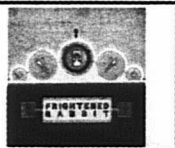


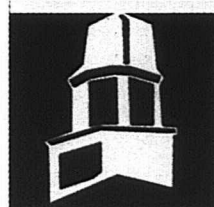
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YEARS



THE HOUGHTON STAR

Volume 106, Issue 23

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April 16, 2010

Ongoing Investigation

Vandalism Culprit Yet to be Identified

by Joella Eppeheimer

As the campus plunged into darkness during the evening of Tuesday, March 16, students entertained themselves with a variety of activities. The aftermath of the event showed, however, that not all the behavior that took place was innocent fun. Among the destructive and potentially dangerous actions committed were graffiti on college buildings and a car being driven across the quad.

As Vice President for Student Life Sharra Hynes described it, the graffiti included "profanity, hateful sentiments, and racial, sexist, and homophobic comments." Hynes expressed that such displays have "no place on our campus, or anywhere else," and added that the specifics have been documented but are inappropriate to be shared publicly. Stating that the occurrence of this "unfortunate situation" is unacceptable, Hynes asserted, "I don't think 'deplorable' is too strong a word."

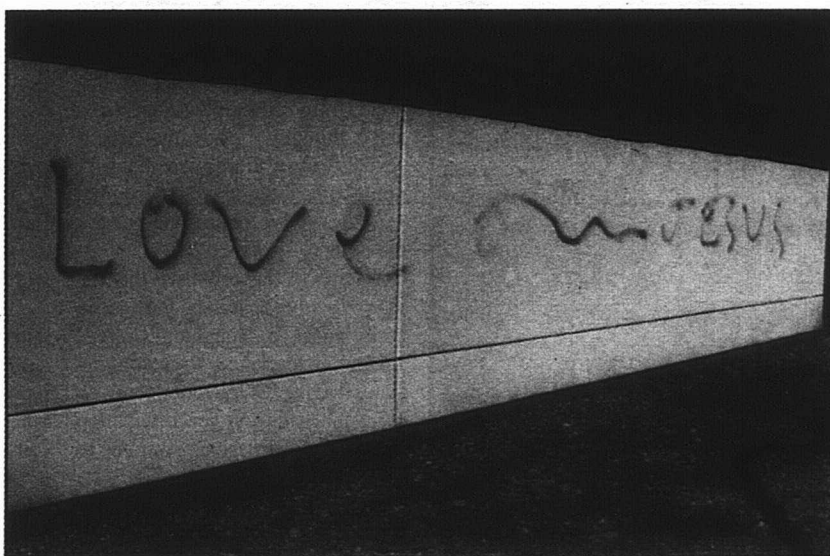


photo by Wesley Dean

Several weeks ago, vandalism was found on the Nielson P.E. Center, bathroom stalls in the Center for Fine Arts, and the basement of Wesley Chapel.

The cost to the campus in repairing this damage is multifold: materials alone cost approximately \$3000, in addition to all the staff time involved in the process. Safety and Security has been involved significantly, and the time taken to fix the damage is another factor to be considered.

The expense itself is a campus

concern, as it is being taken from general institutional funds. Surprised at the high cost involved in the clean-up process, which necessitated "more than just power washing," Hynes hoped that when the culprit, or culprits, realizes the extent to which this affects the college, "maybe someone will come forward." Restoring the

property that was affected has used tuition dollars paid by students, a fact that Hynes hoped will motivate anyone with information to assist in the investigation.

At this point, there are no significant leads in the case. Hynes verbalized that this is "a bit concerning" considering the resulting expense and offensive nature of the crime. There is no general consensus regarding whether the offenders were students at the college or from outside the campus. Investigators have no strong reason to believe in either direction, said Hynes. Anyone with information is encouraged to go to the Student Life office or Safety and Security.

The Fillmore branch of the New York State Police has been involved in the process of discovering the perpetrators, and said that it is "an ongoing investigation." With the investigating officer currently out of the office for an indefinite period of time, the division was unable to give more information than this.

Vandalism cont'd on page 2

SGA Passes Resolution Recommending "Safe Spaces" for LGBTQ Students

by Kristen Palmer

During the Equality Ride visit last month, the SGA had the opportunity to meet with members of Soulforce and participate in a discussion facilitated by Senator Peter Savage, senior. This discussion led the SGA to write a resolution to create a "safe space" for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) people at Houghton.

