



SANCTUS REAL PERFORMS |
ARTS AND SPORTS, P. 4

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OPINIONS, P. 7

RECOMMENDED READS | ARTS AND
SPORTS, P. 4

ARTIST OF THE WEEK:
ASHTON OAKLEY FEATURES, P. 8

October 4, 2013 Vol. 110, No. 4

College Undertakes New Initiative in China

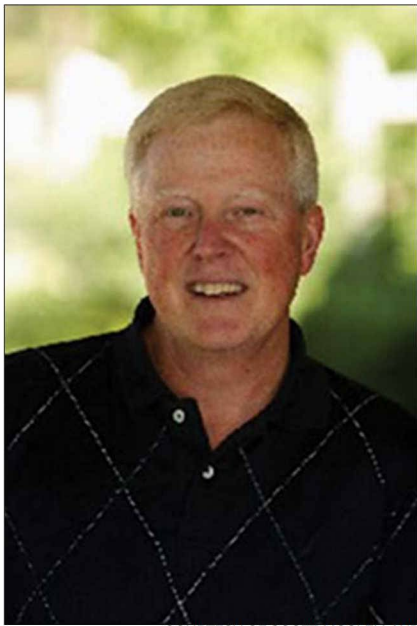
GRETCHEN REEVES

In an effort to further its mission of global engagement, President Shirley Mullen, along with vice president of admissions, Eric Currie, and vice president of alumni relations, Dan Noyes, embarked on a two-week tour through the People's Republic of China this past summer. Houghton College currently has preparations underway to increase its presence in Asia, with special focus on China, intending both to increase enrollment of Chinese students and to establish potential study abroad programs and internships for current and future Houghton students. Explaining the college's rationale for focusing on the area, Mullen said, "I began to realize that both in our recruitment of international students and also in the parts of the world that Houghton grads were most engaged in, we really were doing very little in Asia." Initial efforts toward recruitment, though small, were made about a year ago after Houghton partnered with Zinch, an American website which allows prospective college students to browse a database of profiles of

American universities and colleges by entering certain credentials. By having Zinch profile the college as part of a weekly spotlight, Chinese Zinch users have also been introduced to the school. Currie says that the college's partnership with Zinch has worked out well. "We've re-sourced students out of there. Actually, a student here right now came through our Zinch contacts." However, faculty and staff involved in the recruitment initiative emphasize that their main strategy is a long-term one with a focus on forging relationships with Chinese schools. Initially considering working with intermediary recruitment agencies, the college decided to pursue other avenues, opting for a more direct and personal approach. "We're trying to do something more creative than the agent system, and something that is more organic, more systematized, more on the ground, rather than the agent system, where basically institutions pay agents a certain fee for recruiting a Chinese student," she said.

See CHINA page 3

New Dean of Extension Services



LEAH WILLIAMS

In hopes of expanding Houghton's education opportunities, Scott McClelland has been hired as Dean of Extension Studies. McClelland will have an office in Buffalo and will be primarily located there when the adult education program is launched. In addition, he will be traveling back and forth to Houghton in order to work with faculty in exploring the college's options for a potential on-

line program for students who want a Houghton education but are not able to attend on campus. Mark Hijleh, Associate Academic Dean said that "as Houghton considers how we will translate our mission of providing access to high-quality Christian Liberal Arts to students from diverse backgrounds, we need to expand the entry points to what we have to offer." Recently Houghton has had to make cuts in the areas of faculty, staff, and athletics. This leaves many wondering why a full time position is needed for this job. Academic Dean Linda Mills-Woolsey explained, "One of our current initiatives aimed at strengthening Houghton's ability to serve a diverse range of students while creating a sustainable economy for all areas of the college is expanding our arena of vision and service." Mills-Woolsey also stated, "to be a viable college for the current age we need to explore more ways to use on-line options to provide flexible access to Houghton College programs. In order to move forward we need someone to manage all our extension study endeavors." McClelland will be moving from southern Florida to Buffalo on October 7th in order to work with the Hough-

