

THE HOUGHTON STAR

Volume 106, Issue 5

October 9, 2009

Homecoming Celebration 2009

by Kristen Palmer

Hundreds of alumni and current students gathered together last weekend for Houghton's annual Homecoming and family weekend. Although the weather did not fare as well as hoped, those in charge still managed to coordinate a successful weekend of celebrating Houghton College's 126th year.

The weekend festivities were set in full swing, literally, by the close to 1000 attendees at Friday night's swing dance. Originally planned for the quad, the Jazz Big Band theme dance was moved to the gymnasium due to inclement weather. This was not a setback, however, but rather contributed to the great turnout, according to Daniel Tomlinson, senior CAB member.

"The floor was not harmed," said Tomlinson. "The gym could even be a possible venue for future events, if approved by Coach Lord."

It was a bit stressful to accommodate the weather at the last minute, but turned out really well for those involved, according to Tomlinson's fellow Homecoming committee member Ashley Kuvshnikov.



Steve Grudda and Briana Dawson, Homecoming king and queen, ride down Willard Avenue in a corvette for the Homecoming parade

"It was the first dance that was held in the gym, but lots of people came out, had fun, and loved the environment we created for them," she said. "Our goal was to take away the 'gym' feel and make it almost like a jazz lounge if possible, and I think it turned out pretty well. With the live band, atmosphere, and lounging areas, the Big Band vibe really came to life."

Tomlinson and Kuvshnikov, along with Emily VanEenwyk, headed up CAB Homecoming committee, and spent a lot of time

planning a fun-filled evening of dancing. The event began with half an hour of swing dance instruction, led by Cynthia Ford, mother of Houghton graduate and Lambein RD, Havilah Ford. Several couples demonstrated swing moves at the front of the gym, as a live band, led by Michael Humphrey, played big band swing classics. Other members of the band included Humphrey's wife, Elizabeth, Dan Wartinger, Eddie Gratz, Ken Crane,

Homecoming cont'd on pg. 2

Career Services Seeks to Address Unemployment

by Hannah Yanega

In a time when unemployment rates seem to increase every month, Houghton's Career Services is attempting to do a better job of preparing students for the career field.

Dan Noyes, director of Alumni Relations, is overseeing Career Services as part of his role with Alumni Relations. "The biggest challenge in the senior year of college is to demand attention to preparing for a career... We think of it as having one foot in the present, one foot in the future," said Noyes. "Employment is down 6.9%, but that means the percentage had to go down from somewhere. There are still jobs out there. Students need to be taking whatever 'free time' they have and using some of it to come in and utilize our services."

"We want to see the number of students who apply for at least one job before graduation increase," said Noyes.

Brian Reitnour, of Career Services, having experienced the career search in depth, knows the struggles that students face. "We don't want students to go blindly in to work, helpless... We want to prepare them for their first job and to change careers if they need to."

Career services offer numerous aids, such as a Facebook fan page, Career software online and networking with alumni, and their webpage on the Houghton site. The key, according to Noyes, is to avoid the biggest hindrance to students: Denial. "It's saying that 'It's a big scary next step, and I'm just not going to worry about it right now.'"

"It won't take care of itself," Reitnour insists, "because it's something you need to work at... something you should be thinking about. We're here to educate you, help you realize your skills and help you to enhance your relationship with God."

While Career Services is not a new campus feature, it has not enjoyed much emphasis in previous years. Their office is unmarked and hard to find and advertisements for

Campus Reacts to OS Recommendations

by Monica Sandreczki

The Organizational Sustainability Taskforce recently announced 15 recommendations which would create a budget adjustment of \$3-3.5 million for the 2009 - 2010 budget. The goal is to strengthen the budget in a way which depends less on "one time infusions of revenue and stays in line with the core mission of the school," according to President Shirley Mullen.

"The core mission of the school is really to maintain Houghton as a small, high quality liberal arts college grounded in the Christian tradition," said Mullen.

On Tuesday, Zach Adams, SGA president, hosted a forum for students in which the recommendations of the task force were discussed. According to Dean Ron Mahurin, Vice President for Academic

Affairs, Dean of the College, and the Chief Academic Officer on the task force, "the goal of the forum was to communicate to students the context in which Houghton is making these decisions."

"I hope students gained a better understanding of context, make-up of the task force, and the nature of their work, but not minimizing that we only have four years here and we can't compromise a student's experience here," said Adams.

Some of the recommendations include switching from 19 academic departments to several groups/divisions, restructuring the First Year Honors' Program (FYHP) in London, and cutting \$100,000 from the Athletics department.

According to Coach Harold "Skip" Lord, the OS Taskforce sent him and the athletics department a target amount of \$100,000 "to

contribute to the process," and said that the members of the athletics department are "the experts" who should decide the areas from which that money should come.

President Mullen said that there is an "overall process of reinvisioning athletics" at Houghton, and the "Athletics department is doing a self-study and thinking through how we do athletics at Houghton."

"What an opportunity this is to step out at a key time in Houghton's history," said Lord. He continued to say that is not too "Pollyannish" because there will be decisions that have to be made, but "it's good to be a part of a place that lets you be a part [of the process]."

"The goal is to keep every sport," said Lord. "I'm not saying that nothing will be cut, but my heart's

Recommendations cont'd on pg. 3

Employment cont'd on pg. 2

THE WORLD IS OUT THERE

by Derek Schwabe

Obama Announces to Keep Troops in Afghanistan

President Obama announced to congressional leaders on Tuesday that he would not significantly reduce the number of troops stationed in Afghanistan. The president also responded to calls for a change of military strategy in the War on Terror, affirming that he would not water down the war effort to mere "terrorist hunting" tactics. He emphasized compromise in maintaining a bi-partisan outlook. Although the decision has been made to retain troop numbers in Afghanistan, it is still unknown whether or not the president will honor a request from General Stanley A. McChrystal for reinforcements numbering 40,000.

Buffalo Receives H1N1 Vaccines

The State of New York took a crucial step in gearing up its residents to combat the growingly unpredictable threat of the H1N1 swine flu epidemic with the first shipment of vaccinations to the greater Buffalo area. Hospitals all across Erie County have received a limited

amount of nasal spray vaccinations, the first of which have been reserved primarily for medical personnel. Although flu activity across New York State remains low in comparatively, health care officials are still bracing for the worst, as the possible health implications of this new H1N1 strain have not yet been fully defined.