The resolution was passed March 30 at an SGA meeting and recognizes that "a number

of Houghton students are both directly and indirectly affected by these issues of sexuality." It goes on to say that "students need to be equipped with knowledge of the reasons behind Houghton policy and action, as well as abilities to interact lovingly with people of different convictions," as "the ability to listen respectfully and discuss is an important one for students to develop from their first semester onward."

During the discussion between the SGA and Soulforce, it was acknowledged that Houghton policy

is not going to change any time soon. However, SGA members sought to learn, from Soulforce members, what the SGA could do in order to help facilitate conversations about this issue that are productive, as well as how to make Houghton a place where people struggling with issues of sexuality are not feeling oppressed, according to Clara Sanders, former college senator.

"Members of Soulforce brought up the idea of a safe space, and the idea behind a safe space, whether a physical space, such as the counseling center, or just being in

the presence of certain people, is a space where someone would be able to express any struggles with sexuality without being immediately shut down," said Sanders. "In a place like Houghton where the policy is pretty specific and many people hold the conviction that certain practices of sexuality are wrong, it's hard to feel like there is a possibility for conversation."

After hearing the opinions of Soulforce members, the SGA

Safe Space cont'd on page 2

THE WORLD TOO THERE

by Kristen Palmer and
Monica Sandreczki

Earthquake Bewilders China

An earthquake of 6.9 magnitude struck Jiegu, China, Wednesday, killing almost 600 people and injuring over 10,000 others. A large percent of the dead and missing are students whose boarding schools collapsed. The definite number of deceased students is still unknown. Civilians of Jiegu, a town with a population of approximately 100,000 people, seemed to be bewildered by the events that occurred. The damage is reported to be of significant scale, as the earthquake managed to flatten many homes in the mountainous region. Nearly 1,000 survivors surrounded government buildings in the city in near-freezing temperatures, attempting to stay warm with the blankets they discovered in the rubble. Those who were able, escaped by means of vehicle to the provincial capital of Xining in order to avoid the hubbub of panic that has broken out. Survivors are not focused on escaping the possibility of flooding in case area reservoirs happen to break.

Protests Form Over Burial of Former Polish President

On Wednesday, hundreds of protesters marched in Krakow, Poland to oppose the decision to bury former President Lech Kaczynski in the Wawel cathedral, which is typically only used for Polish kings and heroes. One argument is that the decision to bury him at the cathedral was arrived at hastily and he was an "ordinary" man. One Polish filmmaker said that burying the former president

will "spark protests and could cause the deepest splits in Polish society since 1989." Kaczynski, his wife, and several senior officials died in a plane crash last Saturday. A smaller counter demonstration was also held. Also, protesters carried banners in front of the home of the archbishop of Krakow on Tuesday evening. The funeral is set for Sunday and will have several world leaders in attendance, including President Obama and Russian, French, and German heads of state. Elections for a new president will take place in June.

Obama Signs Letter to Change NASA Space Program

President Obama signed a letter to plan the future of NASA, which includes increasing NASA's budget by \$6 billion. Former astronauts Neil Armstrong, Apollo 11, and Eugene Cernan, Apollo 17, praised the letter, signing it themselves, but some US moon mission commanders and US astronauts have voiced extreme concern, especially with the decision to cancel the Constellation program. They said that it was "devastating" that this program, which is the only low Earth orbit American program, would be abandoned. Instead, the US will now have to be subject to Russian authorities to purchase one of their shuttles until NASA can afford one of their own, as the American space shuttle fleet will retire at the end of 2010. With the cancellation of the Constellation program, NASA layoffs are expected to near 7000. The increase in funds is expected to go to updating the Kennedy Space Center, creating jobs, and, hopefully, travel to Mars.

Hynes added that the college has had more contact with the troopers since the event and that charges will be pressed if the offenders are caught.

Unrelated to the vandalism, progress has been made regarding the car that was driven across the quad. Originally unsure if the events were related, finding the person

who committed this act was part of the investigation. Hynes stated that the individual was discovered and was "very apologetic," but has spoken with Hynes and is being held responsible for the action. The perpetrator described it as "a foolish decision," according to Hynes, but officials are "absolutely sure the person was not involved in the vandalism." ★

Safe Space cont'd from page 1

began to look for ways to address these issues of sexual orientation in the context of what it means to be a Houghton College student, according to Zachary Adams, president of the SGA. SGA members began to explore ways to incorporate conversations surrounding sexuality into Student Life programming, because they believe they are pertinent issues for the college to deal with.

