



THE HOUGHTON STAR

Volume 105, Issue 1

The Student Newspaper of Houghton College

September 12, 2008

Cafeteria Tries Going Trayless

By Elise Speiser

A new initiative is being tested during the first few weeks of the fall semester as a result of Houghton College's continued effort to become a green campus. The removal of the trays from the college cafeteria is expected to conserve several resources, including food, water, and energy. This initiative is part of a collaborative effort by several groups on campus, including the new Creation Care Taskforce (headed by Dr. Matthew Sleeth and Dr. Paul Young) the Office of Student Life, Pioneer Food Services, and the Student Government Association.

This plan was first considered during the spring semester of 2008, when it was brought to the attention of the college that other campuses were effectively undertaking similar initiatives. As the summer progressed, Pioneer College Caterers Director Fred Libick continued to receive information from faculty and staff members who were impressed by other colleges' successes. He said, "I felt it was something very much worth trying and seeing what happens," especially considering the fact that the cafeteria uses more water than any other building on campus.

Student Life then spoke with SGA about putting the initiative into practice this semester. Although SGA President Peter Savage had some concerns about the difficulties for those who truly make use of the trays, such as athletes who may need to eat and drink more than the average student, he also saw the potential for the savings involved and decided that we "had to try it to see." Thus, the college decided to give this initiative a four-week trial period during the beginning of the fall semester.

The decision concerning whether a trayless cafeteria will become a permanent fixture at Houghton will depend on student responses and the amount of savings during the trial period. Savings are expected in several areas, the most significant of which is water. Statistics from the website circleofblue.com estimated savings of 1,400 gallons of water a week, totaling 5,600

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Schmidt Uses CLEW to Focus on Relationships

By Justin Zaner

Each semester at Houghton begins with Christian Life Emphasis Week (CLEW), held during the first full week of classes. This event brings an invited speaker to campus to present a series of lectures and chapels on an aspect of Christian community.

That tradition was upheld this week, with guest speaker Wayne Schmidt addressing the campus. Schmidt serves as Senior Pastor at Kentwood Community Church in Kentwood, Michigan, which, under his leadership, has grown from a small gathering of believers to a group which numbers close to 2,700 each Sunday, making it one of the largest churches in the Wesleyan denomination. In recognition of his service, Houghton awarded him the Claude A. Ries Pastor of the Year Award in 2006, making him the 38th recipient of that honor.

The Christian's relationship with

God and the relationships Christians share with each other was the theme of the week.

This was first demonstrated with the message delivered on Sunday night. That evening, Schmidt started out the series by challenging Houghton students to give the effort needed to take their relationships to a deeper, more sincere level. Schmidt referenced Jesus' question to Peter in John 21:15, where Jesus asks, "Do you truly love me more than these?" and, after receiving Paul's strong confirmation, instructs him saying, "Feed my lambs." Schmidt called Jesus' willingness to ask a hard question and encourage his apostle to do more, "going the final ten percent," and said that if truly valuable relationships were being adversely affected by brokenness or patterns of flawed behavior, then the parties involved must be willing to go that final ten percent as Christ himself did. He noted, with reference to

personal experiences, that while it is often wise to overlook offenses in the interest of avoiding conflict, it can also become an excuse not to address issues that do matter. Schmidt drove his message home by asking his audience to consider what Christ might say if he had that "final ten percent" conversation with a friend.

These themes continued as the series progressed, as Schmidt drew attention to Matthew 22, where Jesus, being challenged by the Pharisees over the Law, says that to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" is the greatest commandment, and adds that "The second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Schmidt used this verse to demonstrate that the believer's walk of faith is not a matter of listing the commandments of the law in order of priority. Rather, by putting

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Profile: An Interview With Dr. Ron Mahurin

By Sandra Stark

This interview is the first of many profiles of outstanding administrators, faculty, and students that will appear in the Star in coming weeks.

Dr. Mahurin, could you start off by telling me a little bit about yourself and your background?

I went as an undergraduate to Gordon College where I studied political science. This is also where I met my now life's partner, Jerilyn. We were married in 1982 and then moved to Ohio, where I did my master's and doctorate in political science at Miami University. My field preparation was in international relations, comparative politics with a focus on Western Europe, and international political economy. I also did cognate work in European and American diplomatic history.

My first teaching job was at Westmont College: it was there that I first met Dr. Mullen who was a colleague in the history department. I left Westmont in 1989 and moved back east to teach at Gordon College, my alma mater. I was at Gordon from 1989 to 1999 and taught in

the political science department. For the last several years I did some foundational corporate relations work for the development office. Then in 1999 I had the opportunity to move to the Washington D.C. area where I became the Vice President for Professional Development and Research at the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, of which Houghton is a member. I served there in D.C. for the last nine years before coming to Houghton this summer.

Could you describe the role of the academic dean in your own words?

The dean at any college, but especially at a place like Houghton College, has responsibilities directed in at least three critical three areas. One of these is working with the faculty: I help the institution identify, recruit, and select faculty who could join the academic community.

Secondly, the dean works with the faculty as a communicator between the administration, the president's staff, and the board. The dean and the dean's office are really meant to be a facilitator, helping ensure

that the educational mission of the college is appropriately supported. My hope is that the Dean's office can help create a great symphony between the expectations of the faculty, the administration, and ultimately, the students.

Thirdly, and this is both a formal and informal role, the dean can represent the college in ways that an individual faculty member, or even the president may not be able to. By virtue of the office of being the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, I will have the opportunity to interact with some national associations, alumni groups, businesses, and others who might be introduced to Houghton College. That is, I think, a supporting role in helping to serve the college and its various constituencies.

