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THE HOUGHTON STAR

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Church Leaders Make Plea for Change at "Jesus, Justice, and the Church" Conference

BY REBEKAH HALL

This past Monday, the College hosted the conference "Jesus, Justice and the Church." The four guest speakers, Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Church; Dr. David Neff, editor in chief of Christianity Today; Rev. Gabriel Salguero, director of the Hispanic Leadership Program at Princeton Theological Seminary's Center of Continuing Education; and Bishop Gregory Parris, senior pastor of Church of Love Faith Center in Rochester, presented on the role of the Church in addressing issues of social justice and poverty. All four speakers hold impressive credentials as well as a passion for social justice. Before being elected as General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Church in 2008, Lyon founded World Hope International Inc. Neff, aside from his role as editor of *Christianity Today*, is an author and lecturer. Salguero is the pastor of Lamb's Church in New York City, as well as a board member of Evangelicals for Social Action. Parris, aside from his role as pastor, serves on Reconciliation Ministries International's board of directors.

Though Houghton students were welcome to attend the conference free of charge, the conference's target audience was church leaders and members seeking to involve themselves and their congregations in issues of social justice. According to the speakers, addressing

such issues is integral to the Christian faith, and throughout the day, they emphasized God's call to remedy injustice and poverty. In the opening session, Lyon noted that, though historically important to the Wesleyan Church, the Church has "been asleep"

*"The Church has
'been asleep' to the
need and passion
for reformation
and social justice"*

to the need and passion for reformation and social justice; it is "what God has called us to do...[it is] what God's heart is." Similarly, Neff argued in his talk that the work of Christians for justice has always been a sign that "the Kingdom of God has come." Weaving

together their diverse experiences in social justice work with Biblical passages where God reveals His deep desire for justice, the speakers presented an impressive picture of the importance of social justice work. They gave examples and stories of varying ways this work can be and is being done, giving special attention to the importance of advocacy and speaking on the behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves.

The conference concluded with a panel discussion allowing all four speakers to give tangible examples and advice to the conference attendees on varying topics, from the role of the government to how to reach today's youth. In response to a request for more tangible "next steps" in social justice, the speakers encouraged church leaders to work with existing advocacy and social justice groups, such as Bread for the World. Salguero warned, however, that "uninformed advocacy...[is] dangerous." He also asserted that "there has to be a deep spiritual foundation to this work...this is not activism for activism's sake."

The panel discussion was not immune to the current fever of discussion surrounding Rob Bell's new book, *Love Wins*. The fact that

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Houghton Eliminates Three Academic Programs

BY JOELLA EPPEHIMER

As students have felt the impact of economic decline in growing tuition bills and a weak job market, the economy has left impressions on other areas of college affairs. Specifically, a few changes have occurred within the curriculum over the past two years. Accounting and French, which were once offered as majors, have now been relegated to minors, and the therapeutic recreation concentration associated with the Recreation and Leisure major is in the process of being phased out.

Currently in the last stages of its existence, the elimination of the therapeutic recreation concentration was announced last year. Offered in two-year cycles, the final cycle is presently in its completion and is no longer being offered to incoming students. Professor Andrea Boon, therapeutic recreation, will be employed part-time after this semester, but said that although this specific option is no longer being offered to incoming students, some of the components are being incorporated by the equestrian

concentration. According to trends she has seen in her classes, she estimated that about half of equestrian students are interested in what therapeutic recreation concentration entails. The current number of students in this concentration is about half of those in the other two concentrations of the major. With the revamping of the Equestrian Studies concentration, she believes that this particular area of the program will be strengthened, although if the opportunity to re-introduce the program arises in the future, she would see it as a beneficial move.

The reasoning behind the elimination of this concentration is multifold, including a change in national standards for certification. The National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification has increased the requirement for a 12-week internship to 14 weeks and added an extra course requirement. Whereas under the previous requirements, Houghton students could fulfill the internship in a summer, the addition of two weeks makes it more difficult to complete. Since Houghton is a liberal arts institution, it is not as plausible for students to take an entire

semester to complete an internship and still complete all of their other requirements.

While the emphasis on therapeutic recreation is being shifted to therapeutic horseback riding, Boon said that she would love to see an emphasis on individuals with special needs addressed elsewhere.

"It is rewarding to both individuals doing and receiving therapeutic work," said Boon, listing areas in which therapeutic recreation can be used in hospitals, in conjunction with physical and occupational therapy, communities with youth at risk, and schools with Individual Education Programs (IEPs), among many others.

Along with Accounting, French was dropped to a minor in 2009, although current students who had already declared the major at the time of this announcement are being allowed to complete the major. According to professor Jean-Louis Roederer, French, this has been done through a series of "re-organizing courses, judicious use of independent studies, and overseas study." Although the language department attempted to keep French as a major, its arguments,

said Roederer, "were not acceptable to the administration," that decided there were not enough French majors to warrant having two professors on staff. It was also deemed insufficient to have a major with only one professor, following the departure of former Houghton professor Justin Niati, French.

On the elimination of French as a major at Houghton, Roederer contended that there are definite negative impacts. Many students, he said, have questioned the wisdom of diminishing the language department at an institution that advertises global education and preparation for global ministry. While Spanish is still offered as a major, and minors are possible in French and German, a student wishing to earn a minor in German would have to do the entirety of his or her study overseas. Other negative aspects Roederer observed include a number of students who have since expressed a desire to major in French, and prospective students who have been

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Engaging the World

Teachers Resort to Cheating, Slighting Students



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY KRISTEN PALMER

I remember it well: calling my eighth grade Latin teacher over to my desk. My classmates and I were taking our unit exam, and I was stumped on the last question. All I had to do was point to the question, look confused, and my teacher, who shall remain nameless, fed me the answer. He did so furtively, though. First, he hinted toward the answer, but I was clueless. Then, he attempted to sound out the word, hoping I would catch on. Still clueless. "Puella," he muttered and walked away.

We all did it; we all cheated, and our Latin teacher guided us. It (he) became a joke in the classroom, and a joke in the school. Ironically, the same teacher was fired a few years later for being dishonest about his academic credentials, and unsurprisingly, "puella" is the only Latin word I remember to this day.

We, as students, have been told for all of our academic careers that cheating is wrong, so why do our teachers do it themselves? The pressure is on. My dad, who is a high school principal, has said himself that he oftentimes judges the quality of the teacher based on the performances of his or her students on standardized tests. Instead of kicking their effectiveness up a notch, though, some teachers have decided to take the easy way out.

