

THE HOUGHTON STAR

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Budget cutbacks and unavoidable circumstances

Changes in Off-Campus Programs

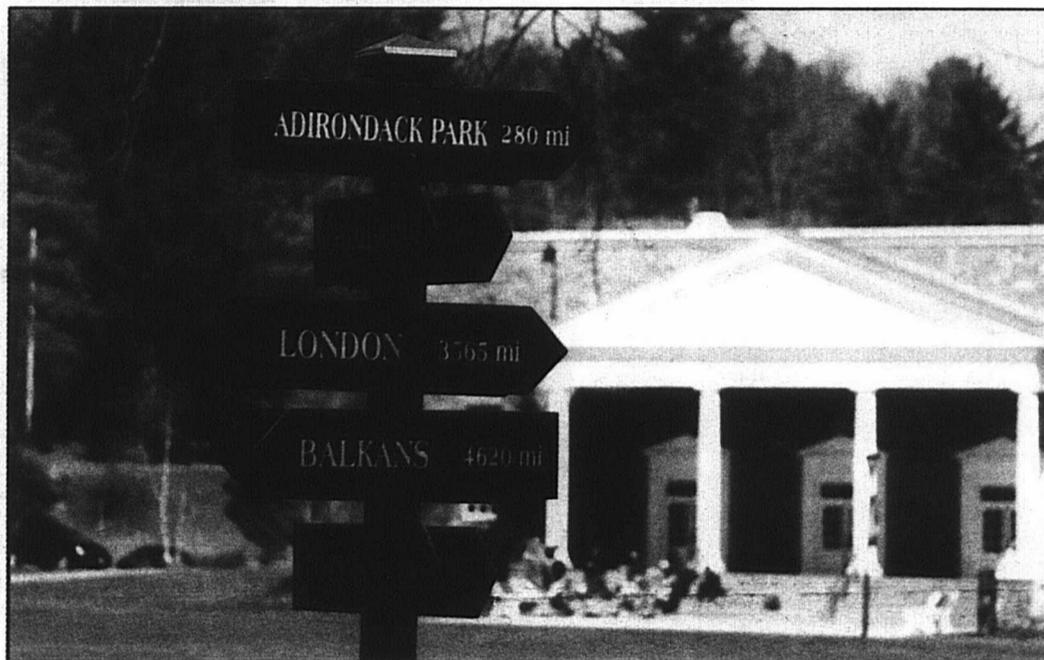


photo by Wesley Dean

Several off-campus programs have been reduced, such as Star Lake, but others, like City Semester, have been added this year. Many programs, such as Houghton in Tanzania and East Meets West FYHP continue.

by Rebekah Miller

There have been a large number of changes, both controversial and not, in Houghton's off-campus programs over the past year. What seemed to be a large number of off-campus program opportunities is beginning to dwindle due to budget cutbacks for some and unavoidable circumstances for others.

Marcus Dean, Director of Off-Campus programs, commented that

the college administration is currently altering off-campus policy to get "the best option available for students." Having just recently succeeded in allowing some students to use their financial aid overseas, the committee charged with reworking off-campus policies continues to address questions about policy, alternate program options, and possible new programs in the works.

Though he declined to give any specific details about particular programs, Dean cited the objectives

for off-campus programs, which describe how students and the community in which they go to live are to interact, learn, and help each other, including a statement about the transformative experience the program should provide by "developing [student's] world-wide perspective and global concern."

Several off-campus programs are undergoing thorough changes. The

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Buffalo News Reporter Lectures on Corn, Industrialized Agriculture

by Colleen White

George Pyle, reporter for the Buffalo News and longtime journalist gave a talk on Monday night entitled "The Salt of the Earth," centered on the impacts of U.S. overproduction of corn, as part of the Houghton College Lecture Series.

Pyle is the author of *Raising Less Corn, More Hell: Why Our Economy, Ecology, and Security Demand the Preservation of the Independent*

Farm. He opened his remarks by comparing his youth in rural Kansas to a fish in a body of water: just as

"...cut out the middleman..."

a fish doesn't notice water until it is threatened, Midwestern Americans rarely notice the corn that surrounds them until there is a problem with it.

According to Pyle, these problems

began around the turn of the century when the industrialization of agriculture seemed to be inevitable—if efficiency had been increased by mechanization in every other area of the economy, why not agriculture? This shift is apparent in the fact that at the turn of the century, 42% of Americans made their living in industries directly related to agriculture. One hundred years later,

George Pyle cont'd on page 2

Langdon Reflects on Equality Ride

by Monica Sandreczki

Many people were involved in the March 9 Equality Ride visit, but only one individual had close ties with both the Soulforce organization and Houghton College. Because of this unique distinction, former Houghton student Andrew Langdon was tasked by his fellow Equality Riders with organizing the day's events. After the visit, *The Houghton Star* asked Langdon to reflect on his time at Houghton and share his thoughts about the March 9 visit.

Langdon said that he started at Houghton "struggling" with his identification as a gay man, but at the time, would not have self-identified as gay. He said that when he came to Houghton, he "found silence" when it came to discussing homosexuality and LGBTQ issues.

"Silence speaks" said Langdon, "and it said that [being gay] was not okay, so straight people need to come out as allies to the queer community, which is just as important as LGBT coming out." According to Langdon, it is very powerful to see students who are willing to put their privilege aside and stand up for what is right.