How do you actually set about recruiting and hiring new faculty?

[Recruiting and hiring new faculty] is one of the things that I am most excited about in coming to Houghton. On the one hand, the departments are really in the best

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THE WORLD

By Joel VanderWeele

From the Author- I will be writing this year's "World Out There" column while spending the semester abroad in the Houghton in London programme. I hope that my unique perspective from the "world out there" gives me the opportunity to tell stories about the world that might not otherwise make it to the Houghton Campus.

Federal Bailout

The financial giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have been seized by the United States Treasury and the Federal Housing Finance Agency. The \$200 billion bailout follows months of speculation after the mortgage lenders racked up \$12 billion in losses in the last year. Combined, Fannie and Freddie back \$5.4 trillion in home loans, about half of the national mortgage debt. The firms have been placed in a "conservatorship," that will be overseen by the government until they are more stable. This is the most significant action the government has taken to end the housing crisis, and has been met with mixed reviews.

Experiments that Matter

Scientists at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, are in the midst of conducting one of the most complex experiments in history to determine the nature of matter. Two proton beams, traveling near the speed of light, will be collided at cataclysmic force inside a 27 kilometer ring, called the Large Hadron Collider, buried underneath the border of France and Switzerland. Scientists hope to observe new subatomic particles and gain a better understanding of what makes up the universe. Current models suggest that particles acquire mass by interacting with an omnipresent field carried by a particle called the Higgs boson, sometimes called the "God particle," but as one of the workers involved in the project commented, "nature can surprise us."

Hurricane Season

Texans on the Gulf Coast have been told to evacuate in preparation for Hurricane Ike, which is expected to be a Category 3 hurricane by landfall on Friday. Ike has already blown through Cuba with 75-mph winds, but is expected to gain force as it swirls over the warm Gulf of Mexico towards Texas. Ike follows closely in the path of Hanna, which reportedly caused 137 deaths in Haiti before traveling up the Atlantic coast, and Gustav, which hit Louisiana, still suffering from a crumbling infrastructure caused by hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Rice in Libya

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made a historical visit to Tripoli last Friday to discuss trade agreements

with the former "State Sponsor of Terrorism." Libya's leader, Moammar Gadhafi, was once called the "mad dog in the Middle East" by President Reagan, but has since renounced terrorism and abandoned his pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. Libya is now a member of the United Nations Security Council and has been praised for its work in resisting al Qaeda in North Africa. Libya boasts the world's ninth largest oil reserves and a growing economy and infrastructure. The deal would grant access to American oil companies seeking to drill in vast areas that remain unexplored. The visit marks the first time in over 50 years that a senior diplomat has visited Libya. Despite the agreement, U.S.-Libya relations remain strained over Libya's poor human rights record.

Bhutto's Widower Wins Office in Pakistan

Following the forced resignation of President Pervez Musharraf last month, Asif Ali Zardari has been elected to be the next President of Pakistan. Zardari is the widower of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who was assassinated late last year. Bhutto was a reformer famous for saying, "Democracy is the best revenge." The election was not by popular vote, but by lawmakers in the Pakistani provincial assemblies. The new president will have to make important decisions about the resurgent Taliban and a tanking economy.

OPEC to Cut Production

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed to cut oil production by more than 500,000 barrels a day in an attempt to stop the sharp decline in oil prices. After a meteoric rise to \$150 a barrel earlier this summer, oil prices have fallen 30% in recent months. Oil producing countries are afraid that high gas prices are cutting into demand for the first time, but do not want to lose the huge profits of record-setting oil costs. Gas prices around the globe increased as news of the agreement hit the markets.

Russia Withdraws from Georgia

After invading the former Soviet nation of Georgia on August 7, Russian authorities have agreed to withdraw their troops by mid-October. According to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, 7,600 troops will remain in the disputed regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, which Russia has deemed independent states, "for the foreseeable future." Medvedev agreed to the withdrawal under the stipulation that the EU send 200 observers and 220 international monitors to ensure the security of the two regions.

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position to know by virtue of their professional competencies what is needed in the department. So one of the first responsibilities of the dean is to work very closely with department chairs and faculty to make sure that we understand what the needs of the department are, what the needs of the curriculum are and how do those needs fit with the overall institutional needs.

Secondly, part of my coming is to help us think about not only the professional associations and networks that faculty are in, but other ways in which we can tell the Houghton story and identify people that could be great "fits" to teach at Houghton College. [This requires] thinking [several] years out about the department's needs and the institution's needs and being very intentional in some networking strategies with other associations, ministries, and key graduate programs.

Also, [it involves] making sure that we're staying close to our own alums who go on for graduate work, because we would like to see some of those individuals coming back to work for the college.

Since many students probably don't know- what does faculty development actually entail?

In faculty development I want to encourage, equip and find resources that would help faculty to be thinking, "How am I as a faculty member growing in my knowledge and understanding of my own discipline, in my knowledge and understanding of certain learning pedagogies, and in my knowledge and understanding of today's students?" And then also encourage thinking back in terms of the broader institutional needs: "How do we as a campus/college connect our own particular gifts and abilities to the broader work of the academy?" So part of professional development is to think about ways in which our work and our gifts can be connected to not only our own disciplines, but broader social, cultural, political, aesthetic and moral questions of our day.

Houghton College is seen by some as one of the only true Christian Liberal Arts Colleges left. Would you agree with this?

