

THE HOUGHTON STAR

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Houghton Hosts Regional Lego Competition

by Jocelyn Matuszkiewicz

3...2...1...Lego!

On Saturday November 21, Houghton's campus was filled with Lego-connoisseurs between the ages of 8 and 12 for the regional competition qualifier of the First Lego League of Cattaraugus County. The competition was heated, complete with team uniforms, encouraging coaches, and referees on the lookout.

While the students from five area elementary and middle schools munched on potato chips at 8:30 a.m., coordinator Cindy Crandall laid down some ground rules. She reminded the young competitors that they were "competing against the mission, not the other team."

As this year's theme for the First Lego League was Smart Move: Transportation, the mission for each 6 to 12 person team was to create a robot to complete an obstacle course, which the students also designed and constructed completely from Legos. It only seemed fitting, then, that the day began with the infamous single, "Mr. Roboto," by rock group Styx, to get everyone in the right mood.

Despite the early hour, the atmosphere was one of healthy and fun competition. While most kids were "excited" about the competition, several expressed anxiety. Twelve-year old Jesse Giberson, captain of his team, said that he was fairly worried about the robot "surviving the impact wall and completing the course."

The students seemed to be very involved and completely in their element. At the start of the day-long competition, Crandall asked the kids if they were ready for the day ahead, and they answered with an enthusiastic "Yeah!"

"3...2...1...Lego!" the referee yelled, and the games began.

For the first half of the competition, the students set off to demonstrate their work in "practices rooms" around the college. In these rooms, they

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Despite Economic Downturn Struggling Endowment Shows Signs of Recovery

	last	change
HERBALIFE LTD	43.24	▼0.74
CSX CORP	48.85	▲0.03
NOBLE CORP	41.12	▼0.85
PAYCHEX INC	32.09	▲0.06

photo by Wesley Dean

Many schools decided to retract student scholarships during financial stress, but Houghton has cut spending, in part, to keep them unchanged.

by Joella Eppehimer

In the midst of nationwide financial hardship, college endowments have taken a significant hit. Entering the 2009-2010 academic year, Houghton's endowment was underwater, but signs indicate that it may be recovering.

Vice President of Finance and Administration, Efrain Rivera, explained an endowment as "a group of assets that donors set apart

to fund operations of a college." While a donor contributes a specific amount to the school, only the income generated by that donation can be spent, which is typically about 4.5% of the actual gift, according to Rivera. Income is gained by putting the donation into an interest-earning account or investing the donation in stocks.

The recent drop in the market created tight financial situations for many institutions, including Houghton. The situation was

magnified by the fact that the severity of the decline was greater than most people have experienced, being one of the worst since the 1930s. The income generated by the endowment funds scholarships for students, so the drop in the market prevented the college from having the money to fund these scholarships. While some schools in the same situation chose to retract scholarships from their students, Houghton decided to continue to fund aid for current and incoming students.

This decision "created a challenge" according to Rivera, but school officials felt it would be unfair to rescind aid that had been previously awarded to students. The situation was met by tightening the budget and using the funds that were cut to provide scholarship aid that the endowment was no longer providing. It is important to note, however, that although meeting financial aid needs was one reason for the tight budget this year, it was not the sole cause.

An endowment is considered "underwater" when the principle,

Endowment cont'd on page 2

Turkey Drive Provides 146 Turkeys for Allegany Residents

by Kristen Palmer

When Shannon Marriam, senior at Houghton, and her cohorts Greg Bish and Ray Parlett set out to plan this year's turkey drive, the goal in mind was to help the families of Allegany County who could not otherwise afford a turkey to eat on Thanksgiving Day.

"I think it is good to notice the need in our own community," said Marriam. "A lot of times in chapel, we talk about the needs of people in a lot of different countries, which is of course important, but it is also important to remember the needs right here around us."

"Many of us hear about poverty in Allegany County," added Bish. "The 2000 Census found 7,066 people in Alleghany County living below the poverty level, including

705 families with annual incomes of less than \$10,000, and we are not sure what one person can do



about it. For the past nine years, the turkey drive has been an incredible way for the SGA to provide a practical way for us to help meet this need."

To accomplish the goal of assisting families in Alleghany

County, Houghton needed to raise \$2000.

Marriam, Bish, and Parlett were not alone in their efforts, however. The fundraising began when several organizations, including churches in the community, Wellspring ministries, Youth for Christ, and food shelters, generated lists of families in need in the community.

Parlett then distributed coupons to each of the organizations, which then distributed the coupons to the families. Each family took a coupon to Jubilee, Harrington's, or several other participating stores, and in return, was given a Thanksgiving turkey. Houghton later reimbursed each of the stores for the turkeys.

Before this could happen,

Turkey Drive cont'd on page 2

THE WORLD TO THERE

by Derek Schwabe

Same-Sex Marriage Bill Rejected in New York State

The national battle over same sex marriage waged on this week and hit close to home in Albany, NY where state legislators voted down a proposed bill to legalize marriage between homosexuals. In a decisive vote of 38 to 24, the legislature rejected the bill which was proposed and largely endorsed by NY state governor David A. Paterson. Despite having the majority of seats in the state legislature, the democrats were still unable to solicit the necessary number of votes to pass the bill. While democrats were divided in their voting choices, all republican representatives casted votes in opposition to the proposal. The debates surrounding the decision were reported to be among the most emotional and personal to occur in the chambers in many years.