"I finally confronted it," said Langdon, and when he realized he wasn't going to stop being gay, began identifying himself as such, still wondering if his newly realized identity was "acceptable."

Then, he "went on a rampage," reading library books at school and researching, which is when he first discovered the Soulforce organization. "Finally, in reading, I realized that this makes sense and I am gay and there's nothing wrong with that."

However, Langdon had already developed a serious case of depression "related to rejecting self," and eventually left Houghton because he was struggling academically. "I left Houghton because my grades weren't good, but when I accepted myself my depression lifted, which is the biggest sign from God that this is a gift and this is valid," said Langdon. "I've just gotten comfortable enough to confront my past because I'm

Langdon cont'd on page 3

THE WORLD IS THERE

by Derek Schwabe

GM Unveils Electronic Prototype Concept Car

American automobile giant, General Motors, has revealed what it calls "the automobile solution," a fully electronic concept mini-car called the EN-V, pronounced "envy." GM and its Chinese partner SAIC plans to showcase the "Electric Networked-Vehicle" launched Wednesday in their joint pavilion at the Shanghai Expo, which opens May 1. This release, coupled with a planned termination of the gas guzzling Hummer vehicle line, has furthered the company's latest marketing strategy to redefine its image as environmentally sensitive and forward-looking. "What we're talking about here is completely redoing the automobile," said Michael Albano, director of product and technology communications at General Motors International Operations in Shanghai. This act of "redoing" is sharply aimed at the urban population, specifically in China and neighboring countries. The 2 seat EN-V, what one commentator likened to a giant vacuum cleaner, is designed to seat only two people and offers little storage space. Weighing in at just 880 pounds (including passengers) it is capable of reaching a maximum speed of 24 miles per hour. It offers a futuristic "auto-pilot" function that utilizes an elaborate system of GPS technology, digital maps, roadway

and vehicle sensors, cameras and other devices. Pictures of this vehicle can be found at www.gm.com.

Obama Signs Health Care Reform

After over a year of sharp debate and failed proposals, President Barack Obama signed into law his championed HR3200, "America's Affordable Health Choices Act", which many predict will become the hallmark of his political career. The bill, a 2,300 page document, was passed by the House of Representatives last Sunday evening without receiving a single Republican vote. It represents an almost \$1 trillion overhaul that will affirm health care coverage as a fundamental right for all Americans. It is projected to provide the benefits of health insurance to 32 million Americans who do not currently have coverage. Economists predict this legislation to be among the most far reaching in American history, expecting it to reshape one-sixth of the nation's economy over the course of the next decade. The GOP has reacted with outrage, calling the passage of the bill an unconstitutional act. Many republicans have vowed to reclaim Congress in the 2010 elections, even launching a campaign to remove Nancy Pelosi from her position of Speaker of the House. Experts have noted a growing negative national reaction, which may yet obstruct the bill before its projected enactment in 2014.

George Pyle cont'd from page 1

only 1.5% of Americans still farm.

In the meantime, scientists have found ways to produce even more food than back in the days when half the population farmed, utilizing technologies such as genetic modification of plants and synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. This process set in motion what Pyle called a "chemical arms race" between countries - a system where the countries that could produce the most food the fastest dominated the global food market with cheap supplies of corn, wheat, and rice.

Unlike other areas of the economy, where overproduction means production will eventually fall, agriculture is an anomaly where an overabundance is never seen as a bad thing. This mentality meant that American farms, fed by fat subsidies from the government, were able to out-grow poorer governments unable to assist their farmers in this way, and flood poverty-stricken nations like Haiti with cheap rice and other grains. This put native farmers out of business, increasing poverty and leading to some of the conditions that made the recent earthquake so devastating.

Conversely, poverty in America can often be traced to the same disease, but manifested with different symptoms.

"In America today," said Pyle, "poverty is not skin and bones but obesity." The overabundance of grains has meant that corn syrup has become so easy to produce that it is put in everything, from canned fruits and vegetables, to bread, to soda and other "empty calories."

Pyle described this phenomenon as nothing less than an addiction. The best method of curing this dependence, according to Pyle, is to "cut out the middleman" by purchasing food directly from the farmer. As it currently stands, 10% of an American's income is spent on groceries, yet the farmer who grew that food sees only 1% of the profit

on average. Some solutions that have been successful in the Northeast have been farmer's markets where farmers are able to sell produce in cities directly to the consumer on certain days of the week, although markets like these are more rare in the Midwest where cities are sparse.

Beyond getting the food to the consumer is the problem of food production itself. Increasingly, Pyle stated, agriculture is being converted to "Frankenstein foods"-- monocultures of biotech seeds cultured for increased yields rather than diverse farms that grow many varieties of plants to guard against disease and pests.

"We foolishly taunt nature when we create monocultures," he said, citing Dutch elm disease as an example of the danger of creating a plant that can be wiped out by the right insect. Though engineered seeds are meant to save money by being resistant to bugs and many diseases, Pyle claimed that the licensing fees alone to grow those seeds outweigh any savings in pesticides. "Patenting life," threatens productivity, which is the exact goal of genetically altering seeds in the first place.