I've heard that, and I think that there are a couple ways to think about that. I do think that Houghton does remain one of a handful of Christian colleges who at [their] core have maintained a commitment to the historic liberal arts.

However, we still need to be asking the question, "What does a liberal arts college education mean for the 21st century?" We talk about preparing students as life long learners, and then immediately students and parents want to know, "[Yes, but] am I going be able to get a job? I may have the skills to

learn, but am I going to be able to get a job?" All I would say to that is, Houghton and many other liberal arts colleges are in a moment where...the burden really is on us. We've got to do a better job of helping students, parents, alumni and friends understand that this is not just some old ivory tower notion that we all come together and study the great books for four years and will produce great kingdom citizens that can go off and think great thoughts, but frankly can't get jobs.

That's not it, and I realize I'm sort of going off message there in part; but to come back, yes, I do deeply believe- and this is one of the core reasons I came to Houghton- that this is one of the handful of places in the country that has maintained what is best about the liberal arts tradition, Houghton is a distinctively Christian liberal arts college in the Wesleyan tradition. But [Houghton] also is, like many liberal arts colleges, needing to be very vigilant and intentional about what that will mean for the future, because not everyone understands or even buys into the idea that a liberal arts education counts for as much today as it might have a generation ago.

How does your office specifically relate to students?

The first three things that I have talked about [as the role of Academic Dean], in my mind, ultimately do need to come back to how we are serving our students. In the best sense, an effective dean ultimately serves the students and alumni by serving the faculty and the administration well. That's part of what I think over the next year or two, as I become more comfortable in my own skin, excites me about being at Houghton and being back on a campus.

I really want to hear and learn of the passions, the energy, and the heart cry of our students so that together we can see Houghton college as a place where, when you walk across that platform and receive your diploma, it is symbolic of both what has happened in your life and what will be happening in your life. So in some both tangible and intangible ways it is my hope and my prayer that my office and my leadership would somehow have a very direct and important connection to what it means to be a Houghton College student and graduate.

Day to day most students can walk in and out of Luckey or pass me and not particularly care what the dean does, and that's okay. I'm a product of a Christian college, I believe deeply what we do in Christian higher education, and I want to do whatever I can to help students succeed here at Houghton.



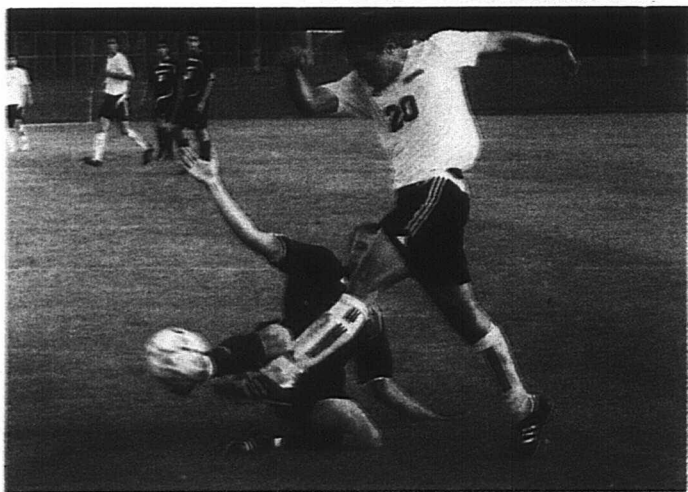
Houghton Men's Soccer: Three Shutouts, No Losses

By Andrew Oden

The Houghton Highlanders men's soccer team is kicking off the season in style with a three-win streak and no losses to date. Their first conference match up vs. Cedarville on Saturday was a close head to head, only going Houghton's way during the last three minutes of the second half with an exciting goal from Johnny Kimani to secure a 1-0 victory. According to Coach Webb, "It was our most important win so far," and it is an auspicious start to the conference season.

There is speculation that this year's team is the most experienced group of men Coach Webb has had in his tenure as head coach: every starting player is a veteran of the team, and seven of these are juniors. Chris Cruikshank has stood out both literally and figuratively as an offensive player, already scoring two goals this season. Towering at 6 foot 2, he is one of the tallest strikers on the field, making him an easy target man for the talented Houghton offense.

In the midfield, the team has a core of solid players. Coach Webb stated that the midfield is "one of



Senior Chris Cruikshank drives one past Gannon's defense.

Photo by Mike Wise

our areas of depth." Although the team graduated Josiah Snelgrove (who, after a summer tour with USL second division team Charlotte Eagles, has returned to coach the junior varsity squad) and Ernie Walton last year, juniors Steve Grudda and Dan Brubaker have returned to lead the midfield with strength and experience.

The Highlanders have not given up anything on the defensive end. Senior standout goalkeeper Erik Lefebvre has continued his

dominance in the box to lead the defense to three straight shutouts this season. After playing every minute last season and averaging less than one goal per game, Lefebvre looks to finish his Houghton career on a high note. Center-back Luke Sanford saw his first minutes of the season against Cedarville; he missed the first two games after suffering a broken nose in a pre-season scrimmage.

Right fullback Brendan Springer has been leading what looks to be

a strong freshman class, seeing minutes in the last two games. Another freshman of note is former coach Doug Burke's grandson, Corey Burke. The freshman Burke helps add depth to the midfield, and is set to carry on the strong Burke tradition at Houghton College.

The American Midwest Conference should once again be extremely competitive this year, but Coach Webb states that he has "high hopes for this fall." He is preparing his team for the conference season by scheduling match-ups with division-two teams Gannon and Mercyhurst. Houghton especially looks forward to playing arch-rival Roberts Wesleyan in the final game of the regular season.