Rio de Janeiro to Host 2016 Summer Olympics

For the first time, South America has received the honor of hosting the Summer Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro. "It's Brazil's time" said the nation's president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. The decision came at the slight expense of U.S. President Barack Obama's approval ratings, when his in person appeal to hold the 2016 Olympic Games in Chicago was duly rejected by the International Olympic Committee, taking a "fourth place" spot behind Rio, Madrid and Tokyo. Critics abroad are already reminding Rio that she certainly has her work cut out for her. The city endures high crime and poverty rates, and the daunting need for adequate athletic facilities.

Homecoming cont'd from pg. 1

and Susan Crane.

The Homecoming court was announced as the evening came to a close. Seniors Steve Grudde and Briana Dawson won the title of King and Queen, while juniors Dan Albrecht and Lydia Parsons won the titles of Prince and Princess. Other winners included Derek Schwabe and Katie Schutte from the sophomore class and Joel Ernst and Hannah Larson from the freshman class.

Those in attendance enjoyed themselves, according to Marisa Delmanto. "It was fun to learn a new type of dance, rather than simply free styling to random music," she said. "It was just a fun night for everyone."

Tomlinson agreed. "The gym never looked so good," he said. "The decorating took a long time, but it was very worth it."

"It was quite a large task, but with all three of us coordinating together, it came along really well," added Kuvshnikov.

CAB members were also pleased with the number of alumni who came to help, according to director, Sonja Mindrebo.

"They showed us youngins a few swing moves of their own," Mindrebo said. "That always makes an event like that special."

The banquet held on Saturday created just as much of a rave as the dance. CAB members aimed for a jazzy feel to the weekend, so they planned the banquet similarly to the dance. The "All That Classy Jazz" themed night drew in over 200 formally-dressed students, who enjoyed a catered dinner while listening to jazz music.

Immediately following the

banquet was a display of fireworks on the quad, which alumni and students watched while enjoying hot cider, hot chocolate, and doughnut "SPOTS", provided by CAB. Then came the highly anticipated SPOT, a great Houghton tradition.

"Last year it was nice to have the dance follow the banquet immediately, but this year we got to head right on out to enjoy the fireworks, cider, and donuts, as well as attend SPOT, which finished the evening off on a high note," said Kuvshnikov.

Kuvshnikov was not the only one who felt this way. "I really enjoyed SPOT," said Renee Roberts. "The Chapel skit was my favorite, particularly for its political message disguised in a witty form."

The weekend also included well-attended athletic events, alumni games, several family-oriented activities, as well as the Family Weekend Golf Scramble and the Family Weekend Breakfast with President Mullen.

"It was a ton of fun to plan for, and even more fun to enjoy with everyone here on campus," said Kuvshnikov. "This year, we really tried to have an incredible weekend, filled with events that would add the wow factor to the remainder of the Homecoming events."

The Homecoming parade on Saturday morning was bittersweet, as our own Equestrian Program Director Jo-Anne Young was injured while attempting to calm a horse walking in the parade. Young suffered a broken wrist and a fractured face bone and is in need of prayers, according to a campus wide e-mail sent out over the weekend by Dean Ron Mahurin, Vice President for Academic Affairs. ★

Physical Education, Health Program Receives Accreditation

by Veronica Caldwell

The physical education department recently transitioned to offering a dual health and physical education degree program, yielding certification in both fields.

According to Trini Rangel, head of the physical education department, it has been "known for years that there is a strong connection between the role of physical education teacher and health education teacher." An example of this would be with health issues such as childhood obesity or type II diabetes.

One goal of the program is to be a draw for prospective students. Rangel also hopes that the program will appeal to students who are interested in the field, but do not "like the stigma associated with a stand-alone physical education certification."

The physical education field has begun to change with many states already requiring dual certification.

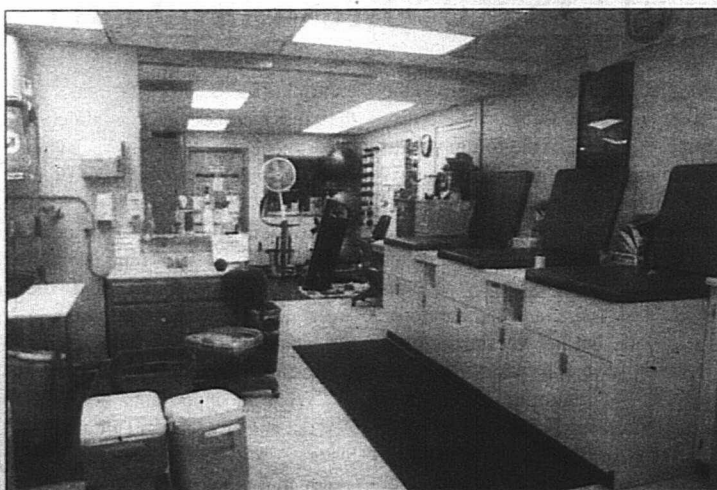


photo by Wesley Dean

The dual physical education and health major will be 89-92 credits and is hoped to be a draw for prospective students.

The proposal for Houghton's program required state approval before implementation. Developers of the program studied already established programs and what classes would

need to be incorporated into the program. Much of this research was done by Sandy Johnson, athletic trainer and physical education professor.

The health and physical education major is 89-92, while the current physical education program is only 77 credits. The dual major is designed to utilize the current physical education major, but incorporate extra classes in the health field.

Briana Dawson, physical education major, welcomes the addition of the dual program. Dawson said that if she were not a senior she would take advantage of it, as she will have to get her health certification in graduate school. According to Dawson, the addition of the program is imperative to the physical education department since more states are requiring the dual certification.