A better model of farming according to Pyle, can be found right here in New York. The third largest producer of dairy products and the second place producer in apples and wine, New York has found ways to output large amounts of food from relatively small farms. While the 12 billion pounds of milk produced in New York pales in comparison to the 39 billion pounds out of the factory farms of California, New York has also managed to avoid the major pollution of water bodies such as the runoff of pesticides into the Mississippi in the Midwest. Change, however is going to have to come in a variety of ways, both through the government and privately, because according to Pyle, if you "tell a Kansas farmer he should stop relying so much on subsidies, he will tell you to stop talking with your mouth full." ★

Foreign Language Center Offers Study Space for Language Majors

by Jocelyn Matuszkiewicz

The Foreign Language department recently completed a Foreign Language Center on the second floor of the Chamberlain building. With contributions from a Houghton graduate and other allocated funds, the center was designed to commemorate the former Classics language professor Dr. F. Gordon Stockin. Stockin served as the department chair of the foreign language program from 1958-1975 and continues to have a lasting legacy and involvement in the Houghton community.

Alumnus Joanna (Bailey) Cook felt very strongly about her contribution: "I wanted to...support Houghton College in my field, foreign languages. I believe that foreign languages are so

very important in serving our global society today and that studying a foreign language broadens people's understanding of culture, how people think and communicate differently, and helps us have a larger vision."

The creation of a "multi-purpose seminar room specifically oriented toward the teaching and learning of foreign languages" seemed to fit this goal. Department meetings, extra help sessions, and study gatherings are currently the room's main functions.

According to Professor Jean-Louis Roederer, "The room's pleasant atmosphere is conducive to language learning. First, it should serve as a focal point especially for language minors and majors to give them a 'home' where they can study, meet,

relax, be able to watch foreign language TV programming, and enjoy the feeling of being in a somewhat more cross-cultural setting." The language professors agreed that the shared resources available to students and teachers make the room similar to a seminar classroom.

"It will not replace a full-fledged language house," Roederer said, "but it's the next best thing."

"Because of the very small size of many French courses, the Language Center has been a really enjoyable place to meet," said Ben Tilson, a senior who has a concentration in French. "The set-up of the room - with a large table and sofas - has been beneficial to the nature of French courses in which we spend much time in conversation. The room has

also been very appropriate for small gatherings of the French Club."

A large part of the alumni donation was given to technological advancements in the room, including a computer, projector, and flat screen TV with 24-hour satellite access to current foreign language programs. Other resources include reference books in French, German, Spanish, and Classics (Greek and Latin), and DVDs, magazines, and videos. Roederer added that many of the supplies in the room are actually from Dr. Stockin's personal library. To complete the commemoration, a portrait of Dr. Stockin was hung on the center wall for everyone to see as they pass by.

The Foreign Language Center is located in ChC 213. ★

Islam, Jihad, & Terrorism: Houghton Hosts Conference on Christian Response to Muslims

by Erika Bremer

On Thursday, March 18, the Houghton College Office of Church Relations hosted a conference entitled *Islam, Jihad & Terrorism—A Christian Response*. The purpose of the conference was “to bring church leaders together with our experienced faculty so they could begin the process of understanding the basic tenets of Islam and how to begin dialogue with those Muslims who have moved into our American neighborhoods and cities,” according to Vice President for Enrollment Management Wayne MacBeth.

Between 90 and 100 people, from various churches in the area and many of Houghton College’s own faculty and students, joined to get an inside perspective on what Houghton professors believe to be a Christian response to the issue of Islam in our day.

Heading up the conference’s two plenary sessions was Dr. Little, professor of Arabic and Islamics and missionary-in-residence. In his first session, Little covered the basics of the Islamic faith, and expounded on a thesis which stated, “Many angry Muslims draw on *jihad* to justify violence.” He explored the implications of such a statement, stressing that the violence often associated with Islam in America is not necessarily supported by the majority of orthodox Muslims in the world. He also differentiated between the “greater” *jihad*, which is every Muslim’s inner struggle to please God, and the “lesser” *jihad*, which is one of the essential beliefs for all Muslim extremist groups.

Following this session, conference attendees chose between three workshops: “Islam 101,” led by Dr. Paul Shea; “Intro to the *Qur’an*” with

Dr. Jon Case; and “A Compassionate Response to Muslims in Crisis” led by Dr. Benjamin Hegeman.

In the latter workshop, Hegeman addressed the feelings of fear that sometimes accompany Westerners’ interaction with Islam. He discussed and asked attendees to reflect on “What is a courageous, fearless response to Muslims?” After viewing some of the pertinent current events that demonstrate attitudes of fear and confusion, especially as they pertain to the strife and violence found within the Muslim global community, Hegeman concluded that, “We are the expressions of peace to a religion that cannot find peace within itself... Anger has to be removed when dealing with Muslims,” and then we will be more free to love Muslims and more effectively share Christ’s love with them.

The second plenary session with Little was entitled “Loving Muslims in a Post-9/11 World,” and covered tension throughout history underlying contemporary Islam and the friction it has with Europe’s “Christendom.” “We do not want Muslims to confuse Christ with Western Christianity,” he said, after outlining the territorial struggles between the religious states of Islam and Christendom in previous centuries. According to Little, it is now our responsibility to maintain a Christ-like approach to engaging Muslims, almost “forced into a pre-Constantine era model of witness.” Little encouraged attendees with his view that he expects God’s hand to continue to shake the Muslim world, using his ordinary, humble missionaries to live the love of Christ in such a way that Muslims will take notice.

“Living witness is the only thing God will use to break through the hardest of hearts,” said Little.

