warm the bench; careful player selection include Chris Weibel, Pat Mest, Marc Williams, Eric Liddle, Zach Smalley, and Trent Shatto, all of whom see plenty of playing time each game.

They encountered struggle in the first game, ending with a loss to Davis College's varsity team 73-47, but have since improved many different aspects of their game. They worked out their mistakes in practices and have learned a great deal. Once they became aware of their mistakes, they applied them in their next game to beat the Cattaraugus Campus at Jamestown Community College 82-74. "Having fun definitely has a higher priority over winning," said freshman Shatto.

According to the players, Coach Hannan is well respected by his team and has been successful in bringing them together. He has helped them not only improve as basketball players, but as individuals. Hannan keeps everything fun while still helping them to improve. "The most important thing to a team, I think, is encouragement and all the guys have shown a commitment to building each other up both on and off the court," said junior Williams. Faith has always been a main focus and has also been well integrated throughout the season. The team always makes sure that all the glory goes to God by praying before and after every game.

The players get along very well and try to spend time with each other outside

the court. This has allowed them to come together and play better as a team. "Since the beginning of the season, we have all become a lot closer," said freshman starter Dix.

As the winter season approaches, many of the players have started to get sick. For a weaker team this would be a setback, but the team has collaborated and fought resiliently to surmount any missing team members from game to game. Even with these unfortunate aspects of sickness and injury, they have been able to lift each other up and play well against their competition.

Considering the disadvantage of playing against varsity teams, the team holds a respectable record of 1-3. They get together to practice only three times a week, however; during game weeks they are only allowed two practices. The teams they play against have the privilege of being able to recruit players and practice up to six times a week.

As the team continues to work hard to improve, it will be exciting to see what their season has in store. The games are very high energy and a promise to be a good time. If you have not gone out to a game yet, they would appreciate your support as they face Medaille College at home on Monday, Nov. 24 at 7pm.

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS...

TONIGHT 11/21: Men's Basketball @ home for Turkey Drive Classic - games at 6pm and 8pm

Women's Basketball @ Gordon College

SAT 11/22: Men's Basketball @ home - games at 2pm and 4pm

XC @ Nationals

Women's Basketball @ Gordon College

MON 11/24: Men's JV Basketball @ home - 7pm

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Houghton College Shakespeare Players Present *Measure for Measure*

By Rachel Cutter

If you were to walk up to someone on the street, chances are they would never have heard of this play, much less know that it was written by William Shakespeare. It has been called dark by critics who find its hopeful ending undeserved and its comedy cynical. So why would the local Shakespeare Players chose *Measure for Measure* for this fall's production? The answer: because the issues it presents (hypocrisy, justice, secret sin, and love for one's enemies) are highly relevant to a Christian campus and the Houghton community.

When Katrina Koehler and Megan Little decided at the end of last semester that they wanted to direct the Shakespeare Players' next production, they had never heard

of *Measure for Measure*. But when two professors independently suggested it, immediately the girls took a look at the script. "At first we were turned off by it, because of the subject material," said assistant director Megan Little, "But as we kept going, we fell in love with the complexity."

Complex is the right word to describe difficult situations faced by the characters. According to the law, sexual licentiousness is punishable by death, but it is a law that the Duke has not bothered to enforce. In his absence, Antonio, his esteemed deputy, arrests a young man named Claudio and slates him for beheading for impregnating a young woman. His sister Isabella, a novice at a local convent goes to Antonio to beg for mercy. Antonio is moved by her purity and agrees to release her brother, but only on a condition that she hates to fulfill. So, Isabella finds herself caught between two evils: either she must refuse Antonio and allow her brother to be killed, or she must make a sacrifice that would endanger her soul. Antonio is shocked by the intensity of his feelings for Isabella which rival his desire to uphold the law.

The confrontation between Isabella and Antonio is the most dramatic part of the show. Kyle Vitale's portrayal of Antonio is spellbinding and Clara delivers her monologue to the audience with utmost sincerity. The portrayal of these characters highlights their humanity and carries the audience through the tension of the rest of

the play before the final redemption at its resolution.