Team manager Peter Carpenter also expressed confidence in this year's team: "This is the strongest and closest-knit group I've seen in my time as manager. We have the ability to do great things this year."

The team will travel this weekend to take on hosts University of Alabama-Auburn and University of Alabama-Mobile in a two-game tournament. The next home match will be Saturday, September 27 against Point Park University.

Community-Assembled Organ Set to Be Dedicated

By Clara Giebel

This coming Friday, September 19th at eight PM, David Higgs, concert organist and chair of the organ department at Eastman School of Music, will be playing for the dedication of the new organ at Houghton Wesleyan Church.

This organ has been used in church services for months now, but its first official concert will be given by Higgs next weekend. As this instrument is especially suited to playing the music of the French Classic style, the concert program will include works by the French composers Lefebvre-Wély and Daquin, but also works by Bach, Schumann and a show-stopping prelude and fugue by Franz List.

The new instrument is a tracker organ, one worked by the mechanics of levers or "trackers" between the

keys and the pipes, giving a very different sort of feel to the hand of an organist than an electroneumatic instrument such as the Wesley Chapel's Holtkamp organ, which has an electrical connection between the keys and the pipes.

When Houghton Wesleyan's old organ was evaluated and found in need of extensive repair, the idea of a new organ built with joint funding and for use by church and the college came together.

Faculty members in the music department, like Dr. Judy Congdon, have been musing for years over how helpful it would be to have a good tracker organ for teaching. With the growth of the Masters program in music at Houghton, it has become an increasingly vital need, as a full and varied graduate study of the organ should give opportunity for learning on both electroneumatic

and tracker organs.

Building an organ of this caliber was something that neither school nor church could afford on its own, but together the project would not only be manageable but ideal for use by students during the week and the church on the weekends. A committee of college and church members began discussion, and started the search for an organ builder began.

A colleague of Dr. Congdon's had recommended James Louder as an outstanding organ builder. Louder had worked for over 25 years under a master organ builder, but had just recently been working on his own. This gave him the expertise of a master for a cost within the range of the project's financing. After conversing with Louder and examining other organs he had built, the committee chose him to undertake the project at Houghton Wesleyan Church.

Over the past two years Louder has worked first with his team in Montreal, and since last September in Houghton with the help of community members and students, to build the new organ. The college was given the unique opportunity of hands-on learning for students: Graduate students were able to use organ building as part of their assistantships, and a special topics class was offered to all interested students.

According to Congdon, Louder not only excels at his work as an

organist, but is also a "fabulous teacher" who engages his students in his artistry. Jen Nugent, a graduate student who has worked extensively on the organ, noted "his dedication to his work as an art, not just a profession," in every step of the process. From carefully cleaning the excess glue from joints that will never be seen, to gaining an experiential understanding of tracker organs, students like Nugent have had the opportunity to learn in a unique and unusual environment through the construction of this instrument.

The Houghton community has also had a significant role in the construction of the organ. Men of the Houghton Wesleyan congregation did much of the carpentry for the organ, and other community members worked under Mr. Louder on building, polishing, and cutting the pipes to the correct length.

Events of the dedication weekend include David Higgs recital on Friday, September 19th at eight p.m., but also a ten a.m. Saturday lecture and demonstration from the builder, and Sunday's eleven a.m. church service will also include a time of dedication with several different organists, including retired church organists from Houghton Wesleyan, and a 15-year-old organ student.





Art is a Long Road: The Legacy of Aileen Ortlip Shea

By Jeffrey Andersen

"Faces Are My Joy," an exhibit honoring the late Aileen Ortlip Shea, closed last Friday evening with a grand reception. The exhibit, which opened on June 21, featured more than sixty paintings and drawings by an artist of great significance to Houghton, and this was by no means a large portion of her works. An active artist for six decades, Aileen Ortlip Shea was a founder of the visual arts program at Houghton College and a highly accomplished painter. Family and close friends gathered to remember and celebrate her legacy, with comments from President Shirley Mullen and professor Ted Murphy of the Houghton Art department.

Aileen Ortlip Shea was first and foremost a portrait painter, and "Faces" represented this dominant portion of her oeuvre. Each of Shea's subjects—which ranged from Haitian youth to African mothers, and from Allegheny county locals to her own family members—was treated with dignity and executed



Lake George Friend, 1935 oil sketch



Crowds gather in the Ortlip gallery to admire works of Aileen Ortlip Shea. Photo by Paul Shea

masterfully.

"She paid faces the compliment of sustained attention," said President Mullen, "In order to see what beauty might be there to be seen." Her works do more than simply capture a likeness, a skill at which she was quite adept; they convey the personalities of her subjects. She often revealed glimpses of the subject's personality or history through their garb, items they held, or backgrounds—violins, mutts, and tribal headdresses—decisions informed by the social realism of the 1930s.

Shea was greatly aware not only of the works of her contemporaries, but also of the works of past masters. She had that 'historical sense' of which T.S. Eliot speaks, the sense of 'the presence of the past' in the creation of her own work. Murphy noted that she was aware of the artistic ideas of painters Degas, Sargent, and Henry Varnum Poor among others, but was

also a participant in the transition between post-impressionism and early modernism in America.

The evening ended with the unveiling of Shea's last-finished portrait, of Hans and Ann Rothenbuhler, and a tour of some of her portraits that reside in the library.

Her portraits can be seen all over campus, in fact; for this reason Ted Murphy credits her with "creating part of the institutional memory" of Houghton.