Bank of America Intends to Repay \$45 Billion Bailout Aid

Bank of America announced Wednesday its intentions to repay all \$45 billion lent to the company through the government's Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). Intending to continue in its plans to recruit a new chief executive, the bank has promised to repay the loan in full by the end of the year. During its announcement, the current chief executive, Kenneth D. Lewis endorsed Obama's TARP effort, stating "We appreciate the critical role that the U.S. government played last fall in helping to stabilize financial markets, and we are pleased to be able to fully repay the investment, with interest." Mr. Lewis, scheduled to retire at the end of the year, withstood extensive criticism for failing to disclose billions of dollars in losses at Merrill Lynch early this year.

Zimbabwe Economy Predicted to Improve in Coming Year

After ten years of sharp decline, Zimbabwe's economy is

predicted to have growth, of about 7%, and lower inflation in the next year. According to Tendai Biti, finance minister, the gain will probably come from the agricultural and mining sectors. Since the introduction of hard currencies, such as the US dollar, inflation has significantly decreased and the Zimbabwean dollar, despite a call for it from President Robert Mugabe, is not expected to return at least until 2012. For years, the inflation rate has been astronomical, making trivial products cost millions of Zimbabwean dollars.

This significant financial improvement comes after the recent power sharing move to a unity government ten months ago.

NATO Pledges Over 5000 Troops to Aid in Afghanistan

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, NATO secretary general, said that it would pledge to provide at least 5000 non-US troops for Afghanistan in 2010. He made the point of saying that "instability in Afghanistan means insecurity for all of [NATO]." The exact numbers from each country will be determined after a conference in London this January. According to Rasmussen, the goal of this troop surge is to transfer responsibility and power to the Afghan government.

This announcement came after President Obama's recent announcement to increase the number of US troop involvement in Afghanistan to 100,000.

Reality TV Show Personalities Crash Presidential Dinner

Two reality TV show actors were able to pass through security at the White House and enter President Obama's first State Dinner in honor of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, though uninvited. The White House insists that the president was never in danger, as the two had been passed through magnetometers like the other attendees, but reports that the couple was even able to join the receiving line and shake hands with Obama.

Endowment cont'd from page 1

or the money that was placed into the account or stock, is less than what was originally given. Since there is a stipulation that the endowment itself cannot be spent, the school cannot spend anything when it goes underwater until it recovers. Many schools invest their endowment in the stock market, as Houghton has done, to allow spendable income to grow. While there is always the risk of the market declining, this is not a

problem over time because it goes back up, and the school does not "spend every penny of interest generated," said Rivera.

Fortunately, the market has rebounded since September, and Houghton's endowment is now slightly "above water," although stocks can change from day to day. Rivera said that the main step in this process is having patience, and to grasp the full implications of the state of the college's endowment. Everyone must wait until the entire year is over. ★

Turkey Drive cont'd from page 1

however, money needed to be raised for the turkey drive. Marriam, in charge of the fundraising, had her work cut out for her.

Houghton College students participated by way of residence. The four dorms each formed separate teams, the flats and townhouses together formed a team, and the CLOs and commuters together formed a team. Beginning the last week of October and ending November 23, the teams, made up of students, raced to earn the most points.

Jars for each team were placed in the Campus Center and "students who put a dime or nickel into a jar took points away from that team," explained Marriam. "Pennies and dollar bills into a jar were positive points."

Additional jars were placed in each dorm, and also in Java, along with several other places, for flat donations. Results were posted a couple times a week to keep students informed of the rankings.

Several senators — those involved with the senate subgroup that takes part in social action — helped with the drive. They helped count and put up signs, according to Marriam.

"We had a student dress up like a turkey during lunch one

day and collect money," said Marriam. "Dr. Brittain, as usual, also dressed up in a costume at the end of the drive."

Dr. Brittain appeared in chapel as Pikachu this year.

The final points included Rothenbuhler Hall with 12,305, Shenawana Hall with 9,996, Gillette Hall with 8,597, Lambein Hall with 7,424, the CLOs and commuters with 6,171, and the flats and townhouses with 5,140.

"Shen was in the lead for the last few days," said Marriam, "But then Roth threw them out at the last minute."

All together, the points translated to \$2014.73 raised. Approximately 146 coupons were given away, and around 20 more will be given away to local food pantries over the next two weeks for Christmas.

"The turkey drive is an excellent way for students, faculty, and staff to come together to make a positive impact on our neighbors," said Bish.

Marriam, Bish, and Parlett, with the help of Houghton, reached their material goal of raising \$2000. More importantly, however, they reached their immaterial goal of bringing together the Houghton community to help those in need in Allegheny County — an act that will continue throughout the Christmas season. ★



photo courtesy of Cindy Crandall

The Fillmore Central School team won Best Overall Performance and will compete at the University of Rochester this Sunday.

What it's Like to be Gay at Houghton

by Elisabeth Wenger

"Definitely the hardest thing about it is that so many students consider it a closed case." This is the first thing that junior Ryan Clark said when I asked him about being gay at Houghton. Many people consider the issue of homosexuality taboo because it is likely to start fights with people who strongly believe that it's sexually disgusting or scripturally condemned. The fact remains, however, that there are homosexuals at Houghton.