"Here at Houghton, we have the luxury of exploring issues and how they intersect with our faith, and to not do that is kind of a rejection of what it means to be a student at a Christian liberal arts college," said Adams. "We need to be able to be comfortable with looking at this issue from different perspectives and thinking critically about sexuality in an atmosphere that isn't going to be judging what our initial reactions and responses might be to the issue of sexuality."

The SGA has proposed that the idea of a "safe space" be introduced early on in a Houghton College student's experience. The resolution states that the "SGA recommends an inclusion in the first-year orientation program of discussion pertaining to issues of sexuality on campus."

"We would like to see this integrated into the curriculum, so the idea of being a part of the first-

year orientation was suggested," said Sanders. "We would talk about how to talk about sensitive subjects like this at curricular levels, letting first-year students know about the safe places to talk."

To document its hopes for this to happen, the SGA wrote up the resolution, which stands as an invitation to student life and student programming to begin to discuss how to incorporate talking about issues of sexuality and how they relate to us as students at Houghton, according to Adams.

"The SGA decided that we should have a formal, written response to our conversation with the Equality Riders," said Caitlin Cleland, college senator. "The intention behind the resolution is to have a written document summarizing the conversation we had with the riders and our reactions afterward."

The SGA is hoping that Houghton will respond positively to the resolution and jump on board with the ideas it presents.

"I hope it's affirming to them [Houghton students] that we're doing our jobs as the elected representatives and holding each other accountable to continuing conversations that are relevant to the student body," said Adams, "not only amongst ourselves as students, but with the faculty, staff, and administration, as well." ★

Earth Week 2010 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS April 19-24

Monday

4:30-6:30 p.m. Activities Fair--VanDyke Lounge

Wednesday

10:15-10:55 a.m. Chapel--Dr. Steven Bouma-Prediger

10:55-11:30 a.m. Dr. Bouma-Prediger Book Signing
Chapel Foyer

11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Lunch--Lennox Dining Room
Public Discussion with Dr. Bouma-Prediger

6:30-7:45 p.m. Panel Discussion--Schaller Hall
"What does serving God have to do with saving the planet?"

Thursday

4:00-6:00 p.m. Ropes Course

Friday

9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Clothing Swap
Bring gently used clothes and find something new!

Saturday

9:00-11:00 a.m. Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Day

10:00 a.m.-Noon Campus Clean Up Walk
Pre-registration is required at the Activity Fair,
Monday and is limited to the first 20 people

4:30-5:30 p.m. Outdoor worship service

Using Alternative Fuel

Science Honors: Start Your Engines!

by Jocelyn Matuszkiewicz

First-year science students are preparing to race their alternative energy go-karts at the end of April. They will be testing what they have learned in the inaugural year of Houghton's Science Honors program. 21 students were chosen to be a part of Houghton College's research and experimentation with alternative fuels, bringing real life issues to the lab.

The one-of-a-kind program is designed to connect the classroom with the world. The students in the Honors program are to manipulate four different alternative fuel types to power a go-kart for chosen faculty members of the Houghton community. Professor Mark Yuly, director of the Science Honors Program and chairman of the physics department, determined that ethanol, hydrogen fuel cell, solar-electric, and biodiesel are among the most practical and reasonable sources to try, as well as the most popular. By modifying these different sources to operate with a motor, the students have until later this month to "maximize range, acceleration, top speed, and comfort while minimizing overall cost and negative effects" of the go-karts they will be powering, as explained on the Science Honors homepage.

This concentration on energy

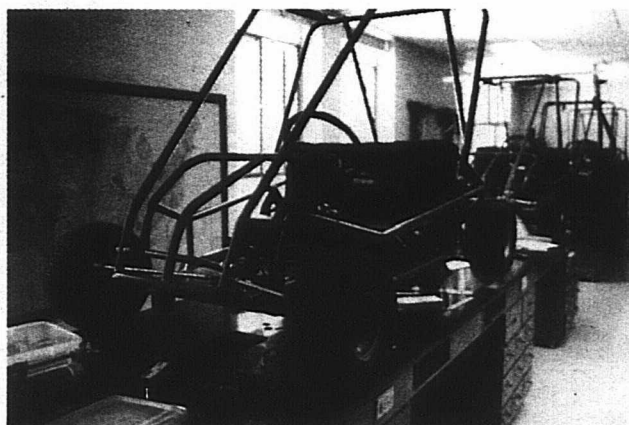


photo by Wesley Dean

sources and fuel systems is the first of its kind among liberal arts colleges. Students are doing their research for the scientific engagement of alternative fuel sources, putting aside their ethical and personal views about the subject. They are taught with an interdisciplinary approach involving biology, physics, and chemistry along with communication and writing. One essential part of the program is that students must be able to articulate the findings in their research and testing.