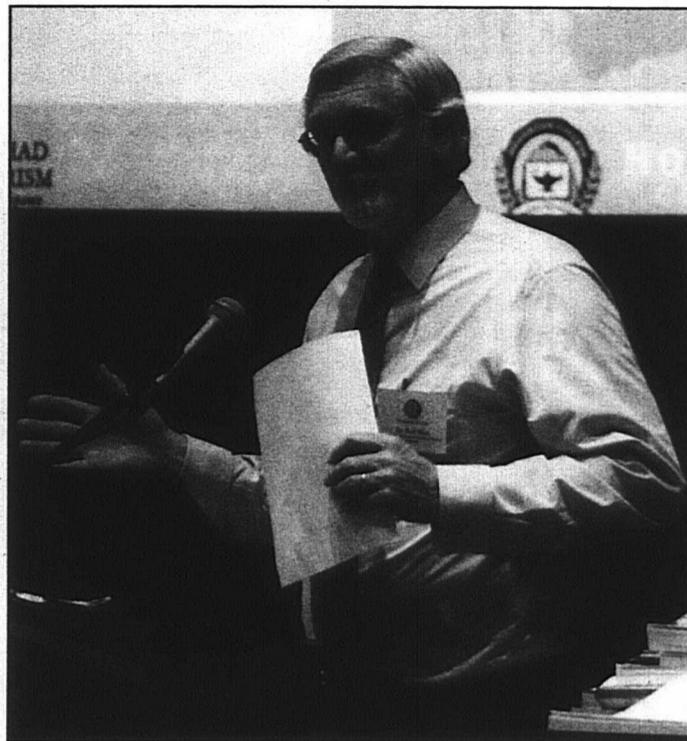


photo by Wesley Dean

Dr. Shea leads a workshop on “Islam 101.” Dr. Little, conference speaker, said that in discussing faith, it doesn’t help to “win arguments.”

In Little’s workshop on “Sharing Our Faith with Muslim Neighbors,” he expounded on some of these themes, showing how Western Christian worldviews diverge greatly from a Muslim worldview, and we should be careful to understand those differences while at the same time being aware that we are engaging with a person, not with Islam. He covered practical ways to discuss faith with Muslims, stressing that, “It often doesn’t help to win arguments.” Instead we should “gracefully avoid them.” It is also important to show genuine interest in our Muslim neighbors and pray for them constantly—this is the most effective way to bring them to the truth, according to Little.

To conclude the day, a panel discussion was held, giving attendees opportunity to ask questions of the workshop leaders. Overall, Little thought the conference went well and he hopes that those who attended are more accurately informed and will have an increased compassion for Muslims. For all those Houghton students who weren’t able to attend the conference, he summed up a Christian response to Islam, *jihad*, and terrorism as being “informed, loving engagement with Muslims,” and he encourages students to take some of the increasingly numerous courses on Islam that the college is offering as one way among many to become more informed. ★

OCP cont’d from page 1

Houghton Down Under program in Australia has been postponed due to the loss of a fitting residence for students. It is scheduled to be running in the fall of 2011, though no one was available to comment on its current progress.

The Go-Ed program in Africa is currently put on hold because its sponsoring organization, Food for the Hungry, decided not to continue their sponsorship. Although those involved in running the program are in the process of looking for a way to keep the program going, the future of this course depends on sources outside of Houghton. Dean said that he was “waiting for details” but would be sure to notify the school if any changes are made to the state of Go-Ed.

Dean could not speak to the

Freshman Honors program, nor could others who are involved in the planning of the program’s future. Dr. Meic Pearse, coordinator of the East Meets West (EMW) Honors Program, stated that for the EMW program there are no upcoming changes in the program. “The way things look now, it should carry on as is in the future.” Pearse added, however, that improvements are always being made to the Mayterm, and anticipated changes (such as a longer stay in Serbia) as something to which to look forward.

Houghton College City Semester is a new off-campus program scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2011. This new program is designed to bring students into Buffalo for a semester to study the city, urban mentalities, and urban ways of life. Dr. Cameron Airhart, a coordinator and designer of this off-campus program, emphasized the semester as

one that will help students who may find themselves working in cities, because “that’s where the jobs are.” Thus, the program would be open to “pretty much everybody,” though the program may especially attract humanities, education, history and intercultural majors.

Langdon cont’d from page 1

strong and healthy and queer.”

Langdon said that he maintains strong ties with people at Houghton, but has tried to distance himself because he still harbors bad feelings about the school. “They’ve come to the point of being straight allies which, had I known that while at Houghton, would have made it better.”

Langdon said that the day of the Equality Ride visit was “very healing” for him, and that, “because of our presence, that other me, a person who

Houghton in Tanzania is anticipating no changes to the program, according to Dean.

The fall semester in London is undergoing some consideration as to how to cut back on expenses, but, said Dean, there is “nothing drastic at this point.” ★

is in the same situation I was in, has not heard silence, but a voice of love and affirmation and they won’t have the same experience I had.”

“This conversation is not going to end,” said Langdon. On the day of the visit, according to Langdon, Houghton students that he knew to be queer were “absolutely ecstatic.” This was encouraging to him, because then “we’re not just that group that made a fuss, but that we came on campus to stand alongside those that are already here. Seeing their joy... was incredible.” ★

Fourth Annual Film Festival Review

by Christopher Hartline

Cannes International Film Festival and Sundance Film Festival are events in which creativity, originality and entertainment emerge from the screen with a certain depth and efficacy. With students decked out in their fanciest "garden party" attire Saturday night for the Fourth Annual Houghton Film Festival, they expected an event with these principles at its core--albeit on a Houghton-appropriate scale. Unfortunately that is not what they got.