In a recent study carried out in 20 Christian colleges by Houghton's Director of Counseling Services, Dr. Mike Lastoria, under the auspices of the Association for Christians in Student Development (ACSD), it was found that of 245 students admitting to same-sex attraction 67 did not identify themselves as heterosexual. It is interesting to note that, out of the 178 students who took the survey from Houghton, 8 (4.5 %) did not identify themselves as heterosexual. Further, 14 (9 %) said that they had, at some time, experienced same-sex attraction. "Multiply that percent by our student body," said Lastoria, "and you get around 180 students. That's enough to fill up the recital hall."

Despite these numbers, 100% of Houghton students who took the survey said that their public sexual identity – what they told their friends – was heterosexual.

Clark said that he has felt "a kind of instinctual fear to keep it from some people. Part of me says that's not healthy, but part of me says it's wise to do that, not to wear it on your sleeve, when some people have such a problem with it." This feeling of "don't-ask-don't-tell" is not unique to Clark.

One of the questions included in Lastoria's study asked people to rank how strongly they agreed or disagreed with this statement: "Persons who identify themselves as experiencing same sex

attraction are viewed positively on this campus." Of the 178 students from Houghton who took the survey, an overwhelming majority disagreed with this statement; 46 students said the strongly disagreed, 78 said they disagreed, and 36 didn't know. There was a similar distribution of reactions when students responded to the statement, "Persons who identify themselves as experiencing same sex attraction receive support on this campus."

Senior Josiah Armstrong, writer of last year's student production *Swallow*, said regarding the Wesleyan view of homosexuality, that "homosexuals on campus feel demonized by the language and overall attitude towards the particular subject. Many who want to admit the truth about themselves feel they cannot completely, except within closed circles, for fear of being demonized even further, or worse, getting 'in trouble' with Student Life."

Sophomore Mitch Galusha also said, "the thing that makes it hard is the fact that they have to hide the way they live, or for the people who are struggling with their sexuality and identity in God, they have to hide that they are struggling for fear of being kicked out, ratted on, or possibly losing friends over it."

Because homosexuals on campus are often afraid of talking about their sexuality, many students conclude that there are no homosexual students on campus.

According to sophomore Adam Reinhardt, "at times it feels like the college as an institution has turned a blind eye to the struggles of homosexuals on its campus. While there are safe places for homosexuals provided by the college, such as the counseling center, it seems to me that the default response to the homosexual is to ignore that they are here."

"Homosexual behavior" gets a vague mention in the Community Covenant, but this behavior is not defined—Reinhardt points out

that people are left wondering whether "homosexual behavior" is any different than "heterosexual behavior." Is hand-holding allowed? Cuddling? Kissing?

A common complaint that many students have with the way homosexuality is dealt with at Houghton is the perceived fear of whatever is different. "I feel that for most students on this campus, homosexuality is something very foreign and misunderstood," Reinhardt said, "and students often do not know how to react to gay members of the community. Clichés like 'love the sinner, hate the sin' are often invoked as an easy way out of an awkward conversation."

Many students also cite the use of derogatory language as a contributing factor towards the feeling that homosexuals are not appropriately cared for on campus. "There are still Christian students using such words and phrases as 'that's gay' or 'faggot' which are so inappropriate, prejudiced, and un-Christ-like," said Armstrong. "Demonizing words such as these should never leave the mouths of Christians, ever!"

Galusha concurred. "I feel the hardest thing for homosexuals on campus is being able to live their life without being slammed, or hated, or slandered. I know that I get sour looks when I do something that is not particularly 'manly.' Which then makes people utter the phrase, 'He is so gay' or ask the question 'is he gay?' In addition to that, to be told by a lot of professors' teachings, chapel speakers and various... students that their lifestyle is an abomination, wrong, and disgusting doesn't help with the everyday struggle."

Clark said that when he's heard "slurs behind my back, or overheard derogatory comments," it reveals an unwillingness to engage with the issue of homosexuality on a level that does not simply vilify or demean people. This perceived unwillingness to engage makes it

difficult to be a homosexual on Houghton's campus. Galusha said, "I know all the everyday struggles I had to endure and still to this day, endure. I got sick of people saying 'The Bible says it is wrong,' and 'if you are a Christian, then why are you struggling with this and why do you keep going back to it?' I was able to find my true identity through the loving, caring people whom God placed in my life. They showed me the love of Christ by talking with me. We need to not address this issue with hate and 'because it says.' We need to address it with love and empathy."

It is very clear that there hasn't been "a crusade against the homosexuals, nor has there been a press conference promising tolerance and/or acceptance," noted Galusha. Reinhardt said that, despite some "initial awkwardness [but] that doesn't mean people don't want to talk about it. A lot of people on campus have strong opinions on the subject and want their opinions to be heard. Quite often I have gotten into deep conversations about sexuality and spirituality."

According to Clark, he expected a mix of ignorance, confusion, and willingness to discuss when he decided to come to Houghton, and that he's been pleasantly surprised "by how much people aren't angry and bigoted." Sometimes, Clark added, people "just don't think before they talk" and unintentionally use language that makes homosexuals feel like a feared and shunned "other."

Mostly, however, those people at Houghton who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transsexual are here for the kind of Christian liberal arts education Houghton offers, not to spend every day waving their sexual orientation in people's faces. As much as Clark wants to gain ground for gay rights, he said, "I'm here to be a student primarily." ★

Legos cont'd from page 1

preparing for the competition, she said that "If the pressure got to be too much, we turned on the disco music and started to dance." Later, the nearly 80 attendees witnessed this, as a majority of the Lego-ers got up during a break to do the Cha-Cha slide -- twice.