The students are more than glad to be a part of this. Ruth Young, biology major, expressed that she chose to attend Houghton College because this opportunity is not available at other

colleges. Other student participants agreed. Yuly added, "Everything is unique about this." He likened it to a hands-on program at an engineering school, only more specialized.

Economics also plays a fair role in the project. Just as "cost" and "fuel" efficiency are terms batted around in the automotive market, so they are important terms for the Science Honors students to consider. Working with funding from an Arthur Vining Grant, lab fees, and other Houghton College funding, the students have a \$2500 budget to work with. This will emphasize the delicate scale the motor industry has to deal with, and which the students must be sensitive to.

"It's a feasibility study," explained

Yuly. "It's figuring out what we can do with what we have keeping in mind the 'customer'" —in this case faculty members at Houghton College. One of the students commented that if even half of the automotive industry were to convert to a new source of energy it would greatly help. Instead, "awareness about oil is low; people don't understand the gravity of the situation," stated Nick Fuller, a physics major involved in the project. He added that people are concerned for a short time when the gas prices go up, but do not have any long-term anxiety about the future of oil. It's a delicate balance, "but new resources have new limitations and new consequences."

Both Yuly and all those involved with the project at Houghton College are very optimistic about the outcome at the end of this month. The honor students will be testing their year-long research in a go-kart race across the quad the last week of April. ★

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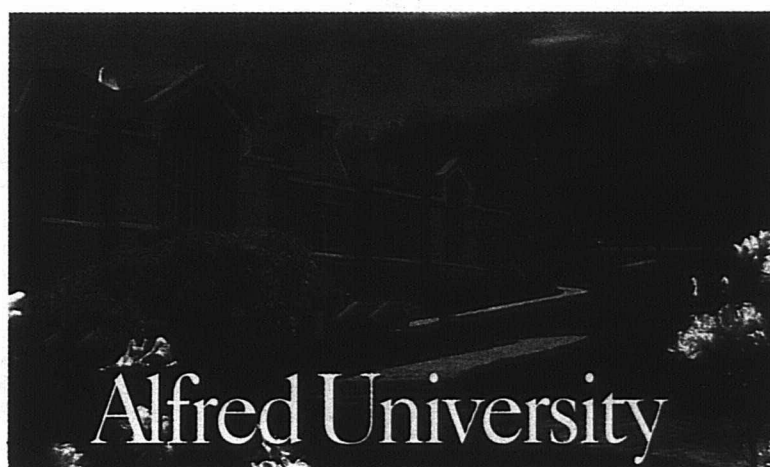
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Century America"

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Wesley Chapel

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Spanish
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College Choir Tours Northeast

by Elisa Shearer

Over Easter break, the Houghton College Choir toured across the Eastern United States and Canada. From April 1-11, the choir performed almost every day of the tour at a wide variety of churches – from a crowded Baptist church next to Central Park in New York City to a small Anglican church in Toronto. The choir also visited Tully High School, singing for an assembly of the middle and high school students there, taught by Houghton alum Christopher Olsen, class of 2009. They performed for the Crane School of Music choirs at SUNY Potsdam, and Professor Brandon Johnson worked with music students there on choral conducting techniques.

The choir also performed a joint concert with the Syracuse University Singers in Hendricks Chapel at SU, which serves as a place of worship for students of many faiths, including Christians, Muslims, Jews, Baha'i, and Buddhists. When performing with and for other choirs, Johnson encouraged a spirit of commonality as opposed to competition.

A typical day on choir tour



Photo courtesy of Houghton College

College choir travelled to New York City, Toronto, and DC over break.

involved waking up early in the morning and riding the bus most of the morning, arriving at the day's concert venue in the early afternoon, rehearsing, making adjustments to the new performance space, eating dinner (usually provided by church members), performing, and going to sleep in the homes of host families late at night.