According to Kara Schrader, junior, said that the dual degree opens up new opportunities for students because "schools that are under a tight budget are more likely to want a teacher that can teach both [health and physical education]." ★

New Prayer Chapel Dedicated to Marjorie Paine

by Erika Harlow

Prayer has always been an integral part of the Houghton story. Last Saturday morning, this tradition of prayer was continued with the dedication of the Marjorie Paine Prayer Chapel. During the ceremony, President Mullen highlighted prayer as a "central thread of continuity in the Houghton story." She said that "prayer has spanned all the generations of Houghton's involvement. It has united Houghton alumni over time and geography."

Dr. Brittain told the story of the prayer chapel which is dedicated to Marjorie Paine, daughter of former Houghton president Stephen Paine. Her class of 1956 created a prayer chapel in her memory after she died from polio before she was able to graduate. It was damaged by flooding in the 1970s, and completely destroyed in 2003. The new prayer chapel continues to remember the legacy of Paine.

"So many hands were used in

the process," said SGA President Zach Adams said of the funding used for the new chapel. Besides funding from the class of 1956, class of 2009, and individual donors, the Student Project Fund helped to make the new chapel a reality. President Mullen spoke about how it was the students who pushed for

the completion of the prayer chapel, and that the use of Student Project Funding for the chapel shows that prayer is a priority for students.

The prayer chapel was completely full for the dedication service and a number of people were standing. Jillian Sokso, the assistant professor and chair of the Art Department,

spoke on the overall design and artwork in the chapel. The red, gold and cream color scheme comes from the Pauline chapel frescoes in the Vatican, which depict the conversion of Saul and the martyrdom of St. Peter. The Pauline chapel has never been open to the public, but is used for private reflection and prayer.

The ten pieces of art represent one or more of the Stations of the Cross. Each piece of art was contributed by a Houghton alumnus.

Students are excited about the possibilities that the new prayer chapel offers. Anna Matejova mentioned that there are "a lot of students on this campus who have a heart for prayer and it's great to have a space where students can seek the Lord." Nathanael Smith is looking forward to how the prayer chapel can be used by small prayer groups. He currently leads a global prayer group and he said that "having a set location set aside for prayer will help bring students together as we pray for the world." ★

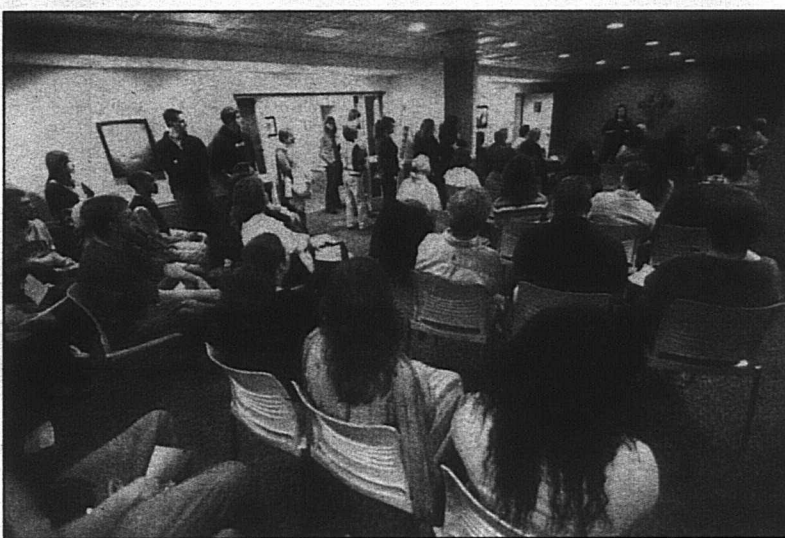


photo by Ian Galloway

The prayer chapel was funded utilizing gifts from the classes of 1956 and 2009, and Student Projects Fund Money. It was dedicated to Marjorie Paine last Saturday.

Recommendations cont'd from pg 1

desire is that we'll try every other option short of that, before we make that decision."

Another recommendation being brought to the Board of Trustees is that Houghton cease offering full semester residential programs in London.

According to Mahurin, "given the difference in costs to run London Honors," there is a possibility of offering other tracks in London or the U.K., in a less costly region, or modeling it after the FYHP East Meets West (EMW) program which involves a Mayterm travel experience.

"We're not backing off our commitment to honors, but we are inviting faculty to think about a way to attract students to Houghton, but will also help to bring into alignment the program costs associated with running these programs," said Mahurin. "We're committed to maintaining three first year honors programs."

Professor Chris Stewart, co-creator and director of the London track of FYHP, said Houghton will be losing a "highly successful recruiting tool." According to Stewart, in the five years before this program began, he tracked the yield rate of students. In the 90-100 academically top students, Houghton was only keeping 30% of them from the time of application to enrollment. The year that the London program was first offered, the yield rate "jumped to 60% and stayed between 55% and 60% ever since."

"Even the [students] we turned down were coming at a similar rate," said Stewart. Adding EMW, according to Stewart, "enabled us to interview more students, which was advantageous in...continuing to have a high yield rate."

Stewart also said that this program "does something transformative with students then releases them back into the college. Students report that it has a transformational effect and they stay [at Houghton] for four years. Their retention rate is 95%." He said that the benefits of the program are not department specific in that the program recruits all kinds of students.

"In that sense, it's leavened the campus," said Stewart. "Everything has cost. But once you weigh the benefits, that's how you calculate value."

Mahurin said that faculty members are tenured to the college so that in situations, for example during financially reallocations, a tenured faculty member could be reassigned or released if their program is reduced or eliminated.

The members of the Organizational Sustainability Taskforce started with the appointment of the members which consist of two members of the Board of Trustees, two members of the administration, two faculty members, one staff member, and the president of the college.

"The goal was to get a small group of people who could represent a range of voices from ongoing sectors of governance of the college," said Mullen. Each represented sector

of the taskforce is from the "classic aspects of the board. It's not in any way meant to exclude staff and students."

This summer was a time for data gathering, especially comparative financial data from the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC). An external consultant made an analysis of programs and their relative cost and of Houghton in relation to other schools, said Mullen.

This past spring, the taskforce met with the "goal of presenting recommendations to the Houghton community and the Board in October," said Mahurin. "Because [the OS Taskforce] just completed their work two weeks ago, we're still in the process of informing constituents of the recommendations to the [Board of Trustees]," who have to approve the recommendations before they are announced to the community in their final form.