Teachers and principal at the George Washington Carver Academy in Highland Park, Michigan, to be exact. In 2008, teachers at Carver cheated. According to state investigators, "Plastic-wrapped exams were opened days before the state allowed, so students could be coached.

Teachers gave students hints during the exams in classrooms where interior windows were covered with paper to keep anyone from looking inside. And when students asked questions, teachers showed them how to get the right answer."

When found out, the state of Michigan intervened. Investigators from the Michigan Department of Education interviewed fourth and fifth graders who remarked the test was "pretty easy." Their teacher gave them ideas "for the topic sentence and the ending sentence." One fourth grader commented that her teacher "was trying to help us do our best." At her age, she does not understand that in fact, she was slighted, because her test scores, which determine her next academic steps, do not accurately reflect what she knows.

Carver's 2008 fourth and fifth grade English and Math scores were annihilated. In turn, the elementary school failed to meet federal annual yearly progress performance standards of 2008, and 11 of the 12 teachers involved are no longer employed. The current teachers are

being monitored closely.

All for what? The teachers lost the very jobs they were trying to protect and were dishonest in the process. And what is worse is their failure to appropriately instruct their students.

The education system, fueled by an economic crisis, is forcing the issue of educational reform. Dwindling school budgets and America's slipping status in education, compared to other countries, will force Americans to take a hard look at what is going on, or not going on, in the classroom. Instead of teachers responding to pressure to improve results by cheating, hopefully administrators and teachers will do the hard work of self-examination and answer the question: Why are other countries outperforming America?

Prompting students with correct answers slights everyone involved. It compromises the integrity of the teacher, and it gives students the wrong message, while stifling their opportunities to learn.

The World OUT There

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

U.S. Begins Military Action in Libya

When the coalition of forces, including the United States, United Kingdom, France, and Arab allies, announced the mandated no-fly zone over Libya, it became obvious that the United States could no longer remain neutral. While allied aircraft could shoulder the main responsibility for enforcing the no-fly zone, only American forces had the capability to destroy Moammar Gadhafi's air defenses. Last Saturday, the United States began military action in Libya by launching more than 110 Tomahawk missiles at Gadhafi's anti-aircraft sites and radar detectors. This action was in large part to slow the progress of Gadhafi's forces, which were closing in on the rebel stronghold of Benghazi. But American objectives remain hazy: are we supporting the rebel cause, overthrowing Gadhafi, or merely mandating the no-fly zone? The U.S. government has not outlined these specifics.

Japan Examines Aftermath of Earthquake

Japan continues to struggle with the fallout from the earthquake and tsunami last week as death tolls rise, and the situation at the nuclear power plant worsens. The latest numbers show that more than 8,000 people are dead, and almost 13,000 are reported missing. Other reports have stated that the number missing could be well above 20,000 people. While Japanese authorities and citizens alike continue searching for survivors, other officials continue to deal with the problem at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. While electricity has been restored to the power distributor at the reactor, the reactor is not yet on line. More bad news was released Wednesday, when it was announced that radiation was detected in the tap water of homes in the area surrounding the nuclear plant. The water agency of Tokyo announced that the levels of radiation are unsafe for infants and advised that it not be given to them or used to make formula.

Donald Trump to Run For U.S. President?

The latest poll of likely Republican voters includes the usual cast of Republican characters. Mike Huckabee and Mitt Romney remain almost tied atop the race with 19% and 18% respectively. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich remains in third place with 14%, and former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin is fourth with 12%. While these first four candidates are no surprise, the fifth most popular Republican candidate among likely Republican candidates may surprise some people: the Donald. That's right, Donald Trump, who has been rumored to be considering a presidential run, received 10% of the vote in a CNN/Opinion Research survey. These numbers come after Trump announced that he will be travelling to Iowa in June to headline a major GOP dinner. The Iowa Caucuses are the first of the Republican primaries and can make or break a candidate. Trump's visit to Iowa is a sign that this may be a serious campaign for the Donald.

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the book is not overtly about social justice issues did not prevent one of the audience members from asking the panelists' opinions of the book. Though asserting that he "refuse[d]" to comment on anything I haven't read," Salguero did call attention to the fact that the discussion seems to be limited to a "white, upper-class" sphere. While participants in this conversation argue over whether there is "a heaven or hell, I'm arguing whether or not my community can eat." The panelists attempted to put the discussion in perspective; white, middle-class Christians may devote their time attempting to refute or support Bell's book, but meanwhile millions of lives are at risk, due to injustices around the world. As Lyon poignantly stated, "the time and energy we have lost in this debate... could be invested in the gospel." The conference served to challenge and encourage Christians in God's call to "let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream" (Amos 5:24). ★

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disappointed in their inquiries into Houghton because of the lack of a French major.

While Houghton at one time offered majors in Classics, German, Spanish, and French, only one major remains in the department. Roederer expressed on behalf of the Foreign Language Department the desire to see the addition of other languages at Houghton without further subtraction. ★



How Far Have We Come Since Soulforce?

BY MONICA SANDRECZKI

One year ago, March 9, 2010, the Soulforce Q Equality Ride stopped at Houghton. The director of the 2010 Equality Ride said last year that the goal was to "discuss and build relationships with people we might not normally get to... we don't expect that one visit will make the school change its policy [on homosexual behavior]. We may not always agree. We might not change each others' minds...but we can continue growth on Houghton's campus."

"I don't think that asking if the campus has changed [since the Equality Ride visit] is the right way to think about it, but how did our community respond," said Zach Adams, who was president of the SGA during the Soulforce Q Equality Ride visit.

Soulforce is a non-violent, interfaith organization that seeks religious freedom for LGBTQ people. According to the mission statement, "Soulforce, guided by the spirit of truth and empowered by the principles of relentless nonviolent resistance, works to end the religious and political oppression of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning people."

"Our mission is simple. We aim to visit the hundreds of schools in the United States that openly discriminate against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer individuals and their Allies (LGBTQA) through their policies and practices," according to Soulforce.org.

Since the Houghton Student Guide indicates "homosexual practices" as being inappropriate for "members of the Houghton College community," Houghton's policy was an example of one that Soulforce believed is discriminatory to LGBTQ.

One of the Equality Riders indicated that a long-term goal would be to create a "safe space" on campus, a concept that was considered by the 2009-2010 SGA, that passed a resolution recommending "an inclusion in the first-year orientation program of discussion pertaining to issues of sexuality on campus."

However, Sharra Hynes, Vice President of Student Life, disagreed with the recommendation, indicating that "designating some spaces as 'safe' on the campus would only serve to send the message that other parts of the campus are not safe."