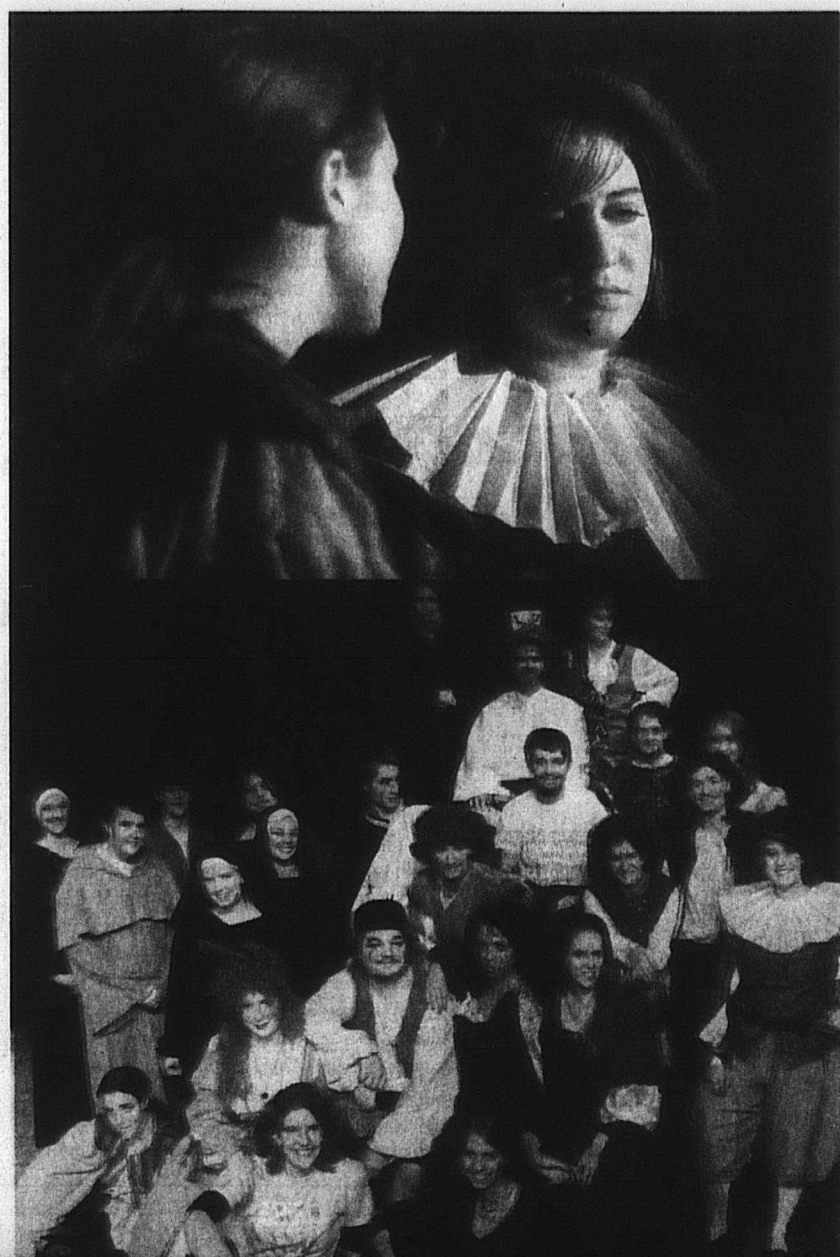
It is this redemption that qualifies *Measure for Measure* as a comedy. It is more serious than Shakespeare's other comedies, and actually has tremendous potential to end as a tragedy: were it not for the mercy that is shown to undeserving characters, their fates would be tragic indeed. But the play's hopeful ending defines it as comedy, and challenges audiences to show mercy as well.

The seriousness of the play does not take

away from the fun of watching it. True, Claudio's portrayal is somewhat weak, but the quirks of minor characters make up for it, and Lucio's hat is as fantastic as the actress who plays him. A noticeable effort was made on the part of the company to make

the costumes and make-up as historically accurate as possible. Mistress Overdone is meant to look like a baser version of Elizabeth I—in Shakespeare's time, it was common for women to die their hair red because it was the Queen's natural hair color. The set is fashioned in the minimalist style, but the player's use of a split stage and action occurring in and around the spectators makes them feel a part of the story.

Measure for Measure show times are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 7-10pm, and Saturday from 2-5pm in Tysinger Auditorium. Tickets are five dollars at the door or you can reserve seats in advance in the Campus Center during mealtimes.



Photos by Ian Galloway

Thanksgiving Prism

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"So... isn't this bigger than I remember it?"