According to Mahurin, "The Board of Trustees are the legal representatives of Houghton College and are ultimately responsible for the oversight of the college," and are chartered by the state of New York. "At the end of the day, it's not what the dean or the president says; ultimate authority lies with the Board of Trustees who themselves are accountable to the Wesleyan Church." ★

Employment cont'd from pg 1

their services have been rare.

Katarina Kieffer, a 2009 graduate, confirmed the small role that Career Services has played in the past.

Working as a full-time volunteer for the AmeriCorps in Buffalo is not what she expected when she graduated. "When I was thinking of just searching for a job instead of volunteering, it was challenging to know where to begin. I don't think Houghton provides a lot of guidance, particularly for students who are in the humanities fields," Kieffer explained. "I don't think Houghton does a great job of preparing students to actually go out into the job market. I'm lucky to have found the position I am in, but next year... will be challenging."

Steven Woolsey is a 2008 graduate who is struggling with minimum wage jobs and wading through student loans and has even had to apply for food stamps. While some assistance has been provided from Houghton, he feels that Houghton should be doing more. "I feel like a small institution should be going out of its way to try to assist in placement of graduates, since that is a direct indication of the valuation of the investment in the first place... I can't help but think that a little support would go a long way. Six jobs in a year's time. I'm sure none of them will be used in any promotional materials as an example of sterling success."

Finally, Noyes had one last word for alumni, like Kieffer, who felt that the role of Career Services was lacking: "We continue to help alumni years after they've left Houghton. While you're here, take the free advice and free practice while you're on site. However, it's never too late." ★

THE WORLD IS THERE

by Derek Schwabe

Obama Announces to Keep Troops in Afghanistan

President Obama announced to congressional leaders on Tuesday that he would not significantly reduce the number of troops stationed in Afghanistan. The president also responded to calls for a change of military strategy in the War on Terror, affirming that he would not water down the war effort to mere "terrorist hunting" tactics. He emphasized compromise in maintaining a bi-partisan outlook. Although the decision has been made to retain troop numbers in Afghanistan, it is still unknown whether or not the president will honor a request from General Stanley A. McChrystal for reinforcements numbering 40,000.

Buffalo Receives H1N1 Vaccines

The State of New York took a crucial step in gearing up its residents to combat the growingly unpredictable threat of the H1N1 swine flu epidemic with the first shipment of vaccinations to the greater Buffalo area. Hospitals all across Erie County have received a limited

amount of nasal spray vaccinations, the first of which have been reserved primarily for medical personnel. Although flu activity across New York State remains low in comparatively, health care officials are still bracing for the worst, as the possible health implications of this new H1N1 strain have not yet been fully defined.

Rio de Janeiro to Host 2016 Summer Olympics

For the first time, South America has received the honor of hosting the Summer Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro. "It's Brazil's time" said the nation's president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. The decision came at the slight expense of U.S. President Barack Obama's approval ratings, when his in person appeal to hold the 2016 Olympic Games in Chicago was duly rejected by the International Olympic Committee, taking a "fourth place" spot behind Rio, Madrid and Tokyo. Critics abroad are already reminding Rio that she certainly has her work cut out for her. The city endures high crime and poverty rates, and the daunting need for adequate athletic facilities.

Homecoming cont'd from pg. 1
and Susan Crane.

The Homecoming court was announced as the evening came to a close. Seniors Steve Grudda and Briana Dawson won the title of King and Queen, while juniors Dan Albrecht and Lydia Parsons won the titles of Prince and Princess. Other winners included Derek Schwabe and Katie Schutte from the sophomore class and Joel Ernst and Hannah Larson from the freshman class.

Those in attendance enjoyed themselves, according to Marisa Delmanto. "It was fun to learn a new type of dance, rather than simply free styling to random music," she said. "It was just a fun night for everyone."

Tomlinson agreed. "The gym never looked so good," he said. "The decorating took a long time, but it was very worth it."

"It was quite a large task, but with all three of us coordinating together, it came along really well," added Kuvshnikov.

CAB members were also pleased with the number of alumni who came to help, according to director, Sonja Mindrebo.

"They showed us youngins a few swing moves of their own," Mindrebo said. "That always makes an event like that special."

The banquet held on Saturday created just as much of a rave as the dance. CAB members aimed for a jazzy feel to the weekend, so they planned the banquet similarly to the dance. The "All That Classy Jazz" themed night drew in over 200 formally-dressed students, who enjoyed a catered dinner while listening to jazz music.

Immediately following the

banquet was a display of fireworks on the quad, which alumni and students watched while enjoying hot cider, hot chocolate, and doughnut "SPOTS", provided by CAB. Then came the highly anticipated SPOT, a great Houghton tradition.

"Last year it was nice to have the dance follow the banquet immediately, but this year we got to head right on out to enjoy the fireworks, cider, and donuts, as well as attend SPOT, which finished the evening off on a high note," said Kuvshnikov.

Kuvshnikov was not the only one who felt this way. "I really enjoyed SPOT," said Renee Roberts. "The Chapel skit was my favorite, particularly for its political message disguised in a witty form."

The weekend also included well-attended athletic events, alumni games, several family-oriented activities, as well as the Family Weekend Golf Scramble and the Family Weekend Breakfast with President Mullen.

"It was a ton of fun to plan for, and even more fun to enjoy with everyone here on campus," said Kuvshnikov. "This year, we really tried to have an incredible weekend, filled with events that would add the wow factor to the remainder of the Homecoming events."

The Homecoming parade on Saturday morning was bittersweet, as our own Equestrian Program Director Jo-Anne Young was injured while attempting to calm a horse walking in the parade. Young suffered a broken wrist and a fractured face bone and is in need of prayers, according to a campus wide e-mail sent out over the weekend by Dean Ron Mahurin, Vice President for Academic Affairs. ★

Physical Education, Health Program Receives Accreditation

by Veronica Caldwell

The physical education department recently transitioned to offering a dual health and physical education degree program, yielding certification in both fields.

According to Trini Rangel, head of the physical education department, it has been "known for years that there is a strong connection between the role of physical education teacher and health education teacher." An example of this would be with health issues such as childhood obesity or type II diabetes.