"The notion of 'safe places' was also discussed with the Student Life Council and the consensus was that our overall efforts needed to be directed to make our entire campus a 'safe place.' So we, [Jacob's Well] abandoned that idea and chose not to place energies into designating specific safe places, since it was believed this would have the unintended effect of perceiving places *not* designated as such to be 'unsafe.' This is not the direction we wanted to pursue; we wanted to put efforts instead into 'elevating the dialogue' on our own campus to allow for a diverse discussion related to same sex attraction and behavior," said Mike Lastoria, Director of Counseling Services and member of Jacob's Well. Jacob's Well is a group of staff, students, and faculty that discuss issues of sexuality in a more educational context, utilizing forums, panel discussions, brochures, etc.

This past fall, Andrew Marin, of the Marin Foundation, a self-described organization that "works to build a bridge between the religious LGBT communities in a non-threatening, research and biblically oriented fashion," advocated for instating "creative tension groups."

According to Rob Martin, sophomore and member of Jacob's Well, who invited Marin to campus after meeting him at Urbana 2009, there is a distinct difference between safe spaces and creative tension groups (CTGs). Safe spaces are places where someone "with this sort of struggle can go without being judged, and we have a place like this. It's the counseling center." On the other hand, creative tension groups involve "bringing together people from all different sides" of an issue and focuses on "understanding where other people come from."

"Safe spaces need to come first and, of the two, would be more helpful for homosexuals on campus. Safe spaces would be a place to be open and honest and not be judged, not having to hear people constantly offering a defense for their conservative position," said Adam Rinehart, junior.

Another difference is that CTGs are student led. "We want it student led and student run" with professionals and experts providing initial information upon which students "can give opinions without being judged or having any negative consequences whatsoever," said Martin.

"It was decided [by Jacob's Well], in consultation with SLC and SGA to focus on 'creative tension' groups and specifically to make these groups *student directed* rather than administratively directed," said Lastoria.

"If it is completely student led, then most gay and lesbian students might not feel comfortable in that tension, because it'll be an incredibly one-sided sort of thing," said Rinehart. "There are so few gay and lesbian students at Houghton," he added, "it'll probably turn into, not gay-bashing, but a majority of people who think they're in the right who are being nice to the people in the wrong."

But, thus far, no creative tension groups have been formed.

"Andrew Marin asked me to be the one to start creative tension groups, and I took that mission to Jacob's Well," said Martin. He added that, logistically, they have not been able to come to a conclusion "with a real plan for creative tension groups."

"Robert Martin was taking the lead on [the creative tension groups] last semester. However, Robert found it difficult to find enough students to get traction for this project, and to date, he is still looking for interested students to help him with this project. He is currently planning to continue this effort into the fall semester," said Lastoria.

Martin said that the CTGs are still in the planning phase, but that he met with Hynes at the beginning of February, and that "from our talks, she does like the idea of encouraging discussion."

He added, "so many things need to be figured out."

"At a Christian school, I feel like there aren't as many varied opinions that would make a group like this beneficial and I feel that that'll be our biggest caveat with this group," said Martin. "I really hope that people can prove me wrong with that, and when we do put it into motion that we do see a lot of opinions."

"I don't think the creative tension groups would achieve exactly what Andrew Marin thought it would. It wouldn't meet the need of students who are struggling with being a Christian and being homosexual and being on a Christian campus," said Rinehart. "There's voices coming at them saying they should change. Maybe they've tried it and it didn't work. It can be a depressing place, a confusing place." ★

Ron Mahurin, Academic Dean, Announces Resignation

On Thursday March 17, I announced in the faculty meeting that I had recently submitted my letter of resignation to President Mullen, effective May 31, 2011. The president has very reluctantly accepted my resignation.

While this was a difficult decision, it comes after an extended time of prayer, reflection, and consideration. This decision is not the result of external pressure of any kind. Rather, this decision is focused on my understanding (and confirmed by those who know me best) about my own gifts and abilities, as well as continuing discussions among the faculty, board, and administration about what is needed in the role of the Academic Dean at Houghton for the future.

I will leave Houghton College knowing that I committed my very best effort to the work to which I was called. We achieved some very important goals over these last three years. I continue to have the strongest support for and belief in the mission and vision for Houghton and pray God's richest blessing on each person who has come to study, learn, teach, and serve in this special place.

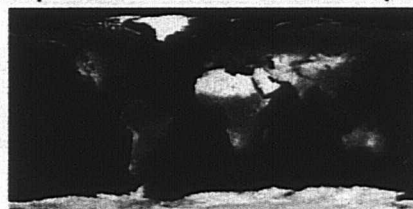
Ronald P. Mahurin
VPAA & Dean of the College

I am very grateful to Dean Mahurin for his time here and for his contributions to both the Dean's office and the College. We take our responsibility seriously to make sure the community continues to move forward in the days ahead. Dr. Linda Mills Woolsey has accepted our invitation to return to the Dean's office to serve as the interim Dean of the College, beginning July 1. We will begin the search process for a new Vice President for Academic Affairs in the fall of 2011.

Shirley A. Mullen
President of the College

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The Circle of Peace School, Kampala, Uganda



Joanita Senoga, Director

Coffeehouse
Saturday, April 2, 2011
JAVA 101
10:00-12:00 a.m.

Meet Joanita and hear about her work in establishing this school for orphans and children in Kampala, Uganda.

Handmade crafts to help support the school will be on sale.

Read more about Circle of Peace School at <http://www.givology.org/~cocpschool/>



Photo courtesy of ranchitup.wordpress.com

A Classic '60s Western:

The Appeal of "The Sundance Kid"



Photo courtesy of readersrespite.blogspot.com

BY CHRIS WINKENS

After all of the drama and seriousness surrounding the Oscars during the last few months, it might be a good time to think about escaping from cinematic modernity by watching an old Hollywood classic. In that regard, one of the best films to escape to is the 1969 western, "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid." This is one of those rare, democratic films that appeal to so many different cinematic types. It is generally regarded as a "guy's film" by its implicit nature as a western, but due to its pair of leading men, Paul Newman and Robert Redford, there is definitely a draw to the female audience. But aside from what are normally seen as silly stereotypes, the film itself is superb in both its acting and content, and from start to finish is a non-stop masterpiece.

The story begins in 1890's Wyoming with Butch Cassidy (Newman) and his famous Hole-in-the-Wall Gang, which includes the stoic and faithful Sundance Kid (Redford) plotting their next robbery. Convinced by the gang to rob a train instead of the typical bank, they set off to hold up the next train of the Union Pacific Railroad, but unbeknownst to them, the president of the Union Pacific has hired a band of the best mercenaries in the country to stop them. From there, the chase begins, as Butch and Sundance set off across the Old West and beyond, eluding the posse and enduring each other's company.