See NEW DEAN page 3

Federal Government Shuts Down

SARAH HUTCHINSON

On September 30 this week, at the stroke of midnight, the federal government shut down. This circumstance is not new to American history. The United States has gone through many partial and full government shutdowns, the most recent occasion taking place in 1995-1996 when Newt Gingrich was speaker of the House and President Clinton was in office. This latest incident, however, involved not only a disagreement between Republicans and Democrats on how to best fund the government, but revealed a growing rift within the GOP as well. In short, Congress was supposed to approve a budget by 11:59 p.m. on September 30, but failed to do so. This was because Congress could not agree on appropriations bills required. In fact, congressional leaders had seen this trouble coming for a few weeks. As time was beginning to run out, House Republicans proposed a temporary budget plan (what is called a "stopgap measure") that would give them more time to create a full one. However this plan was created to appeal directly to the hardliners of the party and their conservative base by

calling for the defunding of the Affordable Care Act (ACA, also called Obamacare), the new healthcare plan that was due to take place on October 1, both in exchange for keeping the government running for a few more months. Democrats were overwhelmingly opposed to defunding ACA, as this is President Obama's keystone legislation, and refused to pass the stopgap measure unless this was stripped from it. In the end, the debate continued and both the House and the Senate voted several more times, but nothing was passed and no agreement was ever reached. The government thus shut down after the due date on October 1. So what does a government shutdown actually mean? It means that although not all government functions will cease to operate, there will be significant cuts and furloughs across all federal agencies. In sum, according to the Washington Post, an estimated 800,000 federal workers will be furloughed without pay and almost every agency from the Education Department to the FDA will be reduced in some way. National parks, Smithsonian museums, and national monuments will also

See SHUTDOWN page 3

Update On Athletic Complex Construction

LAUREL WROBLICKY

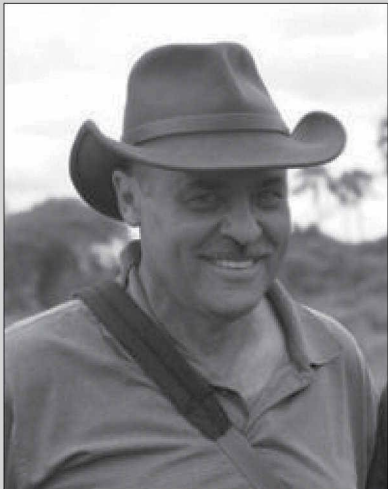
Due to the Kerr-Pegula donation and transition to NCAA division III, Houghton has seen Burke Field completed, the baseball and softball fields nearly done, and the ground-breaking of the field house thus far. The baseball and softball fields have already been put to use as various teams have begun holding practice on the turf. Additionally, local baseball leagues have already played on the baseball field. While certain finishing touches still have to be made, such as the tower that will overlook the softball pitch and connect to the field house, the fields are now available for use. Last year, the baseball and softball teams traveled everyday in order to practice on fields in Angelica and Cuba-Rushford, so the completion of the fields at Houghton is eagerly anticipated amongst the players. "We are excited to play on our new beautiful field that is in our own backyard," said junior softball player Sarah Beirne.

Skip Lord, Executive Director of

Athletics, on the subject of the new tower and connected field house, said that "When [the workers] have the main work done on the tower, probably by the middle of October, they will pour the foundations for the [field house] and the concrete slab... for support." Jason Mucher, Director of Compliance and Communications, added to this and said that "This building is already pre-[fabricated], all the pieces and components of it are being put together now and designed in the factory. [The construction workers] will bring it here on trucks and connect it sort of like tinker toys." Speaking to the construction process itself, Lord said that "they are going to put it together in sections, so it will unfold kind of like an accordion." Sections of the outdoor structure of the field house should be completed by the time cold weather comes, so that the construction workers can shift their focus to the inside of the field house throughout the winter and spring. Communication between on-site workers and the contractor

See COMPLEX page 3

WORLD // Terrorist Attack in Nairobi, Kenya



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JON ARENSEN

Last week’s terrorist attack at the Westgate Mall in Kenya hit me hard. Kenya is my second home. I grew up in that beautiful country. It is a modernized nation where most people attend churches on Sunday and believe strongly in peace. I went to high school there, taught there, married there and two of my children were born there. Some of my children and grandchildren presently live in Nairobi. How can I comprehend the vicious terrorist attack on the Westgate Mall – a place where I dined on roasted chicken last year?