One goal of the program is to be a draw for prospective students. Rangel also hopes that the program will appeal to students who are interested in the field, but do not "like the stigma associated with a stand-alone physical education certification."

The physical education field has begun to change with many states already requiring dual certification.

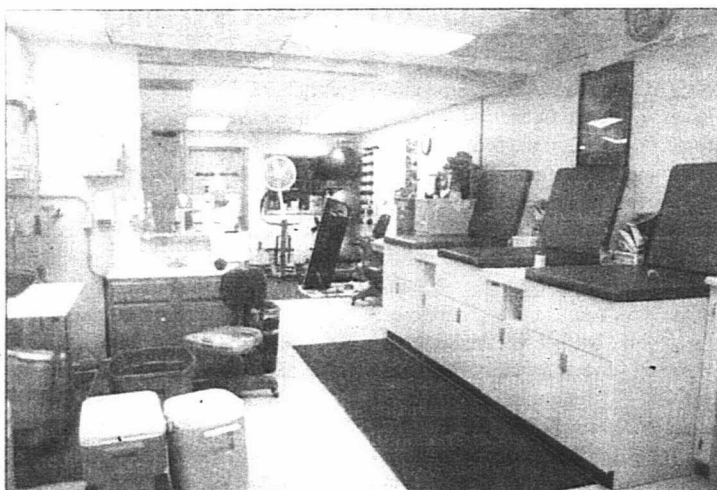


photo by Wesley Dean

The dual physical education and health major will be 89-92 credits and is hoped to be a draw for prospective students.

The proposal for Houghton's program required state approval before implementation. Developers of the program studied already established programs and what classes would

need to be incorporated into the program. Much of this research was done by Sandy Johnson, athletic trainer and physical education professor.

The health and physical education major is 89-92, while the current physical education program is only 77 credits. The dual major is designed to utilize the current physical education major, but incorporate extra classes in the health field.

Briana Dawson, physical education major, welcomes the addition of the dual program. Dawson said that if she were not a senior she would take advantage of it, as she will have to get her health certification in graduate school. According to Dawson, the addition of the program is imperative to the physical education department since more states are requiring the dual certification.

According to Kara Schrader, junior, said that the dual degree opens up new opportunities for students because "schools that are under a tight budget are more likely to want a teacher that can teach both [health and physical education]." ★

Exclusive Interview with Theologian Stanley Hauerwas

by Joel VanderWeele

Stanley Hauerwas will deliver the Staley lecture on October 12

The Houghton Star: I was wondering if you could talk a little bit about the premise of your lecture, 'War and the American Difference.'

Stanley Hauerwas: You mean the presumption that war is the liturgical act that is crucial for maintaining the moral heart of the American project? I think, as a premise, there's no way to deny that. I want to mean it to be a congratulatory suggestion about America and at the same time create a problematic for Christians. I think America depends on the moral capital of the sacrifices represented by our wars and that's deeply problematic from a Christian point of view.

Star: You talk a lot about the relationship of Christianity and democracy and Christianity and politics, especially in America. What do you think is the current relationship between Christianity and democracy and what do you think it should be? And what is the ideal role for Christians in politics?

SH: I'm not sure we know what we say when we say 'democracy.' In effect, America is a plutocracy in which money rules. The language of democracy is often a way to hide that reality from us. I think that Christians in America have been far too accommodating to the American so called experiment just to the extent we failed to be a politics of truth. I think we failed to be that predominantly in our own communities where I think you desperately need to start.

Star: In one of the more interesting controversial quotes from your lecture, you say something along the lines of, "as a Christian, I wish America as a nation

was more 'secular' and the Christianity of America was less American." In what ways do you wish America was more secular and in what ways do you wish Christianity was less American?

SH: I wish America could tone down its rhetoric in a manner that suggested a humility that was befitting of people who understand that so much of our reality is based on deep injustices. What would it mean for America to recognize itself as a slave nation and a genocidal nation? At the very least that would suggest a humility that might help us approach the world with less arrogance. So the religious character of America is found in the presumption that America is a society unlike any society the world has ever known. For Christians to be less American would be to recognize the Catholic character of the Church in a manner that would indicate we have deeper loyalties to Christians in other contexts than we do to America.

Star: I'm going to shift the conversation a little bit to what you see as the role of an evangelical Christian college in America like Houghton College—small, middle of nowhere, evangelical, of the Wesleyan tradition. What is the role of a college like ours and what should the mission of a Christian institution of higher learning be?

SH: Here's a little shameless self-promotion: I've recently put together a book called "State of the University" trying to deal with that kind of question. One of the problems with evangelicals is that they think they have a relationship with God which they go to church to have expressed and as a result they are not sufficiently ecclesial. So I would hope that a school like Houghton might be in the process of recovering the significance of the church for what it means to be a Christian. I think that that should shape the kind of knowledges

that are taught at Houghton, because it's not sufficient to simply think that you can study history or political science or economics the way it's taught at Duke and then simply have your Christianity expressed alongside those subjects. If Christian knowledges don't make a difference for how you understand economics than something's decisively gone wrong. I would like there to be a strong enough church existing that would make a difference for how subjects are taught at Houghton.

Star: But how do we apply some of the work that's being done in secular universities, or can we apply some of the work that's being done in secular universities to Christian institutions as well, or should they be more independent of one another than that?

SH: You have to know what's going on in secular universities first. You have to know why it is that rational choice methodologies currently dominate in the social sciences as a legitimating factor of why it seems there's no alternative to liberal patterns of explanation of social relations, but that doesn't mean you have to think that that's the only alternative.

Star: What do you think about the presence of ROTC programs and military science majors and minors on Christian campuses?