The STAR Staff would like to explain that due to mechanical problems at our printer, the Olean Times Herald, we were forced to print this week's issue of the STAR in a larger-than-normal format.

We will return to standard size following Thanksgiving break.

Happy Thanksgiving!

WELCOME CENTER DESK SERVICES

- Directions/Maps
- Ping Pong & Pool
- Area Phonebooks
- Local Phone #s
- Lost & Found
- Ticket Sales
- Local Restaurant Menus
- BW Copy/Fax Services
- On-campus faculty/staff/office extensions and locations
- Coordination of Van Dyk Lounge Events



The HOUGHTON STAR

is dedicated to the free exchange of ideas, and encourages community members to participate in the discussion. Ideas expressed in these pages reflect solely the opinion of the writer.

The editorial staff reserves the right to edit any contributions for reasons of length or decorum. Letters to the editor (signed) should be 350 words or fewer and be submitted by Monday at 7 p.m. to STAR@houghton.edu.

An Unmerited Measure: Shakespeare on Grace

A Shakespeare Player finds answers in this week's production for the problematic worlds of both 17th century England and today

by Clara Giebel

Playing Isabella in this semester's production of *Measure for Measure*, I have learned some humility, gained a still greater respect for Shakespeare, and come to a better understanding of Grace. Grace, as receiving what we do not in any way deserve. As unmerited favor.

Isabella's first lines show her love for the law, expressing her wish for a stricter set of rules on the sisterhood she intends to join as a nun. Her joy in the law is crushed when she sees its severity turned against her brother, which brings the war of Justice and into the mind and heart of Isabella. She knows and believes that sin must be punished, but in her love for her brother she does not want the blow of justice fall upon his head.

Isabella's situation has led me to think about grace and love in this community. What does it mean to show grace, here at Houghton, in our lives right now? Is it a professor giving an extension on a paper, housemates packing me a dinner because they know I will be in rehearsal straight from 4-10pm or our speaking gently of people in our lives who cause us unrest? These are acts of grace, acts of love. Or to turn it inside out, love is kind of grace. God is gracious in his giving love to us, to give each other.

Writing about love and grace seems terribly idealistic in the context of our messy, fearful lives, but hearing it discussed by the characters in this play gives helps me see the discussion as legitimate. In this play the characters are all wretchedly,

wonderfully human. They are all flawed, all struggling and all dealing with this concept of grace.

Throughout the play, Duke Vincentio is referred to by the title, "your grace," while Angelo, the other character in high political power is referred to as "your honor." These two values, of honor and of grace, (one demonstrated externally, but assuming an inward virtue, the other assimilating attitude and action) play out on stage in the characters of these two men. The duke is defined by his hesitance to execute those who break the law, for fear of hypocrisy,

justice shows itself in her plea for mercy on her brother's life, when she is struggling within herself, pleading out of love for her brother, though attempting to maintain a hold on the virtue she cherishes. She is terribly upset in act two scene four when Angelo suggests that she is not taking the law seriously, and has "prov'd the sliding of your brother more/A merriment than a vice." Despite all this, it is grace she pleads for in the end. In act five the Duke throws on a sudden harshness, proclaiming that Angelo must die for his condemnation of Claudio, "Haste still pays haste, and leisure

answers leisure;/Like doth quit like, and MEASURE still FOR MEASURE." These lines contain the title of the play, but they do not hold its ending, for though the duke threatens justice, what he administers is grace. Angelo, like Claudio, deserves to die, but the duke judges them both by his own measure, the measure of grace, and so instead of being beheaded, Angelo gets married.

I love Comedies because they play out my worldview. Problem comedies most of all, because this life is nothing if not full of problems, but I rest in the hope that my own story will have a happy ending. Not just a cathartic purging in the recognition that all are served their just desserts - I revel in the glory of characters like me, receiving what they do not deserve. For that, I wait in hope.

Clara is a senior English and Music major at Houghton.

Writing about love and grace can seem terribly idealistic in the context of our messy, fearful lives.

and setting a double-standard for himself and his subjects. His fears for himself are realized in Angelo, who begins in honest execution of a fault, but falls into the same sin which he attempts to punish. The duke disparages this hypocrisy in Angelo, saying in the end of act three, "O, what may man within him hide/Though angel on the outward side!" Angelo himself is torn by this dualistic guilt, focusing his regret on the lack of grace; "Alas, when once our grace we have forgot/Nothing goes right: we would, and we would not."