It started at 12:00 noon local time on Saturday, September 21 – a time when the mall was full of shoppers and diners. Gangs of

men wearing black turbans stormed three entrances simultaneously. They threw grenades and fired indiscriminately using high-powered assault rifles. There was pandemonium as people hid or tried to flee. Many were taken as hostages. In some cases the terrorists asked people to name their religion. Muslims were released while Christians were executed. The terrorists ensconced themselves in the inner shops of the 6-story mall. The Kenyan police and army arrived and the battle went on for 4 days and nights. In the end over 1,000 traumatized people managed to escape, but the Kenyan Red Cross has confirmed that 67 people have died, over 150 were wounded and 35 are still unaccounted for. The terrorists were estimated to number about 15. Five of them were eventually killed by Kenyan police and the other 10 were supposedly taken into custody. The mall itself was bombed and completely destroyed.

An Indian blogger stated, “The Westgate Mall atrocity defies analysis.” He is right, but let me try. A shadowy organization named el-Shabab has taken credit for the killings. Who is el-Shabab? They are a radical Muslim group based out of Somalia and are known to have links to al-Qaeda. Somalia has been at civil war for the past 20 years. It is a failed state with various clans fighting for control. Somalia is Kenya’s neighbor to the northeast. During the various phases of the civil war many Somali people (primarily women and children) have fled to refugee camps in

Kenya. Dabaab is presently the largest refugee camp in the world with over half a million people squatting in the harsh desert. For a short time in 2010 el-Shabab controlled Somalia. At that point they invaded Kenya, attacking various villages and refugee camps. Kenya regarded this as a violation of their sovereign rights, so in 2011 the government sent troops into Somalia to punish el-Shabab. Over time Kenya helped free Kismayu and eventually Mogadishu from el-Shabab. El-Shabab vowed revenge. So this attack on the Nairobi mall can be regarded primarily as revenge, but also as a form of publicity – we are still here and we are dangerous.

There have been small attacks by el-Shabab over the past two years with grenades thrown into public places in Nairobi. Kenya has been on alert with double security checks at the airports and metal detectors at store entrances and at sporting events. But the attack on the mall was much bigger. It was well-planned. The terrorists chose a mall that was Israeli owned and was frequented by wealthy Kenyans and foreigners. The terrorists even rented a shop in the mall, giving them passes and free access. They were able to bring in large weapons through the back service elevators. During the 4-day siege they were even in Internet connection with people outside the mall.

So where does Kenya go from here? There are hard questions to be asked. To start with, what has happened to the terrorists taken into custody? Are they being questioned?

Did they make some kind of deal? There are rumors that the terrorists escaped through an underground sewer system and have returned to Somalia. There are further rumors stating that some of these terrorists came from Somali communities based in Britain and America. And what about security in the future? In addition to the many Somalis living legally in Nairobi as Kenyan citizens, there are also another 30,000 Somali people living there illegally and over 1 million more living in the Kenyan desert. Documenting people is difficult and the country of Kenya is full of soft targets. And yet nobody wants to live in fear and a lock-down mode.

The recent terrorist attack has unified Kenya. The 67 people killed came from many nations and included President Kenyatta’s nephew, two Canadian diplomats, and renowned poet from Ghana, Kofi Awoonor – aged 78. Even during the siege hundreds of Kenyans showed up to pray, give blood, and donate thousands of shillings to pay for funerals. This past week there was a large inter-faith prayer rally led by religious leaders who were Hindu, Muslim, and Christians. A cleric who spoke confirmed this unity by stating, “We are one people and one nation.”★

Jon is the professor of anthropology at Houghton College.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND EVENTS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2013		
5:00 p.m.	Powderpuff Football	Quad
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2013		
4:00 p.m.	Buffalo Food Truck event	Buffalo
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2013		
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	CAB Couch, Women's Soccer Game	Burke Field
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2013		
7:30 p.m.	Freshman Class Tradition	Around Eagle Statue
8:00 p.m.	SAA/CAB Student Reception with Founder's Day Speaker	VanDyk Lounge
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2013		
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Gallery Exhibit	Ortlip Art Gallery
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Alumni Art Show	CFA Atrium
9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Registration Desk Open	Van Dyk Lounge
11:30 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	Homecoming Chapel	Wesley Chapel
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch	Dining Hall
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Society Luncheon *	South End Dining Hall
1:30 p.m.	Golf Tournament ^	Allegheny Hills Golf Course
2:15- 3:30 p.m.	Academic/ Alumni Presentation Panels	TBD
4:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Dinner ‡	Dining Hall
7:30 –9:00 p.m.	Houghton College Choral Union with Orchestra	Wesley Chapel
9:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.	Homecoming Dance	Health Center Parking Lot
9:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.	Alumni Coffeehouse	Van Dyk Lounge

Homecoming Chapel Changes



ZAC PARSONS

Due to sparse attendance in past years, the Friday October 4th homecoming chapel has been limited to a regular-length chapel instead of an extra-long session.