Siblings, parents, and grandparents, came out in support of their little Lego-ers. Houghton's own Kristina Lacelle-Peterson was there to watch her son Nathaniel, age 13, who is a student of Fillmore Central School, compete. Many

tested their proposals and were judged on design, programming, presentation, and teamwork.

After lunch, all activity moved to the Campus Center lounge, which held a demonstration table and an aerial camera view for onlookers. The momentum was maintained throughout the day with pounding pop tunes.

First time coach and mom to one of the contenders, Libby Stanton from the Allegheny/Limestone district, said that playing music is one way to get the kids to relax. While the kids are "pretty motivated themselves," while

people in attendance expressed the feeling that Houghton College is a great place to host this type of competition because of the comfortable chairs and convenience of the campus store. The winning team will move on to the regional competition at the University of Rochester, where Lacelle-Peterson said they will have eight hours to spend on bleachers.

"I think everyone [on campus] was amused, like 'Ooo, Legos!'" she commented, but the kids held a great presence on campus with their good behaviors and positive

attitudes. After the awards were distributed, the teams even helped clean up the garbage and bottles that had been left over from the day's festivities.

While each of the teams placed for differing categories, Fillmore took home the award for Best Overall Performance. The team from Fillmore, along with the second and third place teams, Allegheny/Limestone and Randolph, will compete in the regional competition this coming Sunday, December 6. ★

Women's Soccer Ends Season at Nationals

by Josiah Proia

On Saturday, November 22, the Women's Varsity Soccer team finished their season in the first round of the NAIA National Tournament with a 2-0 loss to Indiana Wesleyan University. The match was well played by both teams, but in the end Indiana Wesleyan, ranked 11th in the final NAIA National Poll, held on to its lead. The women's soccer team's overall record for this season was 15 wins, 2 losses, and 4 ties.

At the start of the 2009 season, the returning Highlanders were faced with the challenge of filling vacated leadership roles and building unity within the team. Head Coach David Lewis commented, "We fielded a relatively young team this season and had a lot of holes to fill in our lineup due to last season's large graduating class." Junior striker Kaylin Bull also remarked, "We lost a lot of great seniors so I wasn't sure how the season would turn out."

The team answered this challenge with victories in a number of areas. The team won their eighth consecutive Conference Title, qualified to compete in the NAIA National Tournament for the seventh consecutive time, and concluded the season ranked 22nd out of 200 or more schools in the NAIA Final National Poll. This is the thirteenth time since 1995 that the team has been ranked in the Top 25.

The Highlander's defense was top in the nation due sophomore goalie Alexa Thayer and a strong defense, surrendering only 4 goals in 21 games, and achieving 18 shutouts. The Highlanders earned the American Midwest Conference Fair Play Award for their sportsmanship in not receiving a single Yellow or



photo courtesy of Wesley Dean

Junior Kaylin Bull steals past Indiana Wesleyan University at the NAIA National Tournament.

Red Card during the whole season.

A number of individual players were recognized for achievements during this season as well. Sophomore defender Keeler Topping was selected as the Conference Player of the Year, marking the 8th year in a row that this award has been won by a Houghton player. Juniors Kaylin Bull and Lauren Haggerty, as well as sophomore defender

Samantha Choma, were selected as 1st Team All-Conference. Freshman Jen Hudson and sophomore Danielle Turner were named 3rd Team All-Conference. The team has also excelled in their academic studies: seniors Jenny Miller and Kaitlin Smith, and juniors Megan Short and Carolyn Tomlinson achieved the status of Academic All-Americans.

With all of these successes on the

soccer field, one could say that these accomplishments were simply the natural outcome of the hard work and training that the team endured. While that assumption is accurate, the players hinted at something more.

Carolynn Tomlinson, a junior and captain on the team noted that: "What many do not know about our

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from the ARCHIVES

From the Archives is a series of articles pulled from past issues of the Star. This article entitled "Homosexuality Issue Debated" was printed in the February 24, 1984 issue of the Star and there was no author credited for the article. The current staff of the Star find this article particularly relevant as a sort of supplement to Elisabeth Wenger's story in this week's issue.

Current Issues Day came out of the closet this semester as it presented the issue of "Homosexuality: An

Evangelical Response" to the students and staff of Houghton College. The three speakers, Letha Dawson Scanzoni, Colin Cook, and Dr. Roger Sider, gave lectures, seminars, and participated in a panel discussion throughout the course of the day.

Letha Scanzoni is a nationally known lecturer concerned with religious and social issues who has written articles for *Christianity Today* and other well known Christian journals. She has also co-authored a book entitled *Is the Homosexual My Neighbor?*

Colin Cook holds an M.A. in New Testament Theology and has been a minister for seven years. Cook is the founder of Quest Learning Center in Reading, Pa., an interdenominational program for Christians wishing to be free from their homosexuality.

Dr. Roger Sider is an M.D. who has been a Chief Resident of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

He is currently the co-director at the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Rochester.

Scanzoni began the day with a 50 minute lecture entitled "The Church and Homosexual Personhood." Scanzoni stated that the issue of homosexuality has previously been removed from the realm of the church. The church was sure that homosexuality was a sin and we had the perception that gays were uninterested in God. However, there are now upstanding Christians that have admitted to homosexual tendencies, and so the question has become one the church has to deal with. "We can't wish them away," said Scanzoni.