Indeed, students may not be aware of how much they owe to Shea.

In addition to these tangible reminders of our history, she was one of the founders of the visual arts program at Houghton College. In 1936, she returned from a year-long painting excursion in Europe on the Pulitzer Travelling Scholarship for

the Arts, to teach here for ten years, a choice that was not the logical next step for an aspiring artist who had been educated at the National Academy of Design in New York and The Sorbonne in Paris. She was an incredibly active artist all the same, with professional memberships in the Allegheny, Wellsville, and Olean Arts Associations, as well as the Portrait Society of America.

Douglas Gaerte, Comm. professor at Houghton and long-time neighbor to Shea, related that she once told him near the end of her life that as long as she kept a project going the Lord wouldn't take her. Gaerte commented "I know she was thrilled to meet her Lord, but I think she met Him when she painted too." She continued painting into the 95th year of her life, making a tremendous impact on her family and neighbors, leaving a legacy of excellence in the visual arts at Houghton College.

According to Art professor Jillian Sokso, "The lasting importance of Aileen Ortlip Shea to Houghton,

and specifically the arts at Houghton, is the tremendous example her entire life was to the journey of incorporating calling, mission

and skill while serving others with her gifts. Her work is a lasting testimony to the balance that she was able to find in all aspects of her life, and she was a great success." Ted Murphy agreed, saying, "She set a standard of taste and excellence [for which] we are all indebted to her."

"She paid faces the compliment of sustained attention," said President Mullen.

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one's relationship with God first, one will find that a desire to carry out the law naturally follows. This is because, Schmidt said, "When you love the right things you will have an overwhelmingly deep love for others." He also discussed the necessity of looking at what obstacles may stand in the way of achieving this.

Schmidt offered another challenge: does the Christian find him or herself stuck on this path because they've lowered their

expectations to meet the level of spiritual development that they've experienced? Later he expanded on that challenge by identifying what those with truly Christ-Centered lives should do, admonishing his audience to raise their goals and expectations to that level.

Drawing attention to Romans 12, he invited his hearers to experience

a deeper worship of God, with body, soul, and mind. Schmidt also used Psalm 23 to put forward a new definition of success: namely, hearing God's voice and following his lead. In addition, he emphasized the importance of developing relationships with others who could act as mentors as one pursued this level of spiritual maturity, fostering accountability and personal growth.

Schmidt left students with a final challenge: would they truly take up their crosses?

Schmidt's final presentation during Wednesday's chapel service drew from Luke 14, a passage of scripture that he called "hard and demanding", attempting to leave Houghton students with a final question of introspection. Jesus uses the word 'hate' not to talk about emotion, but rather devotion saying that to truly love him we must place our relationship with him hating all else, if we truly want to be his disciples. Discussing

Jesus' use of the word "hate" as a measure of devotion, rather than emotion, Schmidt brought forth one final challenge for his CLEW audience: would they truly take up their crosses and follow Christ as disciples?

Student reaction to Rev. Schmidt's messages was varied. In general, much favorable opinion was to be found, but some felt that there were necessary criticisms to make. A number of Houghton students were frustrated that, despite beginning a few of his talks by stressing the value of the Bible as our source of guidance, and suggesting we take out our Bibles since we would be using them, each sermon only used a few scriptures passages. Senior Matthew Whittemore said this was disappointing, and "although Pastor Schmidt's insight was thought provoking, his lack of biblical references coupled with his stress on the importance of God's word seemed contradictory."

Junior Kelsey Bickford, enjoyed the pastor's insights and said

she "appreciated the relational perspective he brought to the texts." Many other students appreciated the topics of the series, which they saw as very relevant to Houghton as a Christian community.

Several students suggested that Schmidt could have offered more practical advice on how to meet the challenges he discussed. Junior Jenny Miller stated that she "would have liked him to dig a little deeper." She was also very quick to point out, however, that she thought "his message really spoke to the broad needs of the community" even if he didn't go as in depth as she would have preferred.

Overall, Schmidt's challenges gave the Houghton community a new template for relationships to think about and discuss as the new school year gets under way.



The New Music Industry

We're in a new age of music, one which caters to the disembodied sound bite and stifles the cohesively engineered album.

By Jody MacDonald

The paradigm of the hit record has all but faded into obscurity. With an ever increasing niche-culture, the white-hot cash rainfalls of yesteryear are becoming an antiquated nod to the fading business model of the major label deal. Even superstar acts are posting fourth quarter SoundScan numbers miles below those of the year 2000, when boy bands such as 'N Sync could clear the warehouses of 2.4 million copies in an album's debut week. The cumulative 15 million shipped copies of *No Strings Attached* are laughable by today's distribution standards.

The reason? We are in an age of profound choice – one where singles dominate. Gone are the days of harried anticipation awaiting your favorite artist's CD release. No longer is there the sacrifice of building a physical record

collection, each album having been purposeful in its addition, pored over track by track, hour by hour alone in your bedroom. In the quest for ease and accessibility, the likes of iPod and digital music libraries have given individuals a catalogue at their fingertips once only plausible for those who could afford the equivalent \$10,000 worth of physical albums. Now you simply select the radio hit from

the record and leave what you don't like.

This new mass of noise has buried acts who, in earlier years, might have achieved platinum status.

This new mass of noise has buried acts who, in earlier years, might have achieved platinum

status. Major labels are running on the fumes of an outmoded machine – the instant monetization of the physical release has segmented into ringtones, AEG/Live Nation deals and disenchanted songwriters who are pulling back the musical curtain to find that Oz has become a river of nickels.