One of the many aspects of the film that elevate it above its simplistic plot is its use of sounds, which is most evident in the first lengthy chase scene. Butch and Sundance ride over all kinds of terrain with no accompanying soundtrack and very little dialogue and all that can be heard are the sounds that nature provides,

whether it is running water or hoof beats along the ground. In between the long periods of near silence are the brief conversations between the two outlaws, whose deliverance of the minimal lines, with such affability and deadpan humor, is worth the wait. Appropriately, the film won Oscars for Best Original Score and Best Song, "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on my Head", which, oddly enough, is now most recognizable as classic elevator music.

In addition to sound, the film also utilizes the variations of color superbly, alternating from black and white to color to an antique yellow tint with masterful precision. One of the first examples of this is in the opening scene, shot in black and white, which consists of Butch inside a bank while it is being closed up for the night. The guards are setting all of the locks and shutting out every beam of light one at a time by closing all of the windows and the doors. The beauty of the black and white cinematography is evident here as little by little the white sun-lit bank is engulfed in the black darkness and all that is left are the shadowy figures of the guard and Butch, who is contemplating all of the modern updates to the bank. Butch asks the guard, "What happened to the old bank? It was beautiful", to which the guard replies, "People kept robbing it." After a moment's contemplation, Butch responds with humorous disappointment, "That's a small price to pay for beauty."

On top of the sound, color and beautiful cinematography, what really catapults "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" into greatness is the chemistry and dialogue of Newman and Redford. Their love/hate relationship is played to perfection with a bond that set the standard for the buddy film genre. In one of the most popular "buddy films" of recent years, Shanghai Noon, Owen Wilson and Jackie Chan pay homage to Butch Cassidy by imitating the climactic final scene of the two outlaws trapped inside an empty building while an entire army waits outside for a final showdown. The Shanghai Noon version is funnier, but the original is forever etched in cinematic immortality.

So if you would like to see what is arguably the greatest film of all time, check out "Butch Cassidy and Sundance Kid" from the college library. You won't regret it. ★

Albright's Stunning Performance

BY OLIVIA BUTZ

Houghton faculty, staff, and students received an e-mail Friday, March 18, indicating that the much-awaited violinist Caroline Gould had fallen ill shortly before her intended performance at Houghton College's final artist series of the academic year on Saturday, March 19. In her place, her management group Young Concert Artists arranged to have pianist Charlie Albright flown in to Houghton to perform in her stead. He performed with such excellence and expression that he received a triple encore from the audience present for the concert.

Senior Bryan Overland noted how remarkably successful Albright appeared as a student and as a performer: "Two hours of memorized music, three encores, multiple plane rides to get here, jet lag, and little sleep, and Albright still blew everyone away." Naomi Woolsey, recent Houghton graduate, agreed, saying that she "was most impressed by his humble, easy-going attitude and his gracious willingness to come here on such short notice, give an outstanding concert, and then agree to play three demanding encores."

At 22 years of age, he is a senior at Harvard University, studying economics and pre-med, and is simultaneously a student in piano performance at the New England Conservatory. The New York Times has offered the following commendations of his talent, noting his "virtuosity meshed with a distinctive musicality throughout" and his "jaw-dropping technique." In addition, the Washington Post has dubbed him as "among the most gifted musicians of his generation." (Sources taken from the official website of Charlie Albright.) The program he presented followed the pieces selected to be included on his debut recording as a piano soloist, "Vivace".

As we had no programs given the abruptness and shortness of notice of the switch in performers, Albright announced his program from the on-stage microphone. He opened the program with the Janáček Sonata I.X.1905 (From The Street). Nolan Miller, senior piano performance major, "found his opening

piece to be the most impressive, as in it he demonstrated the widest range of sounds and articulations found in anything he played." He then moved on to Haydn's Sonata in E-Flat Major. Miller affirmed, "his Haydn possessed remarkable evenness and clarity, and a pleasantly rich sound." To close out the first half of the concert, he performed a Tocatta from a "Theme from 'The Old Maid and the Thief'" by the primarily operatic composer Gian Carlo Menotti. Following the intermission, Mr. Albright performed a stunning rendition of Chopin's Twelve Etudes from Op. 25. Some of the "names" of the études included the Aeolian Harp etude, the Winter Wind etude, the Cello etude, the Octave etude, and the Ocean etude. Albright performed for his three encores: Liszt's "La Campanella", the Schumann-Liszt "Widmung", and a Scriabin etude.

Miller gave his overall judgment that "the concert was simply stunning; positively mindblowing," saying Albright "possessed an abundance of every attribute required to be a successful pianist from a technical standpoint, as well as a depth of expression and sincerity extremely unusual in musicians of his age." He noted the particularly impressive amount of endurance needed to perform such a challenging program, and was astonished at his ability to give, and give well, his three encore pieces. Freshman Benjamin Hardy offered similar commendations for Albright's skill.

"For a student, he is very good and he has a very bright future ahead of him. Obviously, he is not perfect but for his age and experience level, I was thoroughly impressed." Albright entranced listeners as he leaned into and out of the keys in expressions of delight and pointed concentration. Senior Deborah Johnson perhaps summed up the response of the audience best when she observed, "While I'm at Artist Series concerts, there's always a part of me that wishes I could channel beauty like that, that I had just a fraction of the artist's talent. There's another part of me, though—especially at concerts like this one—that is content to just sit there, soak it in, and be incredibly grateful that God gave us music." ★

Restaurant Review: Ace's

BY BRITTANY MCGILLICK

Although its name and plywood entrance may lead people to assume it's a secret underground card club where solitaire roams true, Ace's is actually a family restaurant. Located in Belfast (take a right out of Houghton, and drive for about fifteen minutes), Ace's Country Cupboard will satisfy your insatiable craving for home-cooked meals while simultaneously reminding you of Luke's Diner from "Gilmore Girls" with its small town atmosphere—only without the backwards baseball cap.

Owners Jim and Carol Ace always wanted to have a small place where they could get a burger or ice cream without having to commute a long distance. As stated on the front of the menu, on "a

drive into town to pick up the newspaper" the two of them spotted the building that would soon be Ace's. The old feed mill turned furniture store was finally converted into a restaurant in 1977. Ever since then, they have kept true to the title of "family restaurant," making sure their children, and now grandchildren, have all had a chance to work there.