Dean of the Chapel Michael Jordan said, “This year it won’t feel like anything radically different from other chapel services.” He also said that homecoming chapel is like any other chapel: a time of worship.

Dean Jordan stated that while he was a student, he never felt the students believed the homecoming chapel was for anything more than the students. However, when he returned in 2009 he “sensed that the students feel like it’s aimed at people who are coming back for homecoming than it is for them... I’ve always gotten that vibe.”

In past years, the class schedule

has been adjusted to make room for an extra-long service. The faculty would also process in full regalia to lend a bit of “pomp and circumstance” to the occasion, said Dean Jordan. He added that there is usually an alum of the year and possibly other recognizing awards, but this year some activities were moved to the Wednesday chapel before homecoming. The president’s office had Robert Van Dyke, who has provided generous donations to Houghton, speak at this year’s chapel.

Dean Jordan joked about wearing full regalia, “I was roasting; I was sweating like a pig in that thing. Yeah, it was horrible.” But he also stated that the regalia helps to foster a sense of tradition during the service. “That’s part of what people look back on their school days and they remember. That’s kind of what makes Harry Potter appealing... a school like that with all the richness and tradition.”

Aaron Southwick, junior, said that a shorter chapel is better for students as they do not have to worry about the class schedule changing. However, he added that lack of chapel attendance is a problem, as many students see chapel as a thing they are required to go to, instead of something that will grow and edify them. He said, “Houghton won’t be able to make chapel times longer without a drop in attendance until they solve the problem of students wanting to go versus being required to go.”★

CHINAfrom page 1

She expressed concern with many of the tactics employed by the agencies. “As I began listening to the ways that a lot of recruitment in China was happening, I began to think, ‘Good grief, there’s going to be a huge reaction to this someday because it just seems so much more sensitive to what to American schools want out of this than what the Chinese people might want out of it.’” Another concern was the ability of incoming Chinese students to adapt well to an educational experience in the U.S., something often unaccounted for by agent groups. “These young people sometimes just get sent over by agents and they are left to sink or swim,” Noyes added.

Other possibilities, mostly for Houghton students, have been explored through alumni contacts in China, amongst whom a network has already been developed. “The alumni connections are so strong, going all the way back to the ‘50s and ‘60s, that there’s a real benefit,” said Noyes.

The majority of Chinese alumni being based in Hong Kong, the college is leaning towards initial programs in the area. “We’d like to start with a student or two who are interested in doing an internship in Hong

Kong. It would most likely be a business student at this point because of the connections they have,” Noyes said, naming one contact who runs trade shows for a German company in the city and another alum who works for an IT company as two contacts among many. Although initial programs are hoped to be established in Hong Kong, Mainland China is also a possibility. Said Noyes, “Hong Kong is more like low-hanging fruit for us. We have more of an alumni presence there, we have some potential partners there, so it would make some sense to begin there... but as we uncover more, then I think we could also expand to some different places as well.”

In addition to potential expansion to other areas in China, programs for larger groups also remain a possibility. “We’d love to explore a Mayterm there,” said Noyes, “but it takes a little while to build these relationships.”

Those involved in the project are quick to stress that this initiative is still very much a work in progress. “By December or January I will know where we really stand in those two particular areas I’m looking at,” stated Currie. “I would say we would have it moving forward in its strongest development by spring.”★

Disgusted? Delighted? Just confused?



Send a letter to the editor to:
editor@houghtonstar.com

NEW DEANfrom page 1

ton City Semester program which is already underway. “Houghton is exploring how to best make its top tier education available to a wider group of students than it has traditionally,” said Dr. McClelland. “So my work will be to explore several options to do this within the Adult Education, online and by offering some new teaching opportunities in Buffalo.”

McClelland has experience in extension studies from his time as the Director of the San Francisco Urban Program based out of Westmont College. He then gained more experience at Trinity College. “My experience with Westmont and Trinity allows me to know how special it is when a campus wishes to reach out to meet the needs of ‘non-traditional’ students by working through many delivery systems now available to higher education institutions like ours,” said McClelland.