"Is it permissible to have a monogamous marriage between people of the same sex?" asked Scanzoni. She then answered her own question saying, yes, as long as this marriage exhibits the qualities that God has set out as the standards for the covenant

of marriage. What homosexuals in this situation have is love, not lust.

Scanzoni closed by exhorting the audience, and the church in general, to stop ignoring this segment of society and reach out to them in Christian love.

In his morning lecture, Cook also emphasized the need of the Christian church to reach out and love the homosexual. "Jesus was able to distinguish between the person and the homosexuality. This is what we have to do as Christians," said Cook.

Cook expressed the need for a message of recovery to be given to the homosexual. Cook suggested that not all homosexuals are happy with their orientation and that change can come.

You can find the rest of this article at www.houghtonstar.com.

Buffalo Restaurant Review: Mother's

by Rebekah Miller

A simple jaunt down Elmwood, Allen Street or Chippawa in Buffalo's west side reveals a wide variety of restaurants and cultural venues. The question isn't so much what there is to do in Buffalo, but rather where to do it and, depending on what you're looking for, picking the best place to go may prove to be a slightly daunting task. After careful research of reviews both on the internet and in the local newspaper, *ArtVoice*, I decided to try out a restaurant situated right off of Allen Street: "Mother's."

A winner in *ArtVoice*'s categories for Best Romantic Restaurant, Best Patio, Best Late-Night Eats, and, dare I say, Best Bar Menu in the recent "Best of Buffalo 2009," Mother's looked to be the perfect restaurant for a couple celebrating an anniversary, a group of friends looking to have a more sophisticated night on the town, or, in the case of my roommate and myself, two women without dates. With candlelit tables dressed in white tablecloths, dim lights, and a small, more intimate dining area, the atmosphere was ripe with romance. I appreciated the setting even though I wasn't there for love. I went with my friend and we were

both hungry.

I was instantly struck by the number of people in the restaurant. I assumed this was a sign of popularity, but it also unfortunately contributed to a volume slightly louder than what I would have preferred. Our server was polite but did his best to be invisible; he took our orders and filled our glasses but otherwise left us alone. Eyeing the menu, I immediately noticed a lack of vegetarian dishes—seafood and steak were much more prominent. I eventually settled on the glazed pork-chop filled with blue-cheese and almond stuffing and garnished with snow peas and potatoes, resting on a bed of roasted beets. My friend chose something a little more exotic: the grilled sword fish with orange ginger butter, which was accompanied by pickled ginger, wasabi, sesame snow peas, and saffron rice.

Each of the entrees were accompanied by soup or salad, and I, after tasting my split-pea soup, rediscovered what it means to uncover the flavor of a food, instead of being assaulted by it. In both my soup and main dish, I tasted more flavors in one bite than in the various



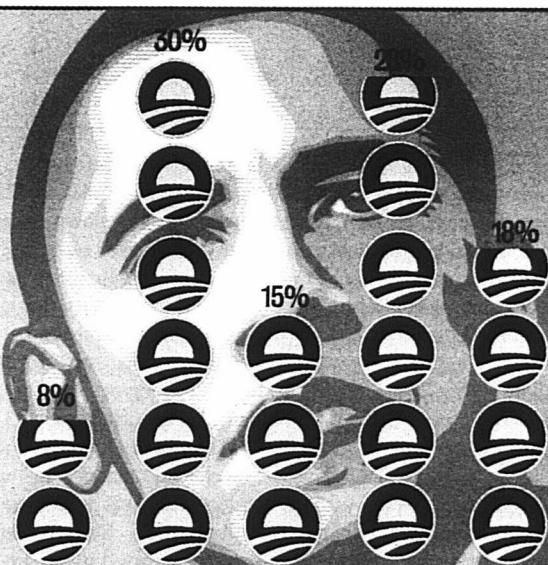
photo courtesy of urbanspoon.com

Mother's Restaurant in Buffalo, NY offers great food and flexible hours.

dishes I've eaten in a month, without exaggeration. Not to be outdone, my friend's celery and gorgonzola soup was well-spiced with sage and had a delectably creamy, and, thanks to the celery, pleasantly contrasting texture. Even though I relish my student diet of oatmeal, bread, and rice and beans, I have to admit that there is something transcendent about truly good food

that is actually enjoyable to eat. An extra plus, especially for a student, is the fact that dinner is served until the early morning hours. On the other hand, the entrée prices range between \$14 and \$25, which may inhibit frequent student attendance. So, while I can get a cheaper meal at my own mother's house, the experience of this Mother's was well worth it. ★

Online Poll: One year after we elected Barack Obama to be president, how do you think he is doing?



Very Well Moderately Well Neutral Moderately Poorly Very Poorly

results from 80 votes

Visit
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Soccer cont'd from page 4

team is the reason for our success. Yes we work hard, we practice for hours every week, we travel and play games, but what makes this team successful is the spiritual unity of the girls. We are victorious on the playing field because it is our altar of worship, and our play is worship to our God."

Kaylin Bull affirmed this assessment by stating: "Many people would look at our record and call it successful...what some people may not know is that the Houghton College women's soccer team is a group of girls who long to know the Lord more and use the game of soccer to worship the One who gave us the ability to play. This is what truly sets us apart from soccer teams all over the world. So yes, it's an honor to have the record we do, and to have accomplished the things that we did- but to see my teammates growing deeper in their walks with God and to build the relationships we've built on our team are the things that really matter, and something I'll cherish forever. That is what defines a successful season for me."