When you first walk through the door, feel free to sit anywhere you want, provided there's not a chalkboard sign that says otherwise. The main room is filled with teapots of various shapes and sizes, from all regions of the world, lining the walls on shelves. If you bring your friends, you'll find that the silverware at your place setting doesn't match the

Ace's cont'd on page 5

Two-Part Book Review:

"Known and Unknown": Donald Rumsfeld's Recollections

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

Besides George H.W. Bush, who served in many positions in the federal government before becoming president, no other figure in the last 50 years of American politics and government has experienced more than Donald Rumsfeld. During his 50 years of public service, Rumsfeld was a member of the House of Representatives from Illinois, Advisor to President Nixon, Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, U.S. Ambassador to NATO, White House Chief of Staff, the youngest Secretary of Defense in American history under President Ford, a private sector CEO, U.S. Envoy to the Middle East, member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and the oldest Secretary of Defense in American history under President George W. Bush.

Rumsfeld's new memoir, "Known and Unknown", provides an unprecedented glimpse into the inner-workings of American public policy for the last 50 years, especially as it relates to the Middle East. One theme that becomes clear throughout the book is that actions, especially those the United States has taken in the Middle East, have consequences. Rumsfeld is in the unique position of being able to map the process of U.S. relations with Middle Eastern nations because he's been part of the entire process. For example, Rumsfeld served as U.S. Envoy to the Middle East under President Reagan and was stationed in Beirut, Lebanon. After violence continued in that country, U.S. troops were attacked, and public pressure mounted, Reagan ordered that American troops leave the country. Rumsfeld organized the transition; meanwhile, a young Saudi millionaire witnessed the American withdrawal, which he saw as the weak actions of a feckless nation, and began preparing anti-American propaganda. His name: Osama bin Laden.

Unlike President Bush's memoir "Decision Points", however, Rumsfeld takes this opportunity to respond to his critics and present himself as the voice of reason in an often cluttered bureaucracy of opinions. While no one can fault the much-maligned Defense Secretary for such a defense, he does so at the expense

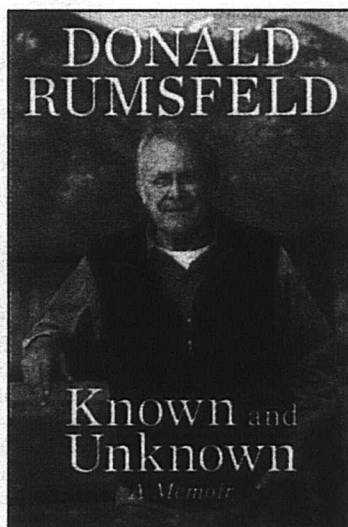


Photo courtesy thegreatamericandisconnect.blogspot.com

of almost everyone he worked with during the Bush Administration. Loyalty does not seem to be one of Rumsfeld's priorities.

He spends much of his early discussion of the Bush Administration placing blame for bad intelligence, bad planning and sometime inept dealings with media on the entrenched bureaucracy of the Pentagon. At one point, Rumsfeld gave a speech in which he declared, "With brutal consistency, [the Pentagon bureaucracy] stifles free thought and crushes new ideas." While the bureaucratic red tape of the Pentagon was, and still is, infamous among Washington insiders, his attempts to place much of the blame for certain failures on institutional barriers seems disingenuous.

After 9/11, the Department of Defense and the National Security Council began planning the United States' response to the terrorist action. The focus immediately turned to Afghanistan, where al Qaeda was known to be headquartered. Afghanistan was known as "the Graveyard of Empires" because of the inability of large armies to successfully hold this land-locked nation filled with desert and almost impassable mountains. Alexander the Great was nearly killed by an Afghan archer; Genghis Khan's successors failed to hold Afghanistan after the great Mongol leader captured it; most recently, the Soviet Union failed miserably

in its attempts to turn it into a satellite state during the 1980s.

During this planning stage, Rumsfeld, who makes sure to point out that he discussed contingency plans in which more troops would be needed, seems to place most of the blame for certain failures on Secretary of State Colin Powell and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice. Rumsfeld recounts a meeting where Secretary Powell referred to the Northern Alliance, an invaluable Afghani resistance group which led the charge to overthrow the Taliban, as a "fourth world fighting force." He also goes into detail to describe the ways in which he felt Rice micromanaged the national security information and how it was presented to President Bush. After a trip to Uzbekistan in 2002 in which certain information had been leaked to the Russian authorities, Rumsfeld sent a memo to Rice and Powell in which he said, "I do not know precisely who is talking to the Russians in real time, but you folks should know how unhelpful it is." He may have valid point as to some of these concerns, but playing the bureaucratic blame-game after the fact should be below a man of his stature and experience.

Following the theme of actions and consequences, Rumsfeld describes Operation Desert Storm, which took place in 1991, as a failure of President George H.W. Bush to follow through on his

mission. After the United States military push Iraqi forces out of Kuwait, Bush ordered that they refrain from continuing to Baghdad because it was not part of the mission. When the US military stopped, Saddam Hussein referred to the United States as a "paper tiger" that was unwilling to do what was necessary to finish the job. As a result, he continued to thumb his nose at UN sanctions and weapons inspectors, shoot at American planes on a regular basis, and pay families of suicide bombers thousands of dollars as payment for their selfless acts.

Rumsfeld's account of the Iraq War is exhaustive, and too long for this review, but what is obvious is that Rumsfeld continues to defend American intervention in Iraq and criticizes those who voiced concerns over the mission and how it was carried out. He blames the State Department and the National Security Council; he blames Congress and the politicization of the conflict; he blames fate and the realities of what he calls "known-unknowns." But in general, he fails to take any responsibility for himself or place any responsibility on President Bush for the deaths of thousands of American soldiers. As with President Bush, only time will tell whether Rumsfeld's legacy will be positive. But for now, "Known and Unknown" only succeeds in blurring the already hazy history of the Bush Administration. ★

Ace's Cont'd from page 4

silverware at your friend's next to you. These small quirky aspects of Ace's are guaranteed to make one feel at home.

This family restaurant will definitely satisfy the craving for a home-cooked meal any hour of the day – their menu has no time restrictions. If you've got a craving for those sweet potato pancakes of theirs at five in the afternoon, then you can buy them. The same goes for other breakfast foods like French toast, blueberry pancakes, and biscuits and gravy. And if you happen to be an anti-breakfast rascal who detests even the mere mention of hash browns, don't be alarmed. Ace's also has other savory foods like hamburgers, specialty sandwiches, fish fries, and homemade soup. Ace's will also satisfy the craving for caffeine with their delicious, inexpensive coffee.