Students currently attending Houghton could also benefit from the online program. Junior Glenn Hampson said “I’m thrilled that Houghton is looking into expanding their online education programs. I’m graduating this year, and although I want to continue my education, I got to start paying off my loans here pretty soon. If I could take classes offered by Houghton online, I would be able to fulfill my academic goals while sticking with the school I love.”

The extension program is seen by many as a crucial next step for Houghton. Mills-Woolsey said, “In the long run we hope that investing in this position will provide benefits not only for our extension programs, but for students on the main campus, as our extension programs provide more visibility and accessibility while contributing revenues to the overall college.”★

COMPLEXfrom page 1

is frequent and clear, allowing construction plans are adapted as needed to fit the layout of the worksite. Once a solid foundation has been finished, the workers will be able to move out of the ground, and the remainder of the work needed should be more predictable.

In addition to a 200 meter, 8 lane track, jumping pits, tennis courts, and bleachers seating 800-1000 people, the complex will have offices, locker rooms, VIP conference room, fitness center, weight room, training room, kitchen, and concessions stand. While fitting all of these components into one complex does pose challenges, the plans have been drawn up so that all the components fit together accordingly.

The new complex will be multi-functional and while it will directly cater to the athletic teams, students may make use of the fitness center, weight room, courts, etc. The field house itself will be accessible to the entire student body, allowing the intramural program to expand as well as creating more classrooms for the recreation and physical education departments. Lord and Mucher have both explored possible functions and events for the field house once it is completed.

“It is a big community convention center where you can have concerts, speakers, commencement, flea markets. Or those types of thing that require a lot of open space. It has accessibility and food preparation capability,” said Mucher, “So we can hold anything that requires a large area within this region that does not necessarily have anything to do with athletics. It is a service to the region.”

Following the completion of the field house, there are plans to do more renovations to the Nielsen Center. The movement of a number of offices to the new complex will give

Nielsen significantly more space. The volleyball team and both basketball teams would have the opportunity to have their own respective team locker rooms. However, this is more of a long-term goal, and would not be put into action until the college has the

appropriate funds.

Regarding the completion date of the field house, Lord said, “These things always get pushed around a little bit, but right now it is supposed to be done May 23rd.”★

SHUTDOWNfrom page 1

be closed. Meanwhile, various other government programs, such as the WIC program, will be running on reserve funding, until the government can resolve the budget issue.

The longest that the US has experienced a government shutdown has been three weeks. In normal circumstances, the party that is undergoing the most fallout and political pressure as a result of the shutdown will begin to offer concessions. Many speculate, however, that the high level of partisanship and congressional gridlock experienced in D.C. these past few years (and recent weeks) will protract negotiations. Neither side seems willing to budge and, meanwhile, Republicans seem to be caught in a moment of disunity between the more con-

servative members of the party and the more moderate members which should add an extra complexity to the negotiations.

Of course, not all federal functions have disappeared. Functions that relate to the well-being of citizens and the security of the country are still being allowed to continue. For example, air traffic controllers will continue working, Social Security checks will continue to be delivered to the elderly, veterans’ hospitals will remain open, and operations like border patrol will remain in place.

Americans on the whole do not approve of the shutdown, with most placing the majority of the blame at the Republicans’ feet. Whether this will be enough to galvanize political leaders to come to a compromise, however, is anyone’s guess. ★



Recommended Reads: Jorge Luis Borges' "Other Inquisitions"

TED MURPHY

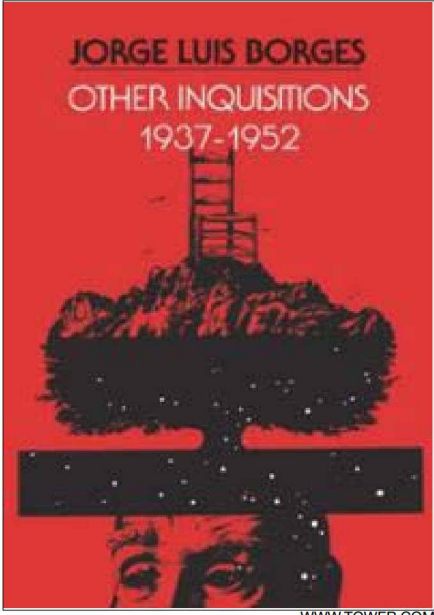
This past week my wife Nancy mentioned that Pope Francis and I have something in common. Naturally I was thinking of the all-too-obvious humble piety connection that everyone would notice between he and I. "No," she said, "sorry. Pope Francis stated in an interview that two of his favorite authors were Dostoevsky and Borges." Neither of these authors surprises me as being special for Pope Francis. Dostoevsky remains important to most believers (and many non), and Borges is Argentine, as is Pope Francis. Being the most admired author from his native country it really makes sense...though Ernesto Sabato would reject this assumption.