Christopher Aitken, a second-year graduate student in choral conducting, served as the tour

manager and assistant conductor. Aitken organized the concerts, hotel reservations, homestays, and other travel details for the tour. Aitken also credited Johnson, the choir board, crew leaders, and Chris Herrmann and Kevin Dibble "for doing a lot of behind the scenes work that made all of our lives a lot easier."

The mission of the choir, as stated in the syllabus, is "to glorify God personally and corporately

by upholding and extending a rich tradition of excellence in choral music." "If there is one person in the audience," said Johnson to the choir before performing in Toronto, "we will perform. Everything beyond that is just ego."

Hillary Trumpler, a junior music major, said that she appreciated the devotional time before each concert. "It was good to prepare ourselves spiritually, to be in the right spiritual state of mind to minister to our audience," said Trumpler, "to take the emphasis off of ourselves and focus on the unity of the choir and its mission."

Gretchen Hull, a junior music major, said that she appreciated the emphasis on using music to serve God and others. "The tour for me personally was a time of huge spiritual growth," said Hull. "I learned a lot about who I want to be. Tour made me think a lot about how I want to serve God throughout the rest of my life."

The choir will perform their homecoming concert this Friday, April 16, at 7:30 pm in Wesley Chapel. ★

Art Department to Philagrafika for Printmaking



Photo by Susanna Addison

Sokso takes seven printmaking students to Philadelphia for conference.

by Colleen Jennings

Professor Jillian Sokso and seven Houghton students spent March 24-27 at the Southern Graphic's Council Conference and Philagrafika in Philadelphia, where they learned about the art of printmaking, attended panel discussions, participated in demonstrations, and made connections with other printmakers.

At least once a year, the Art department takes a trip where students can experience a certain artistic process

and its application in the world outside of Houghton College. Being a member of the Southern Graphic's Council and having attended and participated in the printmaking conferences for the last eight years, Sokso wanted students interested in this art form to have a chance to experience the conference.

At the conference the students were able to interact with professionals and about seven hundred other students, all involved in various forms of printmaking, including etching and silkscreen. The

Houghton students also participated in the Portfolio Exchange. Each created a portfolio of thirteen different prints, which were given to another attendee, in exchange for a portfolio from another artist. They also had the opportunity of partaking in an open portfolio in which they received critiques from others in attendance. This was junior art student Sally Murphy's favorite part because they were able to trade work with other artists and make connections with graduate schools.

One main event involved blocking off a whole street in Philadelphia, making room for a street fair or flea market type exhibition of the various forms of printmaking, including Drive-by Press, a group of artists that travel the country in a van full of printmaking equipment. They travel to various colleges and public schools attempting to "educate and share the contemporary practice of printmaking with students and art audiences across America."

For Susanna Addison, a senior Art major, it was "inspiring to see all the different forms of printmaking because a lot of people are experimenting with it." Many believe that printmaking is a "dying art," but this is quite the contrary – it is a contemporary art form

that is quickly gaining ground in the art community. As there were around 1400 hundred artists at the convention, one can infer that it is a growing movement; as Addison put it, "there is a surge of interest."

The conference was a time of encouragement and inspiration for the Houghton students in attendance. Addison noted that it made them "feel like this is what we're supposed to be doing." According to Murphy it was great to "see what everyone is doing, because Houghton is so isolated."

Sokso and the students who made the trip are planning a Drive-by Press inspired event for April 17, in conjunction with Houghtonpalooza, in which they'll be setting up their equipment on campus with prints they've designed and made themselves. Students and members of the community will be invited to bring shirts and bags, etc. to have their designs printed on them. According to Addison, they are eager to "get people excited about print making." The theme of the Drive-by Press event will be where religious and secular societies meet, but Murphy was quick to reassure that there will be "nothing sacrilegious, but Christian edgy." She also noted that it is "going to be awesome and everyone should come." ★

Review: Frightened Rabbit

by Micah Warf

The band Frightened Rabbit is depressed. And I can't say I blame them. Dealing with mortality, frustrated religion, and even the perennial philosophical quandary of mind/body duality is bound to weigh down even the most steadfast of souls. But the most recent album from this Scottish indie rock/folk quintet, *The Winter of Mixed Drinks*, refuses to deny the beauty of our messed-up existence.

There are several deeply human tracks such as "Living in Color," which speaks of a man so broken that he wishes to "rapidly die, and have my organs laid on ice," so that someone else can inhabit his body, someone who will "treat it right." In this same ballad, the eponymous line appears: "I am weathered by the winter of mixed drinks."