Granted, submissions were low this year compared to previous years, but most of the films submitted to this year's competition lacked creativity and entertainment value, especially evident in the comedy category. The night was further exacerbated by unimaginative judging which gave one video multiple awards in very different categories and failed to recognize the one video in the competition with any meaning and depth.

There were two notable submissions that should be commended. First year student Nate Cronk's video "One Hour," which showed the amount of money the average American spends in one hour compared to a child in Africa, and senior Emily DelGiorno's video "The Final Pioneer" in which Pioneer employees were interviewed, both flowed well and made an important point. Cronk commented that, "It was fun to have our humble videos become the center of attention for an entire event." The rest of the videos in the festival, however, lacked any depth or humor whatsoever.

While some used decent graphics and others used typical, unoriginal humor, none besides Cronk's and DelGiorno's lived up to the hype and significance that was placed on this festival. While CAB student director Sonja Mindrebo remarked that she was "really pleased with the submissions we had" and that it was "great to see the talents of the student body," the night, as a whole, fell short of expectations.

Then there's the judging. While

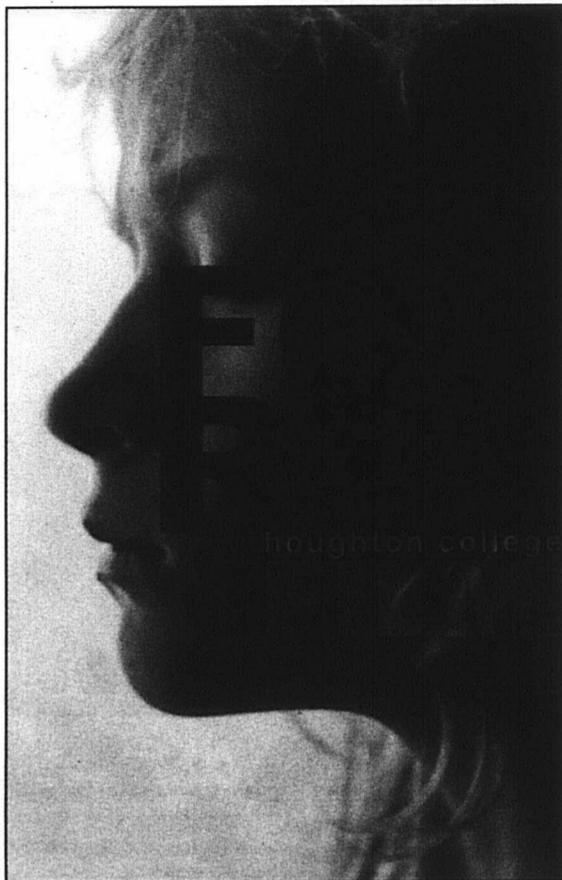
many of the contestants were content simply to have their films shown at the festival, some students strongly disagreed with the judge's decisions. Cronk, whose meaningful film lost in the category of documentary, reflected later that his "reaction to losing in my category is that critics will be critics, and critics are not the reason a film of this type is made." While this is an admirable sentiment, some in the audience disagreed with the decisions. Freshman Aaron

Fitzgerald reacted to the decisions by saying, "The judges turned what should have been a tasteful exposition into an embarrassing popularity contest. For the most part, those who had obviously invested time and effort in their pieces were overlooked in favor of cheap humor."

This was most evident in the victory of Alex Glover and Broc Verschoor's video "Save the Bugs" in multiple, sometimes unrelated categories: Best Editing, Directing, Comedy, Best in Show and Glover won Best Acting for this film. Although this submission undoubtedly contained the funniest moments of the festival, that is not saying much compared to its competition.

Cronk's video, with its important message and unique style lost in its category to DelGiorno's "The Final Pioneer." He took the loss in stride saying that his film was made to "convey a message to others that we feel passionately about, nothing more and nothing less." He showed incredible class, but his film deserved better.

While some films showed a bit of creativity and humor, the overall impression was one of disappointment and possibly frustration. This event, heavily advertised by CAB and the college, failed to live up to the hype and the judge's decisions frustrated many. Mindrebo contends that this was a result of the low number of submissions this year saying "everyone submit a film next year and I bet it'll be more evenly spread." One can only hope. ★



design by Jessica Stoddard

Four Highlanders Compete at NAIA Track Nationals

by Aaron Martin

The Houghton College Indoor Track and Field team sent four women to compete in the NAIA National Track and Field Championships held in Johnson City, Tennessee the weekend of March 5: sophomores Courtney Coiro and Danielle Brenon, and juniors Heather Sayre and Darby Emerson made up the distance medley relay (DMR) team, while Brenon ran in the mile event and Emerson in the 600-meter event.

Coming into the National Tournament, the team set lofty goals. Coach Bob Smalley says, "We hoped to have our women's DMR team break our existing Houghton College record and qualify for the finals. We expected Brenon and Emerson to make finals and have a shot at All-American." The team's response did not disappoint. Each of the women set significant

personal bests in the DMR (Brenon 1600m, Sayre 1200m, Emerson 800m, Coiro 400m), crushing the existing Houghton College record by a stunning ten seconds with a time of 12:28.60. However, this time did not secure a spot in the finals.