Isabella's connection with grace and

Thinking Outside the Clock: Taking Time to Live Timelessly

To what extent do we let our temporal existence become an everyday burden?

by Jens Hieber

Have you ever had the chance to see the inner workings of a watch? Not some digital contraption but one that ticks and contains parts in motion that work together in intricate ways to show the exact time of day or night. The amount of detail involved in making one must be enormous; the structure and precision of each part working together seamlessly are necessary for a fully functional watch.

The inside of such a watch often mirrors the daily turnings of our lives. The structure and precision involved from our groggy awakenings to when our tired eyes finally can't stand being open anymore, are often so highly structured

that to stray too far from a very worn path means getting hopelessly lost in an untamed forest and drowning in the hectic swamps of stress.

How often do you look at your watch or cellphone to check the time? How often do you ask someone how late it is? In a culture where not to be punctual is considered a rudeness of the same level as slapping someone in the face, we must often

rely on these contraptions of time-telling so as not to insult those that expect us to be somewhere at a certain time. Being late is not pleasant for anyone involved, but the whole concept of lateness has really only been about since the invention of the time-keeping piece.

Meeting times used to be arranged by such indicators as 'noon,' 'sundown,' or 'tomorrow.' Vague as they may sound, these terms sufficed for thousands of years, and the world did not cease turning. Anyone that has been in a culture where time is not as important will realize how

relieving it is to be able to live without as many time constraints. Being an hour late does not cause the moon to turn red and having an unspecified amount of time to just get lost and not do anything can refresh a busy mind.

It is easy to get lost instead in the routine of daily schedules. Wake up, go to breakfast, go to classes, go to lunch, go to classes, go to dinner, do homework, go to bed. How many days in the last week have mirrored this pattern or some similar variation thereof? Perhaps the invention of time-keeping devices more specific than a sundial was an advance of complication, not simplification. How much more complicated are the workings of a clock than those of a sundial?

Wake up, go to breakfast, go to classes, go to lunch, go to classes, go to dinner, do homework, go to bed. How many days in the last week have mirrored this pattern or some similar variation thereof?

a number that recurs every 24 hours.

Do something spontaneous sometime; allow yourself to escape from the constraints of time that shackle down our lives. Do something unplanned, and if you're feeling really adventurous, throw away your watch for a day and see how you get along without it. Time is an instrument for us to use, not a defining device that limits our daily potential.

Jens is a junior English major at Houghton.

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Letters TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors,

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. OCC openly declares its mission and operates only within legal parameters. Western impact is minimized by strong partnerships with local churches and pastors who also provide follow up discipleship classes in 66 countries. Many children, their families, and even whole villages have come to know Christ as a result of these classes.

OCC represents Christians carrying out the great commission while also providing for the practical needs of those they desire to serve. Are we sometimes concerned that our actions will be misperceived – that the message we intend to convey will be lost in the razzle and dazzle of even a few material goods in a shoebox? Yes, and we are right to consider this concern. However we must remember that we are not called to be perfect witnesses or to witness only in ideal situations; we're called to be faithful. If we wait to witness to others until we can do so "perfectly" we will likely be paralyzed into inaction. We must scrutinize our motives, examine whether our words and actions are biblical, consider how to best communicate across cultures and ask for and use God's wisdom. Then we need to trust God to be who he says is and to do what he says he will do.

As we consider the impact of OCC, let's listen to the voice of Okasan Nelson, now an adult, who received a box when she lived in a Russian orphanage. "It helps the child realize that there is more to life than what he sees. Children in desperate situations have a limited view of life and often think that no one cares about them... It was so impacting seeing the faces of the two children in the photo [who sent the shoebox to her] that cared about someone they didn't even know on the other side of the world. A simple 'thank-you' for the love they sent me in that shoe box would never be enough."

-Terri Bradbury, OCC Houghton Community Coordinator

Dear Editors,

I want to respond to the recent letter from a concerned student about my Micah Challenge presentation in chapel on October 31. I appreciate the student's concern that the work we do to seek justice and redemption is truly effective, however, I disagree with the assertion that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are not an effective approach. The argument of the letter is based on two basic misunderstandings:

First, the United Nations and the MDGs are not one-and-the-same. Yes, the MDGs were developed by the UN but the issues and policies they address are by no means unique to the UN. Reducing infant mortality, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS... all of the MDG priorities are the work that Christian humanitarian ministries have been engaged in for years. Advocating for these Goals does not necessarily mean advocating for the UN. Most of the work done to achieve the MDGs will not be done by the UN, but by private development agencies (many of them Christian). Moreover, the work of Micah Challenge is as about policy as much as money; like policies for international trade and debt cancellation, which are the policies of national governments and not the United Nations. So whatever view we may hold about the UN, we should not let this overshadow the fact that achieving the MDGs would mean saving or dramatically improving the lives of millions.