There are avant-garde thinkers in the industry still willing to innovate, but they aren't necessarily working as A&R guys for Universal or Sony BMG. The battle on piracy, regardless of your stance on the issue, is already lost. The more it's fought, the deeper it will recede underground. Music is free. The RIAA, Metallica, and the copyright activists were valiant in their efforts to clamp down, but as long as P2P transfers, AIM, and blank media producers exist, they will continue to knock down the doors of university students rather than joining a collaborative effort attempting to reshape an industry that is upside down.

The future is talent.

If a new artist wants to drive a single up the charts for a short period before fading into obscurity, the major labels are more than willing to assist them. A generation of career artists, however, became what they are today by playing without the thought of payoff. It is safe to say that the Beatles would have still created the catalogue they did, regardless of promised

six-figure royalty checks. Music has to be the end, not the means for a career.

Real talent is not often overlooked. The production tools have been placed in the hands of the general populace, and digital conduits such as YouTube and Myspace Music have enabled anyone with free time and an instrument to hock their musical wares across the globe. Start gigging. Get a local following. Forget getting signed. If you want the keys to your own musical destiny, you may be better off learning the trade and promoting your art without the hope of superstardom. It's hard to shake the idea of the old infrastructure, but what the industry needs now is for you to bring it fresh ideas, different sounds, and that connection to the soul music that has been lost in recent years.

Jody is a Senior Business major, with a minor in Guitar Performance.

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The Demonization of the Styrofoam Cup

Are Houghton's environmental efforts only focusing on a small piece of the real problem?

By Ryan Ledebur

Cafeteria work is often a thankless job, but it is one that I have greatly enjoyed. As a student worker in the dining hall, I have the opportunity to see both the student side and the business side of the cafeteria.

Of the many observations I have made over the years the topic which seems to crop up the most, especially of late, is the availability and use of Styrofoam cups. Those among us who are environmentally conscious know that Styrofoam cups have a negative impact on the environment: they don't biodegrade quickly and require non-renewable resources to be created. However, the more radical among us may believe that Styrofoam cups are made out of pure evil or that the Dow Chemical Company is the devil's workshop. Some even go to radical extremes to prevent any use of Styrofoam cups, advocating sinful acts, such as stealing, to this end.

While I may be exaggerating the extremes to which my classmates go, I do believe that the Styrofoam cup has become a scapegoat of sorts and has been cruelly abused and punished for sins it has not committed. I consider myself to be a moderate environmentalist. It makes me cringe to see people throw empty pop cans and bottles

into the trash can. I frequently restrain myself from using napkins or other disposable paper products that I could really live without.

However, I can still see the relative usefulness of such products on some occasions, such as picnics, or the benefit of leaving a night-light on for your child whom may or may not suffer from night terrors.

To that end, I refuse to stand idly by while the Styrofoam cup is picked on and harassed mercilessly; Styrofoam's sin is its mere existence. Those narrow-minded fanatics who are "just doing their part" seem to be so focused on growing one tree that they have forgotten that we have generation after generation of forests to re-grow.

Honestly, I appreciate the intensity with which many of my peers approach the use of Styrofoam. I only wish that their enthusiasm and zeal were not so narrowly and shallowly focused. What if "I will never use a Styrofoam cup" was partnered with a phrase like, "I will never drive to campus from my flat or townhouse when I could

easily walk if I planned ahead"?

I cannot say that we should care less about the use of Styrofoam; in fact, it would be admirably revolutionary if more people used reusable containers for drinking. What I am saying is that by so harshly criticizing and demeaning the Styrofoam cup, those more environmentally-minded individuals

among us have we ought to focus on a broad spectrum lifestyle change that shows greater commitment and dedication to appropriate stewardship developed a fanatical image and have caused the focus of environmentalism to be on a small, albeit important, part. Instead.

This issue necessitates an increase in the level of practicality in environmentalism as well as a diffusion of the zeal that already exists. If we cared as much about unnecessarily leaving the lights on in our dorm rooms as we do about Styrofoam cups, our campus would be a whole new world.

Ryan is a Senior Political Science major at Houghton College.

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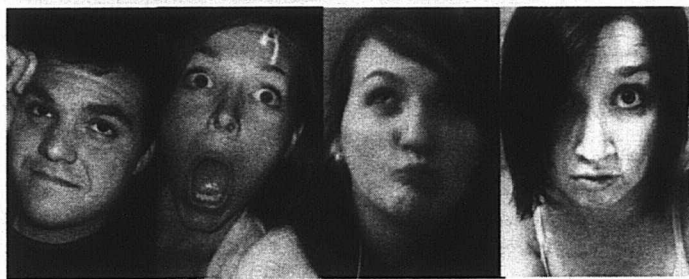
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Your Houghton Star Staff!

The geniuses behind Houghton's favorite student newspaper...



By the Editors

Kat is pretty sure she must be crazy. A senior Political Science and Humanities major, she served last year as Associate Editor, but still decided to come back for more as this year's Editor-in-Chief. If she's not in the office doing something remotely related to the newspaper, she's probably in the library (or should be), brushing up on Victorian literature and philosophy in preparation for her Senior Honors project. She promises she's not as boring as she sounds.

After a Northern Colorado summer full of world traveling, Radiohead and skydiving, Amy returns to Houghton a year wiser. A sophomore Humanities major, she tackles the role of Campus News Editor with a relatively large music library, a caffeine dependency and more enthusiasm than is probably necessary. Included in the more responsible choices she's made in the past two months are driving five hours to see Andrew Bird, shirking certain responsibilities for a Flight of the Conchords marathon, and going to the pool at 5:45 am on a regular basis.