Ace's has also taken care of that pesky problem of deciding what to eat based on the contents of your wallet. One can easily get a stomach filling meal for five dollars or less. Three blueberry pancakes and a side of home fries or hash browns is only six dollars—or maybe you just want the three pancakes for three dollars. Because their menu is so flexible, and they offer so many different kinds of foods, everyone is sure to be pleased.

So if you happen to have a massive craving for delicious food that you just can't seem to satisfy, be sure to stop by Ace's either Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., or even stop there after (or before) church – they're open on Sundays from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. You won't regret at least trying it, especially since they pile so much food on your plate, you'll have to take half of it home in a box (which, as a college student, is a beautiful thing). ★

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Manipulation and Worship: Contemporary Christian Music



BY STEVE CORELL

Days of research and years of conversations have led me to realize that the topic of Christian music and the Church has precious little to do with music, and everything to do with the Church and how we choose to define it. Due to various harrowing experiences in my life involving some crazy I'm-Gonna-Bash-You-Over-The-Head-With-My-Religion-Instead-of-Forming-a-Relationship-With-You folk, a lot of "Christian music" upsets me very deeply.

Some of this is a genuine desire that is couched deep in my spirit to see music be the best and most beautiful that it can be, specifically when it professes to be written "for the glory of God," something I don't see happening in a lot of contemporary Christian music. What I do not like to readily admit is that much of my anger comes also from a deep-set cynicism, and my association of "CCM" with Christians who, at the expense of well-founded theology, avoid critiquing contemporary standards of Christianity or Christian music. We forget that through the ages, orthodoxy has always been critiqued by those both within the church and outside of it, often to its benefit. However, against the fact of this self-acknowledged cynicism, there are a few things which really do concern me in the modern "Christian music" scene.

First, it concerns me that worship, in many ways, has become a type of show, and a means to manipulate the masses into feeling something so the worship team can feel like they've done their job. During one conversation, Professor Michael Walters touched on the power of music to unite people. He tempered this, however, with the caveat that "because music has such

power, it can be manipulative." This is very true, and I feel that worship as we know it now is very difficult to separate from feelings of warmth stemming from sentimental, over-used lyrics and chord progressions. With this in mind, I have entered many services with an air of superiority that would put a prom queen to shame, only to leave blessed and humbled.

We must be careful, however, not to limit our experience of God to these feelings that we experience during a service, or as Professor John Case puts it, by these "sacred goosebumps." While good feelings, I guess, can be considered one capacity of the Spirit, I believe the Spirit is more in the business of making whole relationships and whole people. I have left many services with a temporary feeling of "closeness" to God, which is followed by a feeling of guilt and inner dissonance after the euphoria wears off.

Worship through music should be a means by which we are made more like the type of people we are called to be in the world, not a means to experience the pleasant side of spirituality and ignore the fullness of God, which includes difficulty and sacrifice. God speaks to Israel in Amos 5:23-24: "Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"

Another issue is that the purpose of music, as with all art, is to bring us to a fuller, fresher understanding of reality, and in that understanding, to bring us into a deeper intimacy with how we should be interacting with it and with each other. If this is the case, then we must redefine "the worship arts." Matt Redman, in an article in a 2007 edition of CCM magazine, wrote this: "I've never written a song that wasn't a worship song - I don't know how to do it another way. Worshipping

God is what life is all about." Yes, I guess that worshipping God is what life is all about, but I resent Redman's implication that the only way that we can worship God through music is through a specific genre and a specific lyrical style. For example, my friend

Worship through music should not be a means to experience the pleasant side of spirituality and ignore the fullness of God, which includes difficulty and sacrifice

Erik loves post-rock and instrumental music and finds it very worshipful, and I find soundtracks and some choice independent groups to be very worshipful (Howard Shore and *Mew* without you are two examples). I find myself understanding reality, God, and myself better through these artists, while much of modern CCM leaves me flat.

My final quibble with much of the modern understanding of the place of music in the Christian life is rooted in the fact that I am a poet and a musician. I cannot stand poorly written music, or poorly written lyrics for that matter, and there is quite a bit of poorly written music out there, especially in the field of CCM. I would direct you to a song by Sonseed entitled "Jesus is a Friend of Mine" as the most extreme of examples. It includes a rather humorous but deeply sickening blend of four chords and some quite cheesy/heretical lyrics (last time I checked, God wasn't in the business of zapping people into His kingdom). But if I go into this issue any further, then not only would I sound pretentious, but I would also leave no room for those who are neither poets nor musicians. As Professor Brandon Johnson pointed out in our conversation, "God's Kingdom is big enough for us all." This is a paradox and a dichotomy that I am still struggling to figure out.

In all of my cynicism, and high personal artistic standards, I somehow still believe that love resides above my opinions. In all of our desire to, as the Psalmist writes, "sing to the Lord a new song" and to "play skillfully," we must not forget that any critique must first come from a desire to love and to understand our fellow man or woman. I find that, when I view the issue through this lens, I can't really say much and the only option left is for me to simply write, sing, and worship the best that I can, and in the way that I can, and not to judge another person based on the preferences that they have. This does not excuse poorly written or theologically unsound music, but that is a matter that (I sincerely hope) time and God will take care of, through time's unexplained process of cycling out what the universe unanimously agrees is not worthy to be remembered. Such unsound music, (quoting Prof. Walters again) "has the shelf-life of a bucket of shrimp," and I think rightly so. What is truly good and pure and worthy of thought and contemplation will remain in the minds and hearts of the people, as has all great literature through the course of history. Trendy worship tunes, much like trendy books (like *Twilight*, sorry), will be forgotten before we know it.

I think that the final issue is that as American Christians we often confuse our opinions and preferences with the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and too often we search for a church group based on our list of these "convictions." This is rather like shopping for a car more than like trying to be better people. All this is not to say that I must have no opinions. I have tremendously strong opinions about music and the Church and they will likely not leave me any time soon. I am only saying that for me to sneer at another's spirituality by my aesthetic preferences is pretty judgmental, and I don't really like judgmental people. Enough said.

Steve is a junior Psychology and Writing major

Letters
to the
Editor

Send to

houghtonstar@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the recent article about my retirement but there are two additional points that need to be made.

My wife, Annalee, worked in the Development and Records Offices for 31 years and traveled extensively with me. Also the word "ailing" in the article is inappropriate. While remaining on dialysis she is greatly improved and growing stronger.

We both are pleased to have our three children (all Houghton alumni) and four grandchildren visiting us frequently.

-Carl Schultz

What theater
production did you
enjoy the most or are
you looking the most
forward to?