Secondly, pursuing the MDGs was not the idea of US Christians, but of our brothers and sisters in the global South. The most prophetic arguments for the US to support them come from Church leaders in Africa, Asia and Latin America. They are the true face of global Christianity today, and they are the ones serving on the front lines of efforts to fight global poverty – we need to follow their lead. This is the only tool they have to hold people of power and wealth accountable to the rights and needs of the poor. It is the luxury of our own affluence that we can treat the MDGs as if they don't really matter.

The truth is that the UN is not the answer,

From the Editors' Desk...

Houghton's Budget Process and the Myth of Consensus

The college's current budget discussions stir up questions about the difficult tensions between openness and confidentiality.

by Katarina Kieffer

As I did research these past two weeks for a news article on the budget process that the College is currently working through, I interviewed students, administrators, and faculty members, some who appear in the news article in this issue, and many who do not. From these incredibly varied and often intense conversations, I gathered an increasingly troubling picture of a process that, while undeniably well-intentioned, seems to have somehow gone awry.

The first hint I had that something wasn't quite right was that every single person I talked to seemed to have a different understanding about what was meant to be strictly confidential, and what they could freely discuss – not only with a member of the press, but even with their own colleagues. I talked to faculty member after faculty member who had heard this or that second- or third-hand, anxiously expressing that there was just enough information to worry them, but not enough for them to feel as if they could do anything meaningful, unsure if they were even intended to do anything with the information. I couldn't help feeling as if at some level, communication had simply broken down. No one, even members of the same committee, seemed to be on the same page about exactly what they were doing, or what they were expected to do.

Troubling questions formed in my mind. The goal, as I understood it from the collective voices of various individuals involved in the process, was to involve a variety of people with different views and connections, while still maintaining an appropriate level of confidentiality in the process. And the ultimate goal, it seemed, was to work toward consensus: yes, procedurally, the President makes the final decision on these matters before presenting them to the Board of Trustees, but it seemed that the goal was to have many different voices gathering input in order to build as much of a community-wide consensus as possible.

In theory, it seems like a good idea. Try to involve many voices from different areas of campus; everyone sits down at the table, bringing different perspectives and priorities, but in the end they come to a rational agreement about what is best for the community as a whole – what constitutes the common good, you might say. We move forward in this difficult time, united in and supporting our direction.

Yet working with the common good as

your goal, however admirable, is tricky. Who defines what the common good is, after all? That question is hard enough to answer on its own: it has been fiercely debated since human beings first sat down to talk (or fight) about politics. Involve the idea of consensus, and it gets infinitely more complicated. The concept of consensus implies a certain absolute level of agreement; yes, there is still the possibility for private disagreements, but it implies that everyone involved in the process has at least agreed to a public, common course of action.

Since consensus implies a level of absolute agreement, when you decide to make such agreement a priority in a situation like the budget discussions, you are faced with the problem of who will be invited to decide what constitutes the common good, and who will not be allowed direct input. But how can something truly be consensual

The simple fact is that, despite our good intentions, we are flawed, limited people, and with those flaws and limits come infinite (and sometimes ugly) complexities.

if some of the members it affects don't even know what is going on? This kind of agreement would almost seem to require that all faculty members review the list of proposed budget cuts, and campus-wide discussions be held to discuss what we as a community should do to resolve this budget deficit.

Yet that would involve a level of openness that, as the President noted when I spoke with her about these concerns, simply isn't appropriate considering the matters being discussed. There are legal issues at stake, and more than that, ethical issues; when you are talking about someone losing their job, it isn't simply a matter of money or contractual obligations, it is an intensely personal matter that should be kept privileged and confidential. To give an extreme example, there can be no question that a forum on so-and-so's performance as a professor would simply be grossly inappropriate and insensitive.

If concerns about confidentiality are the justification for exclusiveness, however,

do we imply by the exclusion that certain members of the community simply can't be trusted to separate themselves from their personal interests in order to make rational decisions? If that's the case, why should we trust *any* member of the community with such a task?