In the 600m, there were six semi-final heats, which meant Emerson had to win her heat in order to advance to the finals. Despite breaking her personal best by two seconds, she finished third in her heat and fifteenth overall. In an exciting mile final, Brenon finished eighth overall, just two places away from All-American honors as a sophomore. With 100 meters left, Brenon was in third place. Having run three mile races in three days on top of the DMR, her legs "died," resulting in an eighth place finish with a phenomenal 5:10 time. Brenon says, "After racing the mile the third day in a row, my times had gotten progressively

slower as my body grew tired and depleted. I did not set a personal record or achieve All-American. However, the entire experience was exhilarating and rewarding, and my coaches and teammates were overwhelmingly supportive, lifting my spirits up so that I couldn't stay bummed for long." Smalley reflected, "Danielle is a sophomore. We expect that this will be a lesson learned and that she'll bounce back and show herself to be one of the top one-milers in the NAIA."

Smalley continued, "We were very proud of the way these women represented Houghton College." As the Houghton College team representative, Sayre was presented with the NAIA Champion of Character Award. This is a tribute to the quality and character of these women and the rest of their teammates. What should be remembered from the National tournament are not the final standings, but rather the school

and personal records that were broken and the discipline required to compete as these women did at the national level. Emerson stated, "I most enjoyed our time of fellowship together as a team. We were able to worship together in song, prayer, conversation, and running. It is a sweet thing to run with girls that aren't just running after the time or the opponent beside them, but running hard after the Lord our God, to know him more fully." ★

Black-Eyed Susan
Acoustic Café
22 w main, angelica

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from the ARCHIVES

From the Archives is a series of articles culled from past issues of the Star. This article entitled "Running Risks: Radiation Danger Deepens" was printed in the October 2, 1989 edition of the Star, and was written by Kim Kerr and Trina Van Derlip. Selected by Emily Rinehart.

You have seen the fluorescent signs on buildings, windows, and trees. You've heard phrase, "Bump the Dump." The people of Allegany County are very much opposed to the placement of a low-level radioactive waste dump (LLRW) in their county. Why then should many students at Houghton College have an unconcerned attitude concerning the dump? Perhaps they haven't taken the time to be informed.

With this in mind, we decided to be a part of the protest march against the dump, held Friday, September 25. This march was one of many activities organized by the Concerned Citizens of Allegany County (CCAC) to oppose the dump. We found ourselves walking in the cold rain from Belmont to Wellsville, a distance of nine miles. Aside from being long, cold and wet, this march was very informative, teaching us a lot about the towns and people of this county.

The problem had its beginning in 1985, when the Federal Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act (introduced in 1980) was passed and amended. This policy shifted the responsibility of low-level waste from the federal to the state governments. Each state or compact of states is responsible for waste produced within their territory. Under this law, the state of New York has selected five sites, three of which are in Allegany County. One of the sites is three miles from Houghton, right across the Genesee River. The approximately 1200 students of Houghton College were not considered in the choosing of the site (Houghton was considered to contain approximately 200 people), even though most students live in the area for a minimum of eight months each year. Similarly, the students at Alfred State were not counted in the consideration of the proposed site in their area.

Some disturbing facts were brought up in the course of the

march. The siting commission learned this July, after more than two years of study, that the dump would be more than ten times as radioactive as first indicated. The majority of the radioactivity will come from nuclear power plants, not short-lived medical waste as most thought.

This radioactive waste has serious consequences. Dr. Theodore Taylor, a noted physicist who worked on a committee which investigated nuclear power plants during President Carter's administration, has estimated that after 30 years of operation their could be as many as 100 billion lethal doses of radiation sitting right here in Allegany County. This idea could become a very frightful reality.

Another disturbing reality is the amount of radiation stored in these dumps. Within the next 30 years, the state plans to demolish three nuclear power plants. According to the July/August 1989 issue of "World Watch," "dismantlement of one large reactor would yield about 600,000 cubic feet of LLRW - enough to fill a large truck every day for almost four years." The required technology to disassemble these reactors has not yet been used.

Some of the radiation to be stored will be radioactive for 20,000 years; however the dump facility is only engineered to last 500 years. Bt how will this affect students? Though we may only be here for a few years, we leave behind friends, faculty and future students who must deal with this problem.

William Coch, the medical advisor to the Allegany County Health Department, estimates (from material sent to him from one of the siting commissioners, Dr. David Maillee) that the risk of cancer over a lifetime could increase 35% for those living along the border of the dump. This problem becomes even more serious when we consider that Pennsylvania's Potter County, which borders Allegany, is being highly considered by Pennsylvania as a LLRW dump site. Having two dumps so close together increases the risk to residents and the environment.

According to Gene Hennerd, one of the leaders in the CCAC, the current focus of CCAC will be the pressuring of government officials...