The Brothers Karamazov remains my most treasured reading experience...but second to this would be Other Inquisitions by Jorge Luis Borges. Published in 1952, it was not widely read in English until 1964. Borges is world famous for his mysterious labyrinthine short stories. He was also a poet and a writer of essays. Other Inquisitions is a collection of his essays from 1937-1952.

Like T. S. Eliot, Borges published many of his essays before his more famous poetry and short fiction. Both writers used published essays to prepare a reading public to comprehend (at least to be prepared for) the work to follow. His essays read like his short stories; they are packed with complex circular associations.

Borges was remarkable for his erudition. He had few peers who could keep pace with his prodigious memory. Borges appeared to have read everything from obscure Icelandic sagas to Arab poets to Egyptian mystics, to modern authors like Chesterton, Faulkner, Joyce and Paul Valery.

These essays cover topics such as metaphysics, dreams, absolute languages, the age of the earth, time, and history, and of course the power and meaning of Art. One of his most celebrated essays is "A New Refutation of Time." It is the longest and most complex essay in the book...notice the irony of the title? Read it again.



“Other Inquisitions” book cover.

“The Wall and The Books” is a highly anthologized essay where Borges reflects upon the Chinese Emperor Shih Huang Ti, who both constructed the Great Wall and decreed that all the books of the empire be destroyed; he wanted history to begin with him. Borges was most gifted with his ability to see metaphors. He made brilliant connections. He asks in this essay what symmetry there might be between an Emperor walling in an empire, while at the same time decreeing that this most ancient and historically sensitive of people eradicate their past. To Borges there was some meaning there. He concludes this essay with a sentence found frequently among those who search for definitions of things ineffable like beauty and art: “Music, state of happiness, mythology, faces shaped by time, certain twilights and certain places, try to tell us something, or they told us something that we should not have lost, or want to tell us something; this imminence of a revelation, which does not occur, is, perhaps, the esthetic phenomenon.” Yes that sense of something just about to become clear and yet...and yet...

The first time I read this I knew I had encountered something special. Right there was succinctly stated that

truth about what I felt when I looked at Vermeer’s Girl With A Pearl Ear Ring or read the poetry of Elizabeth Bishop, or lost myself in the final movement of Mahler’s “Das Lied von der Erde.”

Borges had given this experience a form for which I had no words.

Each essay is a work of art. Each a careful and complex luminous mediation upon persons and ideas: Pascal, Zeno’s Paradox, The Partial Enchantments of the Quixote, The dream of Coleridge, the mystery of the authorship of The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám.

While running from the Burning-House-of-literature (I owe this description to Billy Collins) this would be the second book I would grab. Borges rewards re-reading. Although his writing is short, it is dense and you end up re-reading them enough to feel in retrospect that these short works are among the longest ever written.

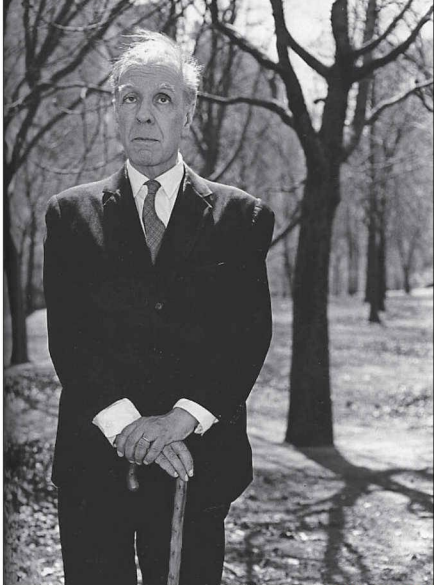
In the epilogue Borges muses about his collection and states that he notices certain elements to be a feature of all the essays. The first is his tendency to weigh philosophical and theological ideas in terms of their aesthetic worth, “...what is singular and marvelous,” and the observation that the number of metaphors possible for the human mind

is limited, but like the apostle can be all things to all people.