I recognize that these questions imply a certain level of political calculation that I in no way think was intended by those who formed the budget process. I would be quick to say, however, that I think a certain level of political calculation may be better suited to this situation than may initially seem appropriate. It is comforting to think that we might be able to trust in good intentions in situations like this, and we should always hope for the best. Yet the simple fact is that, despite our good intentions, we are flawed, limited people, and with those flaws and limits come infinite (and sometimes ugly) complexities.

In its favor, this hasn't been simply a top-down process; four years ago, the College went through a round of budget cuts under former President Chamberlain that more or less operated on that model, and as such still remain controversial in the minds of many here at Houghton. It seems that President Mullen consciously chose to form this process with a different philosophy of leadership in mind; one that emphasizes input from the community, and sets transparency and honesty as high priorities.

The problem, however, is that the attempt to achieve a perfect balance of openness and exclusiveness seems to have somehow missed the reality of human nature. It is wise to recognize that top-down action with little to no perceived input will be quickly condemned; it is also wise to recognize that in some situations, it simply is not helpful, or even right, to disseminate information to everyone. Indeed, perhaps there is simply no "right" way of doing something this difficult: but even if there are some positives to the way this process has been set up, it seems that for the majority of community members, enough information has been given to incite anxiety, but not enough has been offered to stop the ensuing fight-or-flight instinct from kicking in.

As one professor I talked to put it, "It's as if we've been thrown into a game of Survivor, and we're all trying to figure out if we should be the ones to try to kick someone off the island."

Katarina is a senior Political Science major, and serves as Editor-in-Chief.

the US is not the answer, no government is the answer to poverty... we are the answer to poverty, as part of God's work. But we have the responsibility and ability to call on our leaders to prioritize the poor. It is not only God who calls us to speak out for those who go unheard, it is also our Christian brothers and sisters around the world who do so.

-Brian Swarts, National Coordinator, Micah Challenge USA

Dear Editors,

I grew up honoring the Sabbath, and it is something that I try to continue to do at Houghton. I feel that it is very important that we dedicate a day to rest and enjoyment of creation and the Creator, and Houghton should encourage this. I am also aware that, due to varying circumstances, it is not always wise to honor the Sabbath, sometimes because of the unwise use of a Saturday and other times because of the overwhelming work load that all students at Houghton are familiar with. I can also say with little doubt that different people celebrate the Sabbath in different ways. For example, some may find enjoyment in reading Augustine, while others steer clear of reading altogether on Sundays.

This brings me to my concerns about the music building. I play an instrument that is not an acoustic guitar or a keyboard (with headphones), and which therefore cannot be played in the dorms. I am not in a college ensemble or any other ensemble for which I would need to practice this instrument. I do, however, enjoy playing it. My day of rest would be the logical time for me to play my flute, which I cannot play in the dorms. Where else would I play but in a practice room?

Music majors have the unfortunate limitation of being confined to a practice room in order to do much of their school work. But most Houghton Students are not so bound, and can work on the Sabbath from the comfort of their own rooms, if necessary. And some of us would like Sabbath-honoring access to the practice rooms which many would like to see locked

up on the Sabbath. If Houghton is to lock the music building on Sundays and impose a strict Sabbath observation policy, they ought to take our textbooks and lock our laptops, as well. But wouldn't that take away much of the joy of the very thing we are trying to preserve?

-Tierzah Faulkner, Class of 2009

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artist. OF THE WEEK.

JAADIN VANAMBURG

Notes from the artist:

I enjoy color. Up until this year I had not done alot of abstract paintings, but I recently became fascinated with color -- how it works together, how it can impact the viewer, and the effect it has when placed together in different ways. I can't say that I have a favorite color, but at times I can be somewhat biased towards certain colors. I find that working with color can reflect alot of who I am and what I am going through, but at the same time can speak to someone else at a completely different level.

Jaadin is a second semester junior Art major with concentrations in Painting and Ceramics.



Vortex of the Fireflies, painting

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHO MAKES OUTSTANDING ARTWORK? Do you think they should be featured in an issue of the STAR?

Nominate artists you know for the Houghton STAR Artist of the Week!

E-mail nominations to
STAR@houghton.edu

Congratulations to last week's winner, **Jordan Smith!**

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



Untitled, painting

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

SU DO KU

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

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