To read the rest of this selection, visit us at www.houghtonstar.com

Academic Dean's Office, Houghton College Lecture Series and the Hoselton Chair of Private Enterprise and Ethics present

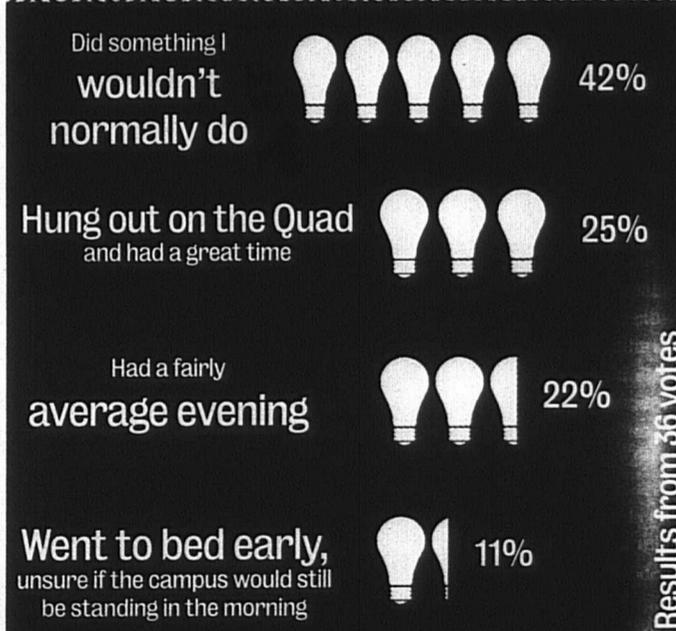
DR. THEODORE MALLOCH

Yale University research professor, CEO of the Roosevelt Group and author of *Spiritual Enterprise: Doing Virtuous*



"THE VIRTUE OF SPIRITUAL ENTERPRISE"
Tuesday, March 30 at 8 pm
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What did you do during the blackout?



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Don't Tread on Me: Reflections on the Health Care Bill

by Peter Savage

Following the passage of the health care bill on Sunday night, democratic strategist Chris Kofinis said, "We can't let Republicans seize the message advantage here, as they did during last summer's 'tea party' and town hall protests. For Democrats, it means we must take the initiative and aggressively sell this reform to the American people not for a few days, or weeks, but all the way through the election."

Chris Kofinis misses the point. A recent CNN poll estimated that 59% of Americans stood opposed to the health bill. Currently 12 states plan on suing the federal government for violating the Constitution and I can't help but agree with their motivations!

Over the last year President Obama and Democratic leadership has continually urged for bi-partisanship, calls for breaking the bill apart and passing segments that both parties could agree on fell on deaf ears. By simply looking at the vote tally Sunday night the partisanship of the decision becomes very apparent. The bill passed through the house 219 - 212, narrowly surpassing the 216 required. The bi-partisanship or lack thereof rather, was further accented

by the 34 Democrats who voted alongside the unanimous Republican 'Nay.'

The bill does a great deal to reform health care in the United States. By 2014 small business with more than 50 employees will be required to offer health insurance benefits or pay penalties. By 2018, good health care policies, in many cases offered by large corporations, will be subjected to a 'Cadillac' tax.

Apparently there is something as too good a health insurance policy.

Where the bill truly becomes unconstitutional is in the penalties for those who are uninsured. If an adult goes without health insurance for more than three months in a year without health insurance they will have to \$95 or one-percent of their income. In 2016 the

penalty increases to \$700 per person and \$2,000 per household, or 2.5 percent of income, whichever is more.

There is not one other case in our

country where the government has required private citizens to enter into a contract with a private company. You cannot even argue that car or home insurance is analogous with health care. You have the choice not to drive, but no one has a choice in this scenario.

There is a difference between the right to health care and the requirement to health care, and this bill crosses that line.

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Republicans have agreed on a number of reforms that would have made a major difference in health care. No denial of coverage based on pre-existing conditions is an example. The government could do much to assist low-income families in obtaining health care. Assisting the general welfare does not grant the right to force citizens to enter

into contracts. Further it violated the 10th Amendment to the Constitution!

It is hard to determine where the first legal test of the health care bill will occur. In most court cases a party

has to be injured in order to have the standing to sue in court. Virginia has passed legislation that exempts residents from having to pay federal penalties for not having health care. Michigan, Idaho, and Arizona are close behind.

Court cases are often long and drawn out processes. The Supreme Court may eventually pass down a decision as to the Constitutionality of the bill, but it is more likely that we will see a result this November. Mitt Romney has already begun denouncing the bill in his new Presidential campaign effort and in many states Republicans have made gains toward winning seats in both the House and the Senate.

During the health care debates Democrats accused Republicans of voting against health care reform. There is obviously a bi-partisan concern about health care and there are definitely reforms to which both sides agree. Health care reform is needed, but do not take away my right to liberty in the process!

Come November Democrats may come to an important realization... referendum by election.

Peter Savage is a senior Political Science and International Relations major

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The Gettysburg Address was 272 words...

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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...

With No Alarms and No Surprises: SGA Awards

by Micah Warf

Settling in for chapel on Wednesday morning, I was, as usual, completely unaware of precisely what spiritual happening would be taking place that day. As I took a gander around the chapel, I noticed a substantial coterie of SGA leaders, Residence Life staff, and those who I like to call the "Kingdom Coming" folks – essentially, students who are often strongly identified with social action, relief work, and global missions initiatives on campus. Almost instantaneously, I knew what this chapel service was going to be about. Turning to the friend sitting next to me, I was gratified to have my suspicions confirmed – "yup," he said, "it's the SGA Awards chapel."

Once the momentary pleasure of having been proven right had passed, however, I began to feel a quiet resentment creeping in – a familiar feeling, because it is, after four years at Houghton, an almost necessary adjunct with the SGA Awards chapel.

It's not resentment towards the award recipients; far from it, in point of fact. The people that are granted these commendations are upstanding servant-leaders, exemplifying in many ways the Christian scholarship to which Houghton students are constantly pushed.