This phrase seems to sum up the album as a whole. Life is a mixed drink – never carefree, but never so bad that we can't make it. The opening track, "Things," moves through phases of disappointment and disillusionment, but builds to a powerful, climactic ending, reassuring us that we can "drop the past...leave it on the floor...and run for dear life through the door."

Musically speaking, the signature style of Frightened Rabbit still shines forth, making use of strong minimalist chord structures and Scott Hutchinson's tremulous, yet unflinching tenor sound, which is the perfect complement to the explorative and emotional lyrics of *Mixed Drinks*. While I was somewhat disappointed that the band's sound hadn't evolved much since their previous album, the highly acclaimed *Midnight Organ Fight*, I can't say that I minded listening to another serving of their unique musicality. And while drastic stylistic leaps aren't apparent, there are signs of a maturing and deepening aesthetic sensitivity, along with more instrumental and rhythmic breadth.

In sum, I found this album to be a very honest project, and an interesting take on the universal struggle with existence. The lyrics neither preach nor sugarcoat, but rather tell stories about places we've all been in life, playing the part of a raconteur who has seen something of the world. Listen to it with an open mind, and expect sympathy, rather than prophecy. Frightened Rabbit isn't in the business of answers, but *Mixed Drinks* asks some of the best questions, and they're willing to have us tag along on their musing journey. ★

Guest Executive Dinner

CATHY REESE '82

Principal Attorney,
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(Results from 130 votes)

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37%

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but let's see where it goes

22%

I know nothing
about it, and
couldn't care less

2%

19%

I'm cautiously supportive of it

21%

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In the March 26th issue of the Houghton Star, Christopher Hartline wrote a painfully over-opinionated review of the fourth annual Houghton Film Festival, which I think needs to be addressed. Let me first begin by saying that I do not feel his opinion was unnecessary, but rather should have been edited in a manner that reflected his lack of understanding concerning the film festival. Either that or the review should have been re-titled, "Why I Hated Alex and Broc's video: Nate Cronk Should Have Won."

Now, my understanding has always been that the film festival is a way for students who enjoy the process of film making, to share their ideas and interests with the rest of the student body, who in turn get to enjoy the event as a night of entertainment. If you ask me, that was without a doubt accomplished. While the videos submitted this year may not have exhibited the level of "depth and efficacy" that Mr. Hartline feels we deserved, the crowd response that night was enough to convince me that most felt satisfied.

In this review, Hartline not only expressed a complete disregard for the crowd's response, but he even went so far as to insult the judging. The panel of judges for this year's film festival included Ted Murphy (Professor of Art), Dave Huth (Professor of Visual Communication and Media Arts), Doug Gaerte (Professor of Communication), and a number of students who have taken Professor Murphy's film class and have a serious interest in this particular media. I personally find it laughable that a Sophomore student's review would accuse such a group of "unimaginative judging", and being part of "an embarrassing popularity contest."

Any artist knows that when you submit a work at a competitive level, big or small, it will be subjected to criticism, and possibly even overlooked. The artist should therefore act accordingly and not EXPECT anything. Just because something is good does not make everything else terrible! In the end it's just a simple matter of tallying up the points.

-Jon McKinley, Class of 2010

Dear Editor,

In response to Christopher Hartline's film festival review, I'd like to make some important clarifications concerning the Film Festival: its nature, purpose and direction. I have been working with the festival for the past four years and have witnessed its extensive and creative evolution. Put simply, I consider any review like his to be but a natural and important component of shaping the festival's future. I would, however, like to address a few of Hartline's misguided conceptions concerning the issues he's addressed, including the judging and film content.

It was surprising to me, given the young nature of the festival, that it is already expected to meet the standard of what is "at the core" of Sundance. I feel that most festivals, including this one, were created to celebrate and appreciate film, not just to entertain. I hope the comment Hartline made concerning the nature of the films would be something that would inspire students to make good work and share it with others, but I also hope it doesn't make student's feel the need to conform to a standard of "entertainment value" in their submissions.

Concerning the comments that were made about the nature of the festival's judging: First, the judges were made up of a group of experienced faculty and students that reviewed each film independently of the others. In essence, each film received careful critique and review in and of itself. The judges do not rate the films on a scale next to each other, but spend extensive time scoring the film based on individual criteria that was created by other experienced faculty members. The judges were chosen based on their expertise, not upon any of the social intricacies of Houghton. The Festival team was proud to have such a group as we had to be involved in judging the films this year.