Coach Lewis summed up the season well by concluding: "I am very happy with the team's work ethic, progress and leadership exhibited. We are grateful for God's blessing on a great season and return His blessing as an offering of thanksgiving." ★

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12: Emie & Andy Lawrence - Folk / Blues

19: Allan Howe & Tom McClure - Swing

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CONGRATULATIONS

Alex!



Alex's name was selected to win **ROCKBAND 2** for Playstation 3 recently in the contest sponsored by: Pioneer College Caterers & General Mills Cereals!

Beginning a Discussion on Diversity: Moving Beyond Tolerance

by Zach Adams

Issues of difference have been the source of many vibrant conversations over this past year. Intentionally considering how the relevance of our faith to domestic and global issues is a hallmark of a distinctly Christian, liberal arts education. Although Houghton College does this well in some areas, we have opportunities to press forward in other areas. Racist events, instances of sexual discrimination, and religious discrimination have occurred on campus. In some cases it was the reactions to those incidences that raised concern among members of our community, including myself.

In my experience, I have noticed a pattern in how people respond when diversity is mentioned among members of this community—faculty, staff, and students. The reaction is one that appears as an aversion to discussing issues of difference and their significance to us both as members of this community and as followers of Jesus Christ. There was (and still is) a ridiculing of peoples' pain regarding the incidences of discrimination that have occurred on campus. When someone is hurt it is neither a Christian nor a Biblical response to dismiss their feelings. As we move forward in this conversation on issues of difference, it is important to put this adverse reaction into context. This will allow us to begin creating a culture where issues of difference are not just tolerated, but where all individuals are culturally competent and true peace and reconciliation is

fostered.

There are probably many reasons for this adverse reaction to confronting disparities in competency of issues on diversity, but allow me to highlight several. This first is pointed out in an article from the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* which suggests "that an old-fashioned prejudice [towards Black Americans] has given way to a modern bias that is implicit, subtle, and often unintended" (Goff et al., 2008). I believe that statement explains why there is an automatic "wall" that goes up when someone mentions the word diversity

to members of this community. Because this bias is subtle and often unintended, students are reacting strongly to this notion of what is deemed as a personal attack. This leads me to the second point that is from Dr. Allan Johnson and his book "Privilege, Power, and Difference":

"But the truth is that my silence, my inaction, and especially my passive acceptance of the everyday [social] privilege that goes along with group membership [in certain social groups] are all it takes to make me just as much a part of problem. It's a point that's easy to miss because we want people to see and judge us as individuals, not as members of a social category" (Johnson, p. 118).

Many, including myself, want to be viewed and judged individually.

I think that many of the adverse reactions to diversity stem from the thought that individuals believe we are living in an egalitarian society. I think that is easy to see egalitarianism at a majority white, middle class educational community, especially from a white person's schemata. In a

We must begin to reflect, dialogue, and reconcile with one another on issues of difference. These need to be individual and corporate conversations.

community of learning the dynamic that is set up is one of competition and to be considered successful in this type of community entails being able to analyze and articulate our thoughts. I would argue that this environment requires the work of an individual and the recognition as an individual.

Because we live in a fallen world, it is important to expand our view of being judged individually. It would be naive of anyone to suggest that sin is only found on an individual level. We need to recognize the pervasiveness of sin on a structural level. The tension between the individual and the structure is set up because of the dynamic relationship between the two views and the varying opinions on how much emphasis should be placed on each one respectively. The tension is seen again when we look at scripture that tells us that we are one in the body of Christ, but with many gifts (1 Corinthians 12:27). How do we balance the celebration of diversity and the celebration of unity? Before we begin to reflect on that question together, we must make

the distinction that unity does not mean uniformity. The celebration of diversity causes unity and harmony.

Because of these three principles: "a modern bias that is implicit, subtle, and often unintended," the view of individualism and egalitarianism, and the balance of diversity and unity in the body of Christ, the adverse reactions to diversity by certain students are so strong. Now that I have outlined what I think has led to the negative reaction to discussions on the issues relating to difference, where do we go from here?

We must begin to reflect, dialogue, and reconcile with one another on issues of difference. These need to be individual and corporate conversations. These conversations are crucial for us to have if not solely for personal growth, but for carrying out the mission of the college: "...to equip them [the students] to lead and labor effectively in the changing world of the 21st century." These conversations and our desired outcomes will impact our thinking on pedagogy and the liberal arts to create a culture where all are striving towards culturally competency, peace, and reconciliation. As we begin to dialogue together, let us refocus on what it means to be at a Christian, liberal arts institution and let us refocus on what it means to say that *all* are made in the image of God. Join me in this conversation as we fix up this world.

- Zach is a junior Biology major and is SGA President

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Mitch Edward's article, "Not Everything is Permissible, but is Nothing Beneficial?" two weeks ago was challenging and presented a problem we should consider. He discussed the lack of free choice at Houghton, stating, "I believe such outright banishment [of alcohol, smoking, or premarital sex] thwarts students' spiritual growth." According to Edwards, college should be a place that prepares students to deal with "dangers of the world," not be sheltered from them.