Margaret, the Sports and Culture Editor, is both prepared and terrified to take on her final year at Houghton. She will spend the year attempting to answer the question "What is art?", executing all the adventures proposed (but never carried out) in the past three years, and getting to know new friends only to wish, at the end of the year, acquaintance had sooner been made. She can be

found at any given time at one of her respective jobs: the Welcome Center, the Art building, the Mac Lab, the library, or the Star office. On the nights she doesn't default to eating peanut butter crackers or GORP for dinner, she will enjoy cooking as a hobby—locally, of course, with a little help from the Amish store in Freedom. She is also inspired to learn how to work on cars as a result of being severely scammed this summer, and changing her own oil a couple weeks ago. She continues to appeal parking tickets and use all-natural deodorant even though it continues to fail to keep her from sweating, or smelling.

Micah Warf is the Commentary Editor for the Houghton Star, mostly because he thinks he looks good in a green visor, and loves having keys to offices. He is a junior philosophy major with a minor in guitar performance who enjoys music theory and composition, acoustic blues, ping-pong, soccer, cooking, photography, woodworking and art history, and firmly backs Friedrich Nietzsche for president. He has lived in California, Ohio, Massachusetts, Kentucky, England and Uganda, and currently hails from West Chester, Pennsylvania. He is actively involved on campus, serving as an RA in Rothenbuhler, playing cello in the Houghton Philharmonia and bass recorder in the Houghton Recorder Consort, singing tenor in the Houghton College Choir, and frequently being mistaken for a music major.

From the Editors' Desk...

Going Trayless: Who Cares?

Taking the trays may be the most effective way to save water, but it won't do anything to develop personal responsibility.

By Katarina Kieffer

Well, we've gone and done it again. In a well-intentioned attempt to jump on the green train, we've bypassed the more challenging route of cultivating personal responsibility and settled for a corporate fix. Upon arriving back at school, students were informed that the trays had been removed from the cafeteria for a four-week period in order to see if we'd use less water and waste less food as a result.

What is troubling is not the goal of the tray initiative, but the larger problem it points to—a tendency to favor mandates over movements, and command over consensus. Now, corporate fixes are by no means ineffective; on the contrary, they often accomplish their stated aim. Yet the unintended consequence of most top-down action is that individuals are often ambivalent at best about changes that are imposed from above.

Take the trays, for example. The tray initiative has been instituted with success at several other colleges, and I have no doubt that we will see similar results at Houghton—if you take away the means of committing the troubling acts, after all, it is more or less certain that you'll see results.

What you won't see, however, is many students actually caring about those results or how we achieved them. For the individual student, there is no connection between personal intent and corporate results; it's not as if every student actively started thinking about what he or she could do to be more environmentally conscious, perhaps choosing themselves to be more responsible with the amount of food they take, or using a tray only when needed. Instead, the means were simply removed. That's one way of solving the stated problem, but it ignores the deeper issue of developing personal responsibility within the student body.

Informed of the experiment after it had already been implemented, we have been asked to embrace it with patience. While we certainly have an interest in the outcome, we had absolutely no control in its conception or implementation, and have no foreseeable effect on the outcome. Brought in at the end of the decision, with mixed feelings and legitimate objections, it is impossible not to feel as if one has simply been extended a token offer of inclusion in the experiment. If it seems that one can do little to affect the outcome either way, why should one care?

Of course, most of us share the same vague sense that it is generally a good thing to try to be more environmentally conscious. A simple

appeal to that hazy feeling, however, is not enough to incite enthusiasm in most students for something like the rather inconvenient tray initiative. We've been told that there will be opportunities for feedback, but because the process was started before most students even had any knowledge of its existence means it is likely to produce feedback that is little more than reactions of slight annoyance, vague support, or complete apathy.

Executive decision-making is one proven way of resolving complicated debates, but those are just the sort of debates that serve to encourage community-wide concern about a given issue. Granted, there are times for strong, top-down leadership; as a good political science student, I am well aware of the necessity for checks on pure democracy. It's why we elect representatives, after all. If every voice had to be heard by everyone else before a decision was made, we'd never get anything done. So why can't we just consider Houghton administrators our representatives, then? Because Houghton isn't a government, and it certainly isn't a democracy—at least, we never claim to be. What we *do* call ourselves, however, is a community.

And this is the heart of the issue: Houghton students, who have come to this place in preparation for an effective adult life in the "real world," don't need parental figures to direct them. They need partners in dialogue, teachers to respect authority figures who lead through engagement, rather than informing them of decisions and asking for their token involvement after the fact. It is possible for leaders to create environments that encourage better decisions without taking away the free choice of the individual, but it takes more effort and time to get similar results with this method than merely handing down a mandate.

Do we actually believe what we say we believe? For all the times we use it as a catch phrase, are we actually striving to be a community? Communities tend to be messy things, full of vibrant people who aren't going to agree on everything, but who share enough common connection to want to work toward solutions and compromise.