My satisfaction for this year's festival remains sound. The Film Festival team is so appreciative for all of the hard work the directors put into making their films to share with the student body, and I hope most people walked away

from the festival feeling proud of their fellow students. We should take pride in the ability our peers have to showcase their work, and if students are dissatisfied with the film quality I encourage them to submit their own films next year.

-Jessica Stoddard, Class of 2010

Dear Editor,

The people who organized the Islam conference did an excellent job explaining the fundamental components of Islam, and the conference was extremely informative. Furthermore, it is incumbent to thank Houghton College for offering courses on Islam. Among the many things that were discussed was ways to share our religion with Muslims and understand their religion. This is crucial because Western thinking divaricates sharply from Islam. Secondly, the concept of jihad is somewhat misunderstood by Westerners, and it was important to clarify this.

The concoction about Islam as a peaceful religion has acceptance in the West, but such promulgations

are inconsistent with the continuity of violence in Islam throughout its history. People use the boundary between racialism and criticism as a way to repress critics of Islam; there is this fear of appearing as a bigot. Furthermore, people are intimidated by the bestial reactions of some Muslims to criticism. The cartoonist who caused upheaval over a drawing of Mohammed with a bomb in his turban was a perfect example; his cartoon reflected knowledge of Islam, and Westerners who read about Mohammed, etc. cannot imagine him as a proponent of synchronism, and this image of him encapsulated Islam. Furthermore, the truculence that characterized the reactions of Muslims gave this cartoon more importance than it merited. There was another incident like this with Theo van Gogh. He made a film about Islamic misogyny, and he was murdered by an Islamist. These events only reinforce the Western perception that has been associated with Islam through fourteen centuries. The "lesser jihad" may be opposed by orthodox Muslims, but the human rights violations in

Letter Cont'd on Pg 7

The Gettysburg Address was 272 words...

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.

We want our readers to be an integral part of the conversation.

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Letters to the editor (signed) should be 350 words or fewer and be submitted to STAR@houghton.edu. If letters to the editor don't appeal to you, register at www.houghtonstar.com and comment on our articles online.

From the Editor's Desk...

On the Importance and Limitations of Institutional Memory

by Joel VanderWeele

Graduations are always bittersweet. This is especially true for leaders of student organizations who have dedicated much of their college time to one of the many student organizations working to improve this campus and community. Many graduating student leaders will undoubtedly welcome graduation with welcome arms, happy to be released from the responsibility that comes with leading a student organization. No more late night meetings, no more chastising friends about shirking their responsibilities, and no more navigating the awkward and confusing territory between your role as a leader and boss and your role as a student and friend. When I graduate in less than a month (gulp), I will be happy to leave these things behind.

But there are also many things about serving as Editor-in-Chief that I will miss. The Friday morning distribution of *The Houghton Star* has become one of my favorite times of the week, and after graduation I will never again have the pleasure of handing out newspapers to my friends and fellow students. Nor will I have the opportunity to utilize the knowledge that I've

accumulated over the last three years that ensures that Friday distribution goes well.

With a few modifications here and there, I'm sure this situation describes a wide variety of leadership positions, from Lanthorn and CAB to FYI and Residence Life. Student leaders spend much of their time accumulating knowledge about their specific organization, and when they graduate, they never use that information again.

Sort of depressing to think about, really.

But the knowledge and experience that graduating student leaders have

accumulated need not be irrelevant. It need not be cast aside like old MMM notebooks. Instead, student leaders should do their best to preserve their wisdom by passing it on their unique set of skills to their successors who will take the reigns at the beginning of next school year. Otherwise, as a Houghton professor once said of teaching, "ignorance is refreshed at the beginning of each year, and we need to start at square one all over again."

Student leaders should work to

insure that their memories are not just personal and fleeting, but institutional and enduring. Institutional memory is crucial for student organizations to sustain their success, and it requires the ongoing transmissions of facts, experiences and know-how to the next generation of student leaders.

But institutional memory can

also be tricky. Assumptions, expectations, and prejudices get passed down more easily than practical know-how, and although these things most often have a positive effect, they can also do a good deal of harm, especially when their source has been forgotten.

An expectation of mediocrity is one of the most common setbacks facing student organizations, and is also one of the hardest hurdles to overcome.