However, while over-protection can cause a problem, the danger comes when we start considering how Houghton should change in order to resolve it. Suppose Houghton removed its ban on alcohol, smoking and premarital

sex. Would the pros outweigh the cons? Would students actually leave Houghton stronger because of it?

To the student who is so inclined, alcohol, smoking and sex can be found, and believe me, they are. Students are still making choices, but by putting bans on such activities, Houghton is taking a moral stand. There are other times and places to learn safe limitations on smoking or drinking, and while it would be nice to learn these limits in a supportive Christian community, the situation is likely to get out of hand. If these activities are allowed for the sake of free choice, they could soon be accepted, and later accommodated.

If Houghton allows open promiscuity today, it will be building co-ed dorms tomorrow. The school would become more attractive to the partying type of students and less attractive to those who really want to learn.

If some students want these choices, why shouldn't they apply to a college that already offers them? There are other,

less conservative, Christian colleges to choose from. Why should Houghton be pressured to lower its standards? Better to err on the side of caution, than to over-do the free choice aspect of a college education, and jeopardize the school's moral foundation.

- Mary Elisabeth Doan, Class of 2012

Dear Editor,

Your editorial on "the psychological effects of our built surroundings" made me chuckle. It has its point, but as you acknowledge, it is a limited one. In my day, Class of 1991, the stereotyping was less based on campus layout and more on the fact that students were charged slightly more for rooms at the newer dorms, South Hall (Rothenbuhler) and Lambein, than the older ones, East Hall (Gillette) and Shenawana. The resulting stereotypes were that South Hall and Lambein were filled with more cosmopolitan, or spoiled,

depending on perspective, students and that East Hall and Shenawana housed more down-to-earth and earthy students, respectively. There was a saying (apparently perpetuated by East Hall residents) that guys dated women from Lambein but married ones from East, sort of a "girl next door" stereotype. (Actually, I did marry an East Hall woman.)

The editorial reminds me of an unfortunate incident in which the stereotyping was taken too far. One well-meaning Student Life staff member received the impression that Shenawana residents somehow felt inferior because they were living in the older, cheaper dormitory. At a dorm meeting she proceeded to give them an inspirational speech "You are not a loser!" to rescue them from despondency. As you may guess, it was not well received.

Fun editorial, Joel—keep 'em coming.

- Dave Stevick, Class of 1991

From the Editor's Desk...

How Stephenie Meyer's Vampires are Sucking Literature Dry

by Amy Buckingham

At this time of the school year, the library becomes a tense place to be as the study carrels fill up with the sounds of shuffling pages and frantic typing. It becomes an obsession to check word counts and pages left to write. It's stressful. I completely understand the yearning for a comfortable chair and a mug of hot chocolate and the last thing I want is to pick up yet another "classic."

There seem to be two kinds of books in general interest publishing: books that sell and books of worth. These categories are not mutually exclusive. In fact, I think the best books are those of literary merit that happen to entertain, but I think the market has moved largely towards books that sell, both in the consideration of the publisher and in the action of the consumer. I'm speaking now of those books that are mass-marketed, like the *Twilight* books and the *Stephen Kings*. By no stretch of the imagination are the *Twilight* books well-written, but they sell because teenage girls (and let's be honest, us college girls too) are entertained. Is it fair that Stephenie Meyer has made millions of dollars from a piece of work that is mediocre? I still see books being sold that are of worth, that exemplify work of merit, while also being gripping and meaningful, but I don't see Dave Eggers or Chuck Palahniuk or Don DeLillo getting as much recognition as they deserve. I can't say why this is; perhaps they are not as well marketed as popular fiction, or perhaps they are not as easily accessible to the

readers.

Over the past few decades, there has been a loss of perspective regarding the actual purpose of books. The goal used to be that if a book was worth publishing, it was worth reading. I think the publishing industry has shifted to a "big business" mindset, where editors are more likely to buy a book because of its marketability, rather than its literary merit.

One reason for this shift is the set of obstacles that this industry has set up for itself. Publishing houses pay huge advances to big names to write books in the hope that they will produce a best seller and garner a profit for the company. If a book doesn't sell as well as projected, the publishing house loses big. They already paid the advance to the author and they lose money on book returns, or the return of all the unsold books to from bookstores for a full refund, a system that has been in place since the Great Depression. Because of the likelihood that a publishing house will lose money, they are unwilling to take risks in publishing books that don't have any obvious marketable value. Books of literary merit, the classics of the future, often happen to fall into this category.

As a result, we're seeing another change in the world of publishing. Authors who cannot sell their manuscript to a publishing house are looking for alternate ways to publish their books. This has led to internet publishing, in the style of fan fiction. At the same time, publishing companies

are capitalizing on new technologies to sell books in the digital format for e-readers like Amazon's Kindle or Barnes & Noble's Nook.

It is in this world of technology that the publishing industry is struggling to find itself, in much the same way that the music industry was

forced to do in the last decade or so. Presently, e-books still make a trip through publishing houses, but soon, there will be little need, as books "leak" to file sharing websites and as authors find ways to "publish" whatever they want, making any written work available to nearly everyone in the world. While this

seems ideal for many authors, being able to publish their books without encountering the obstacles of traditional publishing methods, it also means that there is little regulation in what is being published.

I am wary of this entire process. When publishing becomes a free-for-all, where anyone can get their work read by millions of people, where do we begin to distinguish what works have actual worth? I only see more confusion and devaluation. Are we comfortable with fan fiction and the *Brothers Karamazov* occupying the same (digital) space?