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From the Editor's Desk

The Myth of the Houghton Experience



PHOTO BY DANIEL PEIXOTO

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

Houghton's website includes such catch-phrases as "We're like nowhere else." "When we say 'liberal arts,' we mean it." "We live our faith with conviction and courage." And, "All work and no play isn't our style." The use of vapid clichés as website attention-getters aside, Houghton's attempts to position itself as a unique and illustrious institution is an allegorical attempt to prey on the delusional fantasies of prospective students. In reality, Houghton is an institution "like nowhere else" only for a certain type of student, one who adheres to strict guidelines and an unsaid denominational litmus test. For the rest of us, Houghton is a good school, where we can get a good education and plan for the future; but hey, let's not pretend it's a Christian Harvard.

This is in no way a criticism of Houghton's professors. I can't speak for other departments, but the History and Political Science teaching faculty have knowledgeably and thoughtfully guided my studies as well as many

others along the way. Many Houghton professors have traded notable opportunities to teach at prestigious universities all around the country or work in the private sector of their given field to be here and I know that I, at least, owe them gratitude and respect.

But the College's (most likely the Admissions Office's) attempts to paint a picture of Houghton as a prestigious institution far beyond its competitors are just not realistic. On the website they claim that 66% of graduates were employed full-time within a year of graduation, and 33% were enrolled in graduate studies. This statistic, used by almost all colleges and universities, is seriously flawed; it does not account for graduates who are working in jobs completely unrelated to their field of study. So a graduate who majored in Philosophy and is currently working at a car wash is included in the 66% of employed graduates, as is the History major teaching Bible at a small, unaccredited Christian school.

The fact that there are graduates working in jobs unrelated to their field of study is not a criticism of Houghton. These are tough financial times, and jobs, especially the "ideal" jobs, are hard to come by. But advertising that Houghton has a "success

rate" of almost 100% is disingenuous, unrealistic and misleading.

It is ironic that a school which promotes itself as preparing students for the world has focused as much attention on careers which dependent on outside financial aid — such as missions, the ministry, social activism, etc.—as it has on careers which involve actually earning money. Obviously making money should not be one's only goal in life, but making money is a reality in this world and I wonder how many students will actually be prepared for this reality after graduation.

Advertising that Houghton has a "success rate" of almost 100% is disingenuous, unrealistic and misleading

But let's not focus too much on graduates; how about the Houghton experience itself? Well, first of all I find the statement, "When we say 'liberal arts' we mean it" ironic. Houghton has reduced funding in most of the Humanities departments, made serious cuts to faculty and programs in Foreign Language, Bible and Philosophy and Off-Campus Programs, and has increased faculty and funding for the Sciences and Music. It seems to me that a more accurate statement would be "When we say 'liberal arts,' we're just kidding."

The College's website also stresses the opportunities for involvement with clubs and organizations on campus. It lists the

Boulder, Habitat for Humanity, International Student Association, and Youth for Christ, and touts the planning and organizing prowess of CAB. Conveniently left without mention is that if you choose not to be involved with these types of organizations, for whatever reason (maybe you're wary of Christian organizations, maybe you don't like people, maybe you want to focus on school work), there is absolutely nothing to do. Houghton is extremely rural — this can be a negative aspect in some ways, and a positive aspect in others, but the claim that it is anything other than a small and isolated campus is a fantastical one.

Houghton is a Christian College and shouldn't pretend to be anything different. I've written in the past about my religious perspectives, and so the fact that I have a certain view of Houghton and its campus life is based largely on these perspectives. But when Houghton advertises itself as a unique college with a vibrant and welcoming campus, it should, at the very least, follow through on such claims. From what I've witnessed, to have the Houghton experience be everything that it's advertised to be, one must adhere to certain unsaid criteria. Only then is Houghton's campus truly unique and vibrant. Everyone else is left on the outside looking in.

Chris is a junior History and Political Science major

The Penultimate Word

Racism, Ignorance, and Western Vocabulary

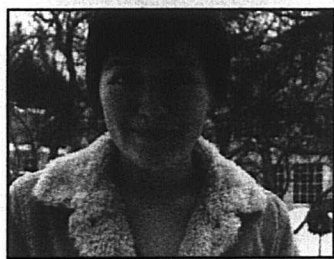


PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY ELISA SHEARER

A recent Youtube viral video features a UCLA student ranting about her annoyance, for various reasons, with Asian students. The student lets her emotions — and her idiotically blatant racism — run away from her, to disgusting effect. I don't recommend watching it.

Now, I'm not going to bash this student for being offensive. The Youtube comment bar is loaded with people who are doing that for me, so, at least this time, I'm going to refrain from kicking a dead racist horse.

What also bothered me, though, after I got over the uncomfortable vague upsetness of a sort-of-second generation immigrant when faced with racism, was that she never used any word more specific than "Asians". I will let the hordes of angry Youtube prowlers devour her for her bigoted comments, but her imprecision I cannot let slide. While I suppose it is possible

that she really is prejudiced against the entire population of the most populous continent on the planet, I suspect that that's not the case. Many people have the annoying habit of referring to "Asia" and only meaning China, Japan, North and South Korea, Vietnam, and maybe Thailand. They are saying "Asia" but they don't mean to include India or Russia or Oman or Azerbaijan at all. We (Westerners, that is) tend to do this with the continent of Africa, too.

Part of the reason for the contagious lack of specificity, I think, is the inevitably huge amount of contact between the US and Canada and Europe, and the lack thereof between the US and anywhere else. In high school and college, we focus on European and US history — at Houghton, you don't have to go beyond Western Civilization to fulfill your history requirement — and, if we're lucky, we get a few days to skim over the 4000 years of dynasties in China, a civilization that was flourishing 1500 years before Socrates took it upon himself to invent the United States. I think that our ethnocentricity is natural, but if we let it, it will continue to feed our semi-willful ignorance of the other two thirds of the population of the world.

How vague do statements about "an African language" become when we consider the fact that Africa is a continent and there are fifteen hundred languages spoken on it. People say things like "indigenous African music", but how much less likely

we would be to introduce a Bach cantata as "from Europe". Similarly, does "Asian food" mean Japanese, Russian, or Pakistani food? When someone says "I want to serve God in Africa", do they want to travel to predominately Muslim Cairo, or South Africa, with 75% of its population professing Christianity?

We — as students, as a campus, and as Christians — might want to stop marginaliz-

ing the two largest continents in the world into neat, small ideas. The words "Asia" and "Africa" mean so much that they often functionally end up meaning very little, and another of our attempts at communication crumbles into inaccuracy.