In his book "How Buildings Learn: What Happens After They're Built," Stewart Brand writes, "Fashion changes quickly, commerce less quickly, infrastructure slower than that, then governance, then culture, and the slowest is nature. The fast parts learn, propose and absorb shocks; the slow parts remember, integrate, and constrain. The fast

parts get all the attention. The slow parts have all the power."

Without guidance from those students who have gone before them, tomorrow's student leaders are doomed to be merely fashionable, getting lots of attention and affecting little change. Particularly enthusiastic students may produce an unusually successful year, but like a fad, that one year will have little to no affect on subsequent years unless their expertise is passed down and ultimately improved upon by the next in line.

Because every year brings with it a new class of students, it also brings a new spring of enthusiasm. This new-student energy is a resource that should never be overlooked. But when it comes to student organizations, this enthusiasm is wasted on attempts to build something from the ground up, ignoring what has come before. By learning from the predecessors, however, tomorrow's student leaders can add memory, integration, and constraint to their inherent ability to learn, propose, and absorb shocks.

Joel is a senior Philosophy and Mathematics major and is the Editor-in-Chief

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The Houghton Star was recently awarded 1st place for Editorial Writing at a 4-year College/University by the Society of Professional Journalists - Thank you for your continued support!

Letter cont'd from Pg 6

countries where Islam is the major religion remains vexing.

In America, Islam has a formidable population, and it is important to be aware that some Islamic organizations secretly give money to terrorist organizations. Many of these groups have obtained a perception as charities this allows them to circumvent scrutiny. Some organizations like the Islamic Society of North America are using Saudi money to spread Wahhabism. The FBI uncovered a document that explained Islam's "plan" for North America, and their goal is to put America under the Sharia (Islamic law). Americans must be aware of this activity within our nation to protect our treasured freedoms that are nonexistent under the Sharia.

More information is available in three sources: the books *Infiltration* and *Muslim Mafia*, and the movie *The Third Jihad*.

- William Evans, Class of 2013

Dear Editor,

Volume 106, Issue 22 was the best edition of the Houghton Star EVER!! Well-done.

-J. Michael Walters, Professor of Christian Ministries

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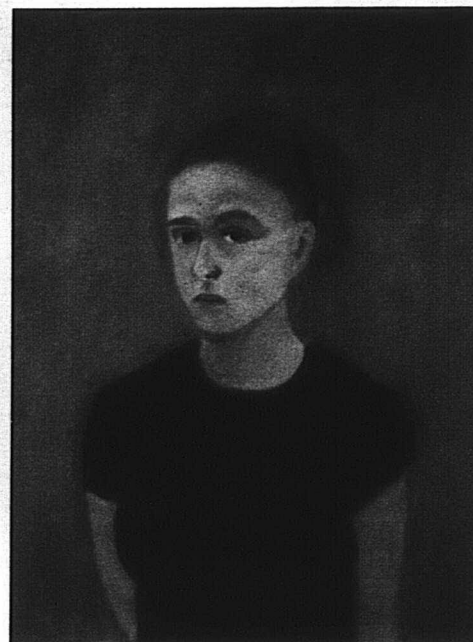
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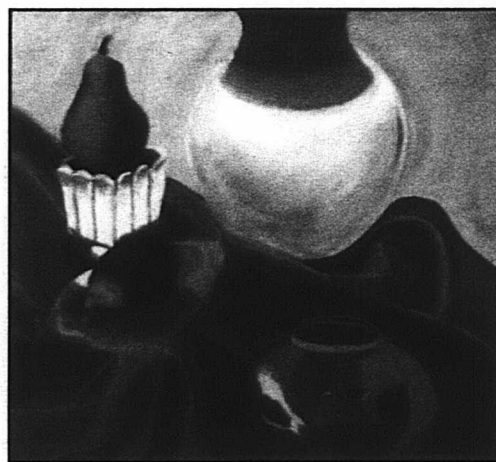
REBEKAH MILLER



Untitled, Oil

A note from the Artist:

I've spent a couple of years interested in art history but this is my first year actually painting. There's definitely been a learning curve, but I appreciate the techniques and intricacies of painting now more than I did before.



Purple Pear, Oil

artist OF THE WEEK

THIS SUDOKU IS
EASY

Prize: Leroy Townes and the Lonestars' album!

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

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

THIS SUDOKU IS
KIND OF HARD

Congratulations,
Tommy Munro
winner of last
week's sudoku!

The Star will only accept one puzzle per student per semester.

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

sudoku CHALLENGE