SH: I'm a pacifist so I would prefer that they not be there. That said, I think that the military is one of the more morally compelling forms of life that we have. They are an honor society, and I honor the fact that they are an honor society. So their commitment to forming the lives of people to be of service is a

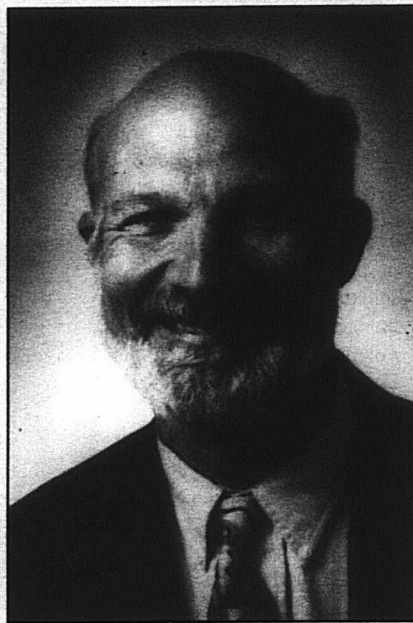


Photo courtesy of Emerson Books
Hauerwas will visit campus on October 12

paradigm that I wish the church might be at least as serious about.

Star: In your lecture you call for the church to become more of an agent of peace. What, in your mind, does that look like? In what practical ways can we go about doing that, go about becoming a more active agent of peace?

SH: Well at the very least, we could begin by helping people understand that Christians have a problem with war. That many people go to church and never hear that at the very least just war is a very very demanding ethic. That means that war is subject to severe limits. It's far too late, when a war begins, to ask if it is just. You have to begin by asking what would a Just War foreign policy look like, what would a Just War pentagon look like. Ask those questions and see how it can be a very deep challenge to many people who currently think of themselves as Just War Christians. ★

Grammy Award Winning Ensemble Visits Campus

by Andrew Dibble

The Houghton College Artist Series has a reputation for featuring an eclectic array of musical ensembles. In contrast with September's well-received Artist Series, Cuarteto Latinoamericano, we now turn to the world of choral music. Perhaps the highlight of this year's artist series, the GRAMMY Award-Winning Chanticleer has been hailed by the New Yorker as "the world's reigning male chorus." Chanticleer was founded in 1978 in San Francisco, and named after the clear-singing rooster in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. As the San Francisco Chronicle succinctly says, "They are, to put it directly, one of the world's best." In 2008 it became the first choral

ensemble to claim Musical America's "Ensemble of the Year" as well as being inducted into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame. Comprised of only 12 male voices, Chanticleer has earned the moniker "An



Orchestra of Voices" and is renowned for having perfect intonation and a clear sense of balance adding to their master artistry. Now in its 32nd tour season, Chanticleer has booked over 100

concerts ranging from its home in San Francisco, to Vienna, Prague, and as far east as China. This year's season, titled "In Time Of...Songs of love & loss, war & peace," includes repertoire spanning seven centuries, and will be performed in Wesley Chapel tonight at 8 PM.

Student tickets are free, and more information can be found at www.chanticleer.com and www.houghton.edu.

"Chanticleer is the most widely respected professional vocal ensemble in the United States and among the finest in the world. You won't want to miss the opportunity to hear them in person." - Dr. Brandon Johnson, Greatbatch School of Music Director of Choral Activities. ★

SPOT 2009 Continues Tradition of Entertainment

by Megan Sonnekalb

SPOT: a night filled with skits, athletic ability, videos, musical performance and laughter. This year's hosts Alex Glover and Peter Carpenter kept the night moving with crowd-pleasing antics. A mix of continued acts tied the two-hour performance together. A common theme throughout the night was poking fun at campus issues such as the community bikes, the swine flu, the four credit system, President Mullen's propensity for using words that end in "ity" and chapel commentary.

The entertainment for the night ranged from original songs, serious and satire, to renditions of popular music in rap, a cappella, acoustic and Broadway style. In dance, there was an interpretive version of "Breaking Free" from High School Musical, "It's Gonna Be Me" by N'Sync and a swing dance team. There was also a unique expression of physical ability by pogo stick jumper Angela Hoover. The videos involved an attempt at freedom on the community bikes, a basketball game of 'musicians' versus 'athletes,' the development of the "Soccer Crew's" attempt at musical skill, and a look



Photo by Eliza Jarvis

Devon Martin and Jon McKinley jam out to "Don't Stop Believing"

at the "Least Interesting Man Alive." The skits were crowd favorites, covering the topics of chapel conduct in the balcony, and a Houghton newscast with a section that targeted inappropriate trends in freshman dating.

The logistics of SPOT are always interesting and this fall was no exception.

"I thought it was disorganized. Everyone crowding the chapel doors then rushing to seats is kind of obnoxious. I think there needs to be more organization," remarked sophomore Abby Wolters.

In regards to the transition time between acts, sophomore Patti Hyer said, "I think it went pretty well. There were

awkward pauses, but I think that's to be expected with any live showing. They pulled it off pretty well." One audience member shouted "graveyard!" in the lag-time between acts in reference to the noticeable dead air time.

Student response to this fall's SPOT was met with varied opinions from different classes. First-year Rachel Stefanski said, "SPOT was hysterical," as she experienced it for the first time. Sophomore sentiment found this fall's SPOT to be "one of the funniest yet," as stated Jessica Sword. Joella Eppheimer mentioned that "Alex Glover's songs are always a big hit." The upper-classmen opinion was varied, from unsettled reactions. Junior Bethany Crawford said "Overall, SPOT was very funny, but it was unfortunate that few slightly disrespectful comments were made about Dean Brittain. Senior Mitch Edwards said that they "didn't find anything inappropriate in SPOT at all, it was just really funny." One audience member shouted an "Amen!" in reference to the first-year student dating rituals. The overall consensus of the student body was an emphatic "well done" to the SPOT hosts and performers. ★

COMMENTARY

Dear Editor,

We, the members of the London FYHP '07, '08, '09, and '10, recently presented to President Mullen a letter addressed to The Board of Trustees regarding the current London Honors Program. For the purpose of clarity in dialogue we would like to explain precisely the aim of this letter, which received the signatures of over half the current London FYHP students.

Let us begin by describing what the letter is not. This letter is not a call to save a valuable Houghton program. We recognize the tough financial decisions the college is faced with. For the sake of Houghton as a whole, some things must change and others be removed.

Neither was our purpose to say, "Hey! Look how many students like the London Honors Program!"

We recognize and are grateful for the open-mindedness that suggests there may be a better way of producing the same results at a lower cost. Innovation rarely comes without initial cost. If the administration can produce a version of the London FYHP that is more cost effective, yet fulfills the chief values of the current program, then great. We do not presume to know the numerous realities of the current situation better than the administration or the Board of Trustees.