Rather, this resentment is due to my suspicion that many Houghton students who are equally, if not vastly more, qualified to win these awards will never have the opportunity to do so, simply because they do not know the right people.

Before I continue, let me say that I have nothing at all against the awards themselves. Rather, I am fearful that these notable awards, presented for noble accomplishments, have become a mockery because of the elementary popularity contest that happens behind the scenes.

It's no secret, or at least it shouldn't be, that the folks who win these awards are predominately students who work and play in the same circles, and also that these circles are of notable proximity to the Student Life Office. Is it merely a grand coincidence? Or perhaps the brightest and best Houghton students invariably find themselves a part of these sorts of circles towards the end of their college careers?

I find this hard to believe. Conversely, I find it very easy to believe that a noticeable narrowness of recipient choice is occurring, and I hereby challenge the SGA as an organization to either recognize that this is a problem and fix it, or to prove to the rest of the student body that it's not really all about who you know.

I would like to postulate two scenarios which I feel may explain what is happening. The first is that the awards are simply something which "must be" done. In other words, perhaps the SGA awards are an established tradition, but a tradition that is being carried out not to further some purposeful end, but rather because it is an expected part of the academic year. In this case, I can understand a lack of motivation on the part of the SGA to actively seek out nominees, and a need to simply choose people from their own organizational or social ranks for reasons of simplicity and efficiency. In this case, it is essential that the façade be kept up no longer. If the awards

are to preserve any shred of campus-wide dignity, they must acknowledge this problem and then summarily be discontinued.

The second scenario proposes that perhaps the awards are, in fact, still a motivating, unifying, and honoring force, but that the process utilized to select nominees and, eventually, recipients, is in desperate need of revamping. I may have completely missed the boat, but I only vaguely remember one communiqué to the student body about nominating their comrades for these awards, and virtually no follow-up information or an (entirely necessary, even for the most important emails, given the nature of college life) avid repeat email. Even with an expanded pool of nominations, however, it is difficult to reflect this diversity if the selection committee is made up of students within the relatively closed system I have been discussing. Perhaps a wider, student-wide selection committee should be implemented. Not that it is at all unnatural to vote for one's friends, or for someone you know versus someone who you've never heard of, but who looks good on paper, but an SGA-appointed group of SGA associates is going to come up with a selection of SGA-related (either socially or politically) award recipients.

Finally, I would implore the selection committee to seek a much greater diversity of students for the awards. While (again) all of the award recipients certainly deserve recognition for the work that they have done, this campus is full of students doing so much more than just being involved with SGA, leading worship, and being respectable RAs. What about the people who do not head up Koinonea, but are

rather passionately involved with the fine arts, or with chamber music, and have thrown themselves into these pursuits with immense talent, and with hearts bent on relentlessly redeeming the world around them? What about the people who are not involved with social justice work or global missions, but rather are driven to fervently combat the hateful and intolerable treatment of homosexuals by many sections of the Christian church, and accomplish much in the small, unnoticeable corners of their world? What about the student who has never been a part of any campus organization, but has rather focused on befriending the marginalized on our very campus, tirelessly showing love to those around them and doing so without any recognition for this quiet service which embodies, to the fullest extent, everything that was exemplified (at least in word) on Wednesday morning?

I know these people. The people who are recognized by the SGA awards process are notable, worthy people, and I intend no disrespect or belittlement to them in the least. But if we're going to honor the brightest and best in our community, we can't assume that they are all to be found in one place. And if we award these citations so that others may be inspired to fuller service and richer living, might we do better to choose people who represent not just the popular parts of Christian service, but those who are living to the fullest extent, in the unexpected parts of our campus?

Micah is a Music and Philosophy major and is Associate/Web Editor

Note From the Editor:

The Houghton Star did not receive any Letters to the Editor this week.



ACP Members since October 2009

2009- 2010 STAR Staff

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The Highjumpers, Ink, watercolor, colored pencil

artist OF THE WEEK

A note from the Artist:

I doodle on everything and hope to make the world a little prettier by doing so.

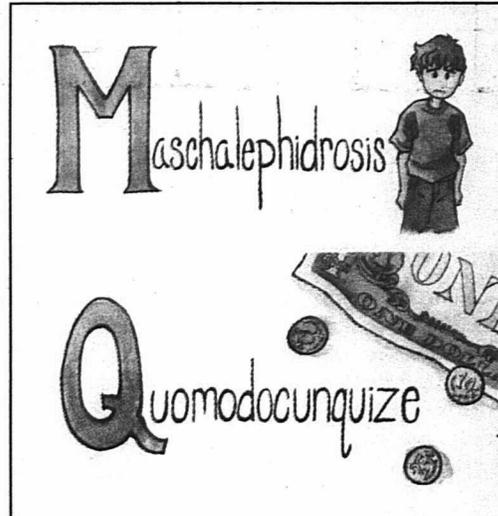


The Fisherman's Wife, Ink, watercolor, handmade paper



Historical Fashion Study, Ink

MELANIE LIPPERT



Excerpt from "Hippopotmonstrosesquipedalian Alphabet," Ink and watercolor

THIS SUDOKU IS EASY

Prize: Leroy Townes and the Lonestars' album!

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

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

THIS SUDOKU IS KIND OF HARD

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

Congratulations, Yoon-Kook Kim, winner of last week's sudoku!

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

sudoku CHALLENGE