Borges has, more than any writer, been my most formative influence. His desire to see and live a life aesthetically has sustained me during many a dark time in my life. Borges believed that reading was an act of art- no less important than the act of writing (and by extension listening and looking). Borges established the post-modern idea of how we as readers create new works each time we experience them. Every reader makes new connections and continues the creative process. He elevates reading. In one of his most celebrated essays he discusses Kafka and his influence. He refers to them as both precursors and also writers on whom he had influence. One of these is Pascal. Every college graduate should perk up at such an assertion. How indeed can a writer of the 20th century have had any influence upon a writer of the 17th century? How indeed. Borges notes that it took Kafka for us to connect the dots- to detect a common theme. It was in one sense not there until Kafka revealed it to us...hidden in plain sight. The existential thread that leads us through the author of Ecclesiastes to Lucretius to Augustine to Pascal to Kafka is imaginatively engendered by the “active artist reader”. None was ever so engaged as Jorge Luis Borges.

I like a Pope who reads Borges. The leader of the Catholic Church keenly understands that the great skeptic Borges can in his own circuitous pattern ultimately restore us to our Faith, an irony thick and no doubt satisfactory to Borges (who died in 1986). Some would say that there is no way he can enjoy something since he is dead. Readers of Borges know “not so fast”.

One final point: Borges, who remembered and read more than almost any person in the 20th century, who could quote indexes from memory and spoke when he met Anthony Burgess in “Old English”, who could recite Shakespeare and Quevedo and had nearly the entire Comedia of Dante committed to memory...was blind from the mid 1950 until his death some 36 years later. Blind. It beggars the mind. ★



Jorge Luis Borges.

Sanctus Real To Perform at Houghton on “Run” Tour

GRETCHEN REEVES

This Sunday Houghton will be welcoming alternative Christian band Sanctus Real to the stage for a performance in Wesley Chapel. Twice nominated for a Grammy, once for Best Rock Gospel Album, We Need Each Other in 2009, and once for Best Contemporary/Pop Gospel Album, Pieces of a Real Heart, in 2010, the group has achieved both critical and commercial success in Christian spheres.

The stop in Houghton is to be part of a national tour with several stops in Canada for their tenth album Run. Released in February of this year, its single “Promises,” written mainly by the band’s drummer Mark Graalman and lead songwriter Matt Hammitt, reached #1 on Billboard’s US Hot Alternative Christian/Contemporary Radio and peaked high on other Christian charts as well. The album’s title refers to a departure from the walking and stumbling through doors of opportu-



Sanctus Real tour poster.

nity in the band’s past and that “with God’s help, [they’re] ready to run.”

Having originally formed the band in 1996 as teenagers interested in ministry through music, the band has since

undergone several lineup changes, the most recent being the departures of guitarist Pete Provost and bassist Dan Gartley and the entry of bassist and producer Jake Rye. When asked about the motivating force behind the band’s continued unity, drummer Mark Graalman cited a “career that felt like a steady climb,” explaining that “each record is built upon the one before it.”

Graalman stated that the musical tastes among band members remain varied, spanning from ‘80s and ‘90s pop acts like Phil Collins and Sting to alternative groups like U2 and Coldplay to current alternative bands like Fun, allowing for multiple influences to show in production. Run itself shows a continued departure from the band’s original grunge rock roots that were heavily influenced by ‘90s rock bands like Foo Fighters and Weezer towards a more radio-friendly pop-rock sound.

“Our sounds has definitely changed, grown, evolved,” said Graalman, add-

ing that their current style has a more “mature pop-rock sound ... compared to the youth” of their past. However, the band has intentions of exploring their original sound in new releases. When asked about developments in the production of Sanctus Real’s eleventh album, Graalman stated that the record will contain more “youthful angst” with a “throwback feel” comparable to their second and third records. Lyrically, the band intends to explore material that is “deeper and more philosophical,” asking questions such as “Where is God in our worst and best times?”

Despite changes in sound, Graalman says the band’s intent remains the same—that of ministry through music. “I want people to be encouraged,” he said, adding that “God’s strength is made perfect in our weaknesses.”