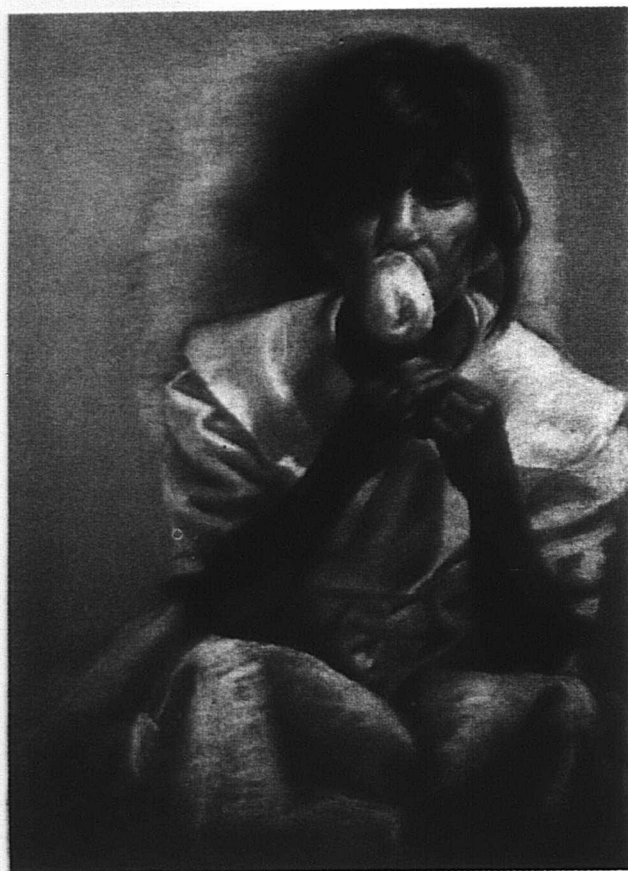
But perhaps we're not really looking for enthusiasm or meaningful debate—for community. After all, while communities come alive and grow through healthy disagreement and roots-up initiatives, institutions run more smoothly on top-down mandates.

Katarina is a senior Political Science and Humanities double major, and serves as editor-in-chief.



artist: TIARA LEIDY

OF THE WEEK



Angie, chalk pastel

Notes from the artist:

I've always loved making faces the focal point of my works ever since my childhood pencil drawings of animals. My current color portraits of children are simply an extended progression of that love. The transition of my subjects and media into what they are today are largely the result of my experiences at Houghton and abroad. With the encouragement of my art professors (particularly Prof. Murphy) I branched out from my black-and-white drawings to color, embracing a new medium which seemed to be a natural next step from pencil: chalk pastels. The content of my works stem from life-changing experiences in Houghton or Houghton-related programs such as the Royal Readers program at the King Center (The African-American girl was one of the children we read to) and my semester abroad in Guatemala (The Latina girl was my host sister at the time I was living there). The subjects and style of my works are influenced by a passion for exotic faces, a love of children from all cultures, and my fascination with the imaginative and vivid qualities of children's book illustration—a field I someday hope to enter into. Although my work remains largely realistic, it is constantly growing and changing: I'm exploring new mediums and working on developing my own technique. I hope to serve the Lord through my artwork, reaching especially children, conveying to them the beauty found in Creation around them, and in themselves.



Attitude, chalk pastel

Tiara is a senior Art major with a Drawing concentration.

FROM the ARCHIVES

BY HEATHER HILL

A new feature of the Houghton Star that dives into the rich history of our past.

Deep beneath the earth it rests, borne down under tons of weight reaching stories above. Well, perhaps not quite deep beneath the earth... it is, after all, only contained in the silence of a closed off basement room in the library at Houghton: The Archives. Behind these locked doors rest relics of Houghton's past: the journals of past Presidents, paintings which once graced the walls or stared down with terrifying eyes upon students, old student papers from random classes, news articles, and stacks of the original *Houghton Star*, which started so very long ago in magazine format.

Those new to Houghton's campus may not yet recognize what many

back for another year begin to see: that Houghton is more than a beautiful campus, rigorous curriculum, and demanding schedules. Houghton is something slightly different to everyone. Different faces and stories are associated with the college depending on the person. Yet Houghton is also something slightly the same to everyone: there are certain qualities that do not seem to change from one person to another or from one year to the next.

Houghton is ultimately about the people who define it by becoming part of it, just as much as they are defined by the college in turn. The students, faculty, and staff who were Houghton 50, 100, or 125 years

ago are still a part of the college as much as those of us here now will continue to be part of the college in another 50, 100, or 125 years.

Stepping into the archives brings this idea straight to the surface of consciousness. Whom among us today will be recorded there in the future for others to find and look back on? Who are the people that we today look back on?

Reading through a year of the *Star* can be most enlightening. Let's look at 1958, for instance. Who knew that chapel attendance was an issue back then, too? Of course, it turns out the article was a hoax, and students were not *really* going to be required by the Dean to attend chapel at eight-o'clock in the morning just because they were sleeping in until nearly 11am.

Any freshmen reading this—do you realize what you would have endured should you have come to Houghton even, say, forty years ago? Hazing. Torture. Intense suffering in the form of Crisco globs sliding greasily down your face and hair. Losing sports tournaments to the sophomores because you failed to show up—having been unwittingly tied to stakes by the opposition. Sophomores, do not smirk too much: you would have been brought to the

Honor Court by the upper-classmen eventually, and justly punished for your...overzealousness.

Who knew how long some of the student clubs on campus have existed, or which of your professors today used to play basketball thirty years ago, or that a Purple person will simply refuse to sit at a place with a Gold napkin?

Over the next few months, we'll be looking at some of these stories through the lens of the *Star* archives. The Archives is more than a bunch of dust-covered relics: it's a collection of stories that continue to shape Houghton today, and memories of Houghtonites who are now spread out around the world, continuing to contribute to Houghton—theirs, ours, and tomorrow's.

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