I think that this is something our generation is falling to: the instant gratification and convenience of having your books or music with you wherever you go. I am not exempt from this. My iTunes library is over 10,000 songs but just because I have all of that music doesn't mean I'm lis-

tening to and appreciating it. There is something to be said about better appreciating something because it is a physical object. This is much like what vinyl owners say about owning records. There is something intentional about putting a record on, about getting up to flip it, about placing the needle in the groove in the same way that there is something to be said for making room for a book on a shelf, picking it up, opening it, and turning its pages.

There is a similar statement about our respect for those things that hold meaning in the shift from object to digital file as in the putting on equal footing works of literary merit and works of pure entertainment. In an article entitled, "The Slow Moronic Death of Books (As We Know Them)" in Seattle's *The Stranger*, Paul Constant writes, "And when the number of people reading decreases at the top of the mass-reading market, there will be fewer people filtering down to the serious literary experience, and the idea of reading printed books will be a tiny boutique experience, not unlike collecting vinyl."

I am tempted to think that books as objects are far more important than we have been giving them credit for in the past decade. And while publishing (as we know it) is going down in flames, I am silently smiling, hoping that the current struggles of big business publishing will inadvertently open a door for the renewed respect for and recognition of the value of literature.

- Amy is a senior Humanities major and is Culture Editor

Dear Editor,

There are many reasons I am glad to be graduating this year, shame is they are not happy reasons. My opinion of Houghton College has slowly degraded each year and while part of me wonders if it is just the 'honeymoon' phase of college fading or if the college has really gone down hill. Recent writings in the *Star* have brought to my attention the level of immaturity on this campus regarding 'controversial' issues. While I found Micah's honest coverage of the 33 Miles concert refreshing, Kevin Jackson believes musical quality at a concert is irrelevant if you get 140 hungry kids sponsored, an opinion he expressed with the tact of a 6th grader. Suzanne Derksen was brave to tell her personal trials in chapel yet her honesty was met with hostility. Her talk about hospitality became about her (again, honest) feelings about living with a homosexual couple.

I also find myself wondering if the administration is actually thinking when making decisions or just flipping a coin. Why is a liberal arts college disposing of majors? And who is benefiting from the 4-credit system? Everyone I have talked to disdains it. There seems to be a desire to create a squeaky clean, ivy-league image instead of the humble school of broken humans that I saw as a prospective.

Talking with friends about our disappointments with this college, we all discovered the only reason none of us transferred was because we didn't want leave each other. Maybe I just had a romanticized view of college, but what does it say about an establishment that they only thing keeping students around is to stay close to their friends?

- Melanie Lippert, class of 2010

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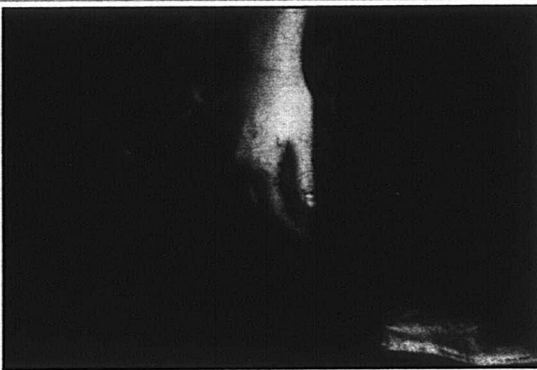
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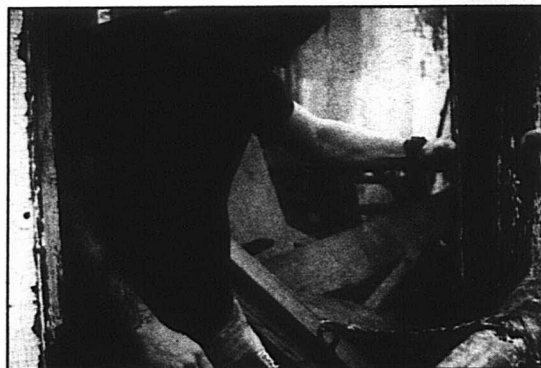


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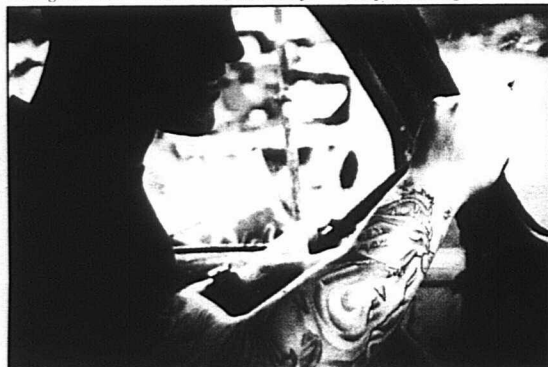
Note from the Artist:

"The world just does not fit conveniently into the format of a 35mm camera."



OF THE artist WEEK

Haleigh is a senior Communications major with a focus in digital media.



THIS SUDOKU IS
EASY

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

Congratulations to Mirjana Franz, Last week's Sudoku Challenge Winner!
Stop by the Star office to retrieve your prize

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

The Star will only award ONE prize per student per semester.

THIS SUDOKU IS
HARD

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

sudoku CHALLENGE

Prize: Leroy Townes and the Lone Stars' album!