Sanctus Real will be performing this Sunday, October 6, in Wesley Chapel at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in the Student Center. ★

Houghton Pops Orchestra Ushers in Third Year

JON HARDY

The Houghton Pops Orchestra (HPO), birthed in 2011, was the dream of organist Robert Martin (class of '13). The model of a popular-music orchestra was new at Houghton and finding the right spot for such an ensemble required unflappable determination on the part of the founders and was a matter of some discussion in the CFA and the SGA, who regulate student clubs. The first concert, "Heart of the Highlands," was a kind of a trial run which the orchestra managed to pull off with little time and almost no money. Most of the funding for sheet music, venue and recording fees, not to mention the signature bagpipes, was paid out of pocket by orchestra members, Robert Martin himself, and a few generous supporters. Fortunately for the future of HPO the concert was a smashing success.

"I am obsessed with Celtic music," said Martin, "I thought it would be a great place to start with a new orchestra, seeing as it is music that is generally liked by and accessible to a wide variety of people." That motto, "likable and accessible" are the watchwords of HPO. Current HPO conductor Nathaniel Efthimiou (Music, '14), commenting on his plans for the ensemble says, "...[I] hope that HPO can be a place where anybody can come and have a good time making music together. Music is one of those things that can bridge the walls we set up with each other and I think HPO can help in building up our Houghton community, in the breaking down of those barriers."

Music majors make up a large portion of the performers in HPO, but their ranks are swelled by students from numerous other departments: Communication,



CURTESY OF JON HARDY

Nathaniel Efthimiou '15 plays violin at Houghton Pop's "Heart of the Highlands" concert last year.

Computer Science, Education, English, Philosophy, Physics, Theology, just to name a few. Attendance at the concerts has also been diverse drawing large numbers of community members and faculty and staff in addition to students. Music brings Houghton students from all over campus to strive for excellence together in a way not otherwise experienced.

Part of this goal is accomplished by the music itself. Repertoire is chosen by

the conductor based on a theme he has in mind, such as Celtic music for Robert Martin or John Williams film music for Kevin Dibble (BMus '11 and MMus '13), and what sheet music can be purchased with the club's funds. Within this framework, however, is the willingness to take on pieces or cut out pieces based on the makeup of the orchestra and the ability of the members. Enjoyable, recognizable and catchy music for both the listener and

the performer goes a long way toward an enjoyable rehearsal and concert.

With the first concert of the year several months away on November 22nd, the orchestra members and their conductor have a long road ahead of them. If the past is any indication however, it promises to be one filled with insanity and laughter, friendship, struggles and triumph, Purple and Gold and bagpipes. ★

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May the Force (of Words) Be With You



LUKE LAUER

ELIZABETH WALLACE

I was challenged and encouraged by the Faith and Justice Symposium last weekend, as I have been every year. Props to Ndunge Kiiti and her team. But, as usual at such gatherings, I was confronted by the idea that we are being asked to “speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.” When I commented on this statement, which was printed on the Bread for the World banner and read at the end of Eugene Cho’s chapel, a friend asked why I was so against it and suggested that perhaps I misunderstood the intended meaning.

What, then, could such statements mean? To me, it implies that

there are people who cannot speak, people who are voiceless (another term sometimes used in the humanitarian domain). I take it as a claim of dependence upon those who have voices and power and an inability of the impoverished and oppressed to think and act on their thoughts. Am I reading too much into the words? Is the sentiment of concern and the call to action behind the words all that matters in the end? Perhaps it is just important to have someone stand up for those who are marginalized, no matter who it is taking the stand, as long as they are saying something that seems to be in the interest of the poor. Can good intentions alone produce meaningful and sustainable solutions to global issues that are rooted in the unequal distribution of power?

Theorists of dialogue and of critical thought, such as Wells, Bakhtin, Freire, and Gee, often suppose a powerful relationship between action, thought, and word. The connections among action, thought, and word are inconspicuous, but they are tight. They are so tightly woven that it is impossible, I think, to fully define the ways they influence each other. It is not enough to simply suggest that our thoughts affect the ways we speak, that our words will inform our actions, or that our actions prove what we really are thinking. The

three are deeply fused, and I think that that is part of what defines humanity, and perhaps life in general. Words are particularly important because of the way they directly connect human beings.

When we say that we are speaking for someone, we not only imply that we are better able to communicate their concerns and ideas, but we also put