Elisa is a junior Psychology and English major

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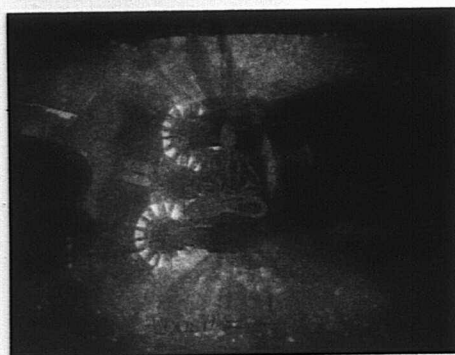
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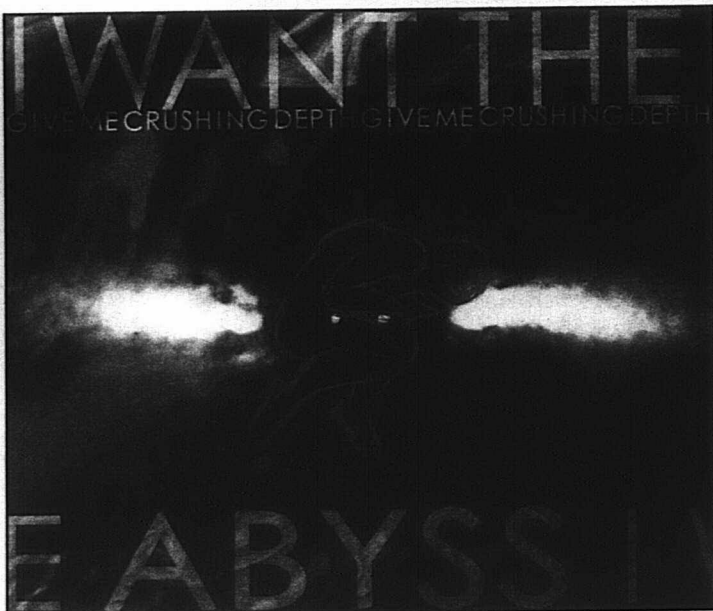
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Cerenkov, digital study for triptych

A note from the artist:

As a studio artist, I'm interested in the confluence of technology and human spirit. Any technology exhibits a multiplicity of function; it is best understood as an amoral tool, neither savior nor villain. It's that functional multiplicity I try to exploit in my recent practice. Plastics, detergent, Ultraviolet lamps or video-game engines are among my implements--nothing is useless. I choose the media that most interest me to bring viewers an experience and make them participants. That experience is variable: it may be reflective, or mediate a conversation. What matters is that I engage people in the work.

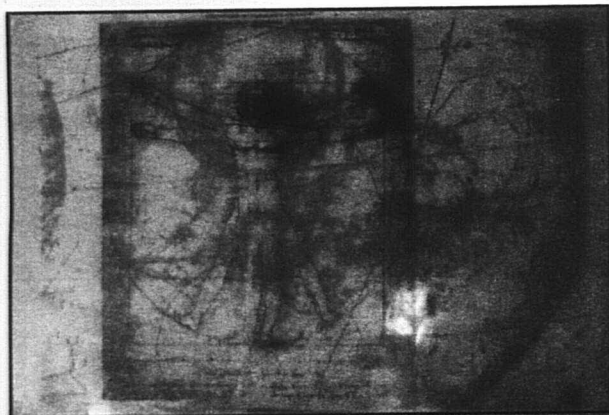
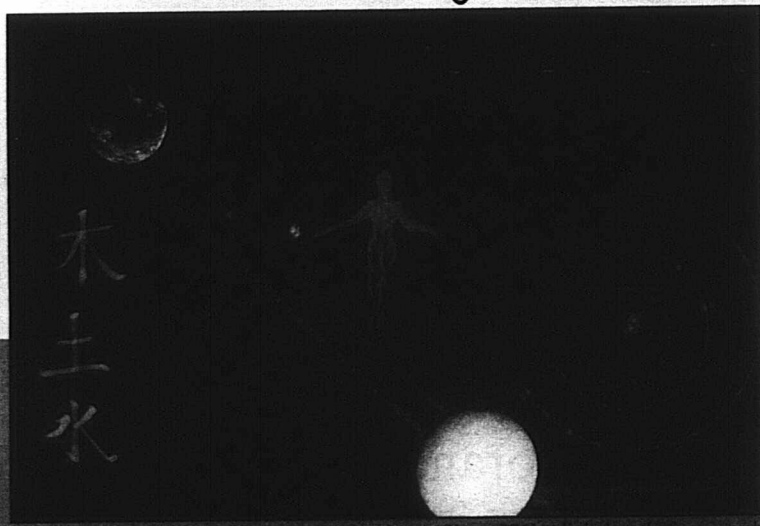


Fling me to the Deep (Jupiter), digital study for triptych

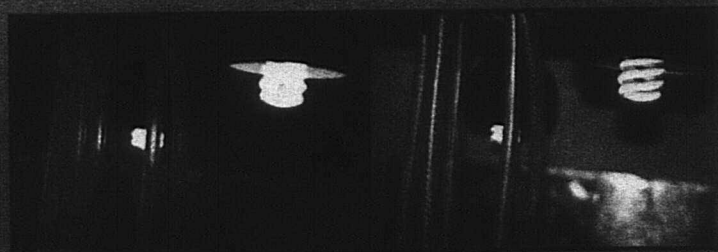
To Love the Abyss (I)
oil on canvas

ARTIST of the WEEK

Cameron Gayford

Isaac's Mathematician
silkscreen, transparencies, detergent and blacklight

Touch me, touch me, touch me (Gliese 576b), digital study for triptych



Detail from 'The Invention of the World', mixed materials, laundry detergent, blacklight

sudoku
CHALLENGE

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

To win a prize, bring your finished sudoku puzzle to the STAR office clearly marked with full name.

Last week's crossword puzzle winner was Andrew Bungi! Please come by the Star Office in Big Al's to claim your prize!

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

Crossword solution for 3/19:

BAZAR	JAB	RING
ASIDE	AGE	PETAL
SCOOT	WAR	LIEGE
INLAWS	RAINMAN	
FRO	LYRE	
FIB	DRNO	KRAMER
ATOP	LADS	SPIRO
RAZE	DIGIT	ERIC
GLORY	FIDO	DECK
OYSTER	NEWT	SHY
SCAG	EON	
REPOMAN	ALPACA	
EDEMA	TAR	GILLS
AGAIN	SHU	UVEAL
MELT	YAM	NEWSY