That said, the content and purpose of the letter was to offer the potentially startling, yet accurate reality that forty-six of the current ninety London honors students would either never have considered attending Houghton College in the beginning,

or considering it, would certainly not have come. Many colleges offer honors programs. Most offer full semester off-campus opportunities. What brought the forty-six of us to Houghton was the combination of these two in a first year program.

When the administration suggests a "modified London FYHP" they mean ending the full semester aspect of the London FYHP. What we hope to have made clear in the letter is that a Mayterm-based version of the London program simply would not have attracted us during our time of college searching and decision-making.

Future students who, like us, consider and come to Houghton precisely because of the full semester London FYHP will not be attracted to a London FYHP that remains on campus for most of the semester. If the administration can bring as many more students to Houghton each year as they will be losing by dropping the full semester London FYHP, excellent.

We hope the reality of the London FYHP's significant attraction to us as we debated between Wheaton and Houghton—and other such colleges—was made clear in the letter. Most of all, we hope that the signed letter will be of use to The Board of Trustees as they decide whether or not to approve the Organizational Sustainability Taskforce's recommendation for dropping the full semester London FYHP.

Gerad Gentry

Gerad is a Senior Literature, Philosophy and Art Major.

how well is HOUGHTON handling the BUDGET CRISIS?

result from online poll at www.houghtonstar.com



Also at www.houghtonstar.com:

-Full interview with Stanley Hauerwas!

-New online poll

-Additional work from our Artist of the Week!

Keeping the Dialogue Civil: A Reader Responds

by Nancy Murphy

I am writing just after reading today's editorial responding to the current college administration's efforts to bring us as a community to a place in which we can make necessary, albeit painful, sacrifices for the good of the college. As President Mullen made clear in numerous venues over the past months, anyone is free to argue the relative merits of the recommendations made by the OS Taskforce. It is my opinion that President Mullen and her staff have made it a priority to build structures for decision-making that: welcome the voices of all constituents, including students; develop and make public the channels through which information can be collected and analyzed in a rational and timely fashion; and demonstrate respect for the rights and privacy of all parties involved.

In response to President Mullen's admonishment to faculty and staff, the October 2 editorial states, "There are two ways to interpret what Mullen is saying here," making clear that either of the possible motivations yet imagined staff is "problematic." Frankly, the insinuation that President Mullen is behaving in a way that lacks integrity and forthrightness ("sidelining of principles for the sake of expediency") qualifies as an attack on her character. This is especially problematic given the absence of any factual support. I find myself asking, "Why would the Star editor WANT to make unfounded, inflammatory insinuations of this type against the current college President?" Space and time urge me to leave the

exercise of further speculation to others. I will state, however, that I view these allegations as a disservice to the President and her staff and to the quality of the public dialogue.

The Star editorial speculates on a less offensive possible reason for Dr. Mullen's words to faculty and staff, noting that this admonition has the intent or effect or both of a "gag order," perhaps for the protection of students. I would argue this characterization represents a misunderstanding of both the intent and the effect. There is no intention of "locking the tuition-paying population out of the discussion." Students are as well informed as the vast majority of us who are faculty and staff. What, though, is the alternative to selecting representatives to analyze and adjudicate the possibilities that will support Houghton's mission for the long haul? If everyone's voice carries equal weight, little is likely to be accomplished anytime soon; and what's worse, a long-term plan for Houghton's future viability could be lost entirely. The vast majority of us who are not on the OS Taskforce are required to manage our personal and professional anxiety as best we can and to have some trust in the processes and in the competence and care of the people working within it.

Still, I am sympathetic to the concern regarding effect. No one likes to either become, or be seen as, a "victim." President Mullen made direct and clear statements

It is my perception that Houghton students enjoy relatively extensive opportunities for shaping important college decisions

admonishing faculty and staff to use discretion in what they say to students and how they say it regarding their own personal critique of recommendations coming out of the OS Taskforce or subsequent decisions approved by the Board of Trustees. It is important to consider the relationship of faculty and staff to students. How do their roles and responsibilities differ? Is it possible that a faculty or staff person could exert influence on students that could be considered inappropriate or

harmful? I believe that there have been times in the past in which faculty and staff who were emotionally involved in decisions enlisted students in their causes. No doubt the particular staff or faculty member was convinced of the rightness of the cause for the good of Houghton and of the appropriateness of garnering student support. As a therapist, I see this response to conflict frequently. Family systems theory uses the idea of triangulation to explain the process by which one family member in conflict with another will frequently pull in a third party for support. This is an understandable human tendency, but one that can be very damaging to the third party and to the system as a whole. Usually the third party is pulled in because one of the impacted parties feels threatened and vulnerable. At this point, often the third party does become a victim. She has neither the depth of first-hand information or the authority

needed to impact the system. The net result is that the third party expends a good deal of energy with a problem which is only partly understood and which is in large part outside her control. Is it reasonable, then, to say that this person has been victimized? I think so. Is this cause for offense? Not necessarily. Though students are adults, they can be victimized by influential others. Who better than the college President to remind faculty and staff to use discretion in enlisting students as allies?

President Mullen never said that students don't have a stake or a voice in the future of Houghton. It is my perception, and I've worked with students in higher education for more than twenty years, that Houghton students enjoy relatively extensive opportunities for shaping important college decisions. I have no doubt that President Mullen spends significant time listening to Houghton students. I have no reason to suspect that any of the words she uses or the decisions she makes are "simply creating the appearance of" one thing while she pursues another agenda.

Lastly, I would like to suggest that you get to know faculty, staff and students who represent a wide range of interests, values and backgrounds. Make it a point to gather information, ideas, suggestions, and to thereby learn from as many different people as possible during your time here. If all of us did this, it would go a long way toward keeping the public discourse civil.

Nancy Murphy is Director of New Student Programs

Former SGA President Defends Difficult Decisions

by Peter Savage

My return for Homecoming this past weekend was not short of its controversy. Studying off-campus this semester has left me out of the loop to the intimate details of Houghton student life and taking a moment to read the Star once a week was greatly missed. The main story as well as the editorial of last week's paper, both authored by the Editor-in-Chief, represented what I believe to be a misguided and personal attack on the administration.

When I left Houghton at the end of 2008, the financial crisis was just beginning to take its toll. My last act as SGA President was to call a meeting of the 'Big Five' student organizations to cut 20% of the Campus Services Budget (the student activities portion of the college budget). This was a difficult job and the SGA cabinet sacrificed a large portion of its budget

under the leadership of President Michael Danylak.

Despite the impression you get while walking around campus - the numerous buildings, projects, events, and employees - Houghton's future is not secure. If you were to project five, ten, or even fifty years from now I do not think anyone can definitively state that Houghton will still be around. Hard and important decisions need to be made and they must be made quickly to secure Houghton's future as an academic institution.

I want to encourage every student to realize an important fact surrounding this discussion: To take on the vestige of a victim does not demonstrate maturity but ignorance. The Organizational Sustainability

Taskforce is not a group of power hungry, exclusivist conspirators; it is a group of professors whose lives are rooted in the Houghton community. While decisions over the next three and half years will affect the class

To take on the vestige of a victim does not demonstrate maturity but ignorance.

of 2013, professors and staff members have families, friends, and mortgages. Every position considered for elimination is that of a close friend and colleague.

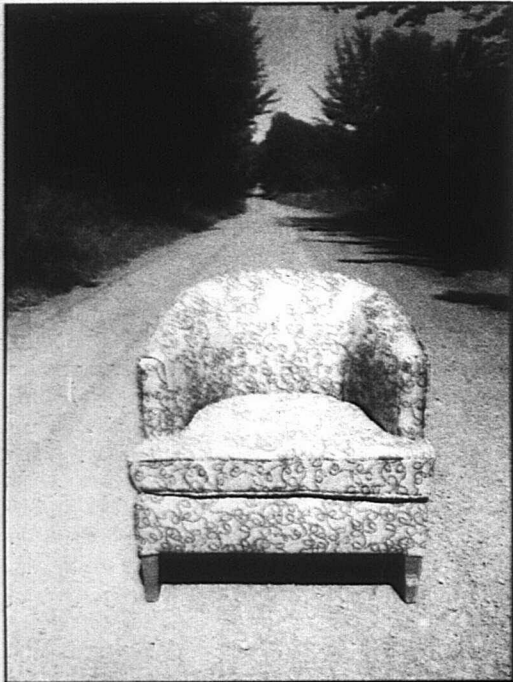
Exercising caution in the presentation of the taskforce's recommendation demonstrates a great deal of foresight. Watch the most recent episode of *The Office* and you will get an exaggerated idea of what can happen when important financial decisions are treated carelessly. Jim's announcement causes the office to descend into anarchy!

The Office would not be nearly as humorous if it was not based on an accurate portrayal of human nature. President Mullen is quoted: "... I am pleading with you, to please not make the students the battleground for things that either as a department or as individuals we care about." Our professors suffer the same temptations of anyone, but it is inappropriate to use the classroom as soap box. I would suggest that any professor who does this, intentionally or not, abuses their position and their responsibilities. Opinion is one matter; imposing your beliefs on those you are charged to instruct is completely different.

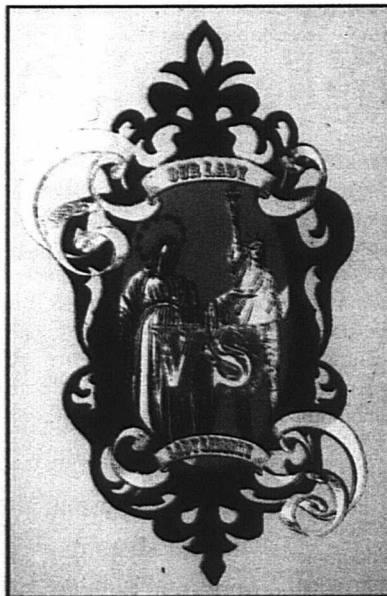
From the main article to the editorial last week, students have been presented a very dubious image of the administration. Of the three students who attempted to attend the State of

Savage cont'd on pg 7

susanna ADDISON



Reupholstered Chair



Our Lady Vs. Lady Liberty- Silkscreen



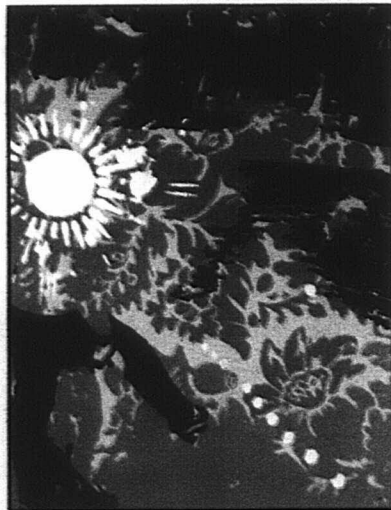
Clipped, Saved, Planted- Silkscreen



Just a Monument in my Mind- Silkscreen

Note from the Artist:

A bird doesn't sing because it has
an answer, it sings because it has a song.
-Maya Angelou



Viennese Waltz- Silkscreen

artist OF THE WEEK

To see more of Susanna's art,
log on to our website at

www.houghtonstar.com

sudoku CHALLENGE

THIS SUDOKU IS
EASY

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

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

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

Prize: Leroy Townes and the
Lone Stars' album!

THIS SUDOKU IS
HARD

Crossword Solutions, 10/2

| | | |
|----------|----------|---------|
| EBBS | TEPID | DATE |
| CIAO | ARENA | OVAL |
| HENNY | PENNY | WORM |
| OLDIE | SEGMENTS | |
| | CASK | ELAL |
| DNA | SAND | DOLLARS |
| REY | TIER | IBSEN |
| AHED | LEECH | YOGI |
| FRAUD | AROD | NIP |
| TURNON | ADIME | ESE |
| | KNUT | BECK |
| FRITTATA | | AERIE |
| LIMA | NICKEL | BACK |
| ALAN | CLEAR | AGOG |
| NECK | EASYA | BUNS |

Although a vallant attempt was made,
there was not a crossword prize winner
this week.

The STAR is still accepting puzzles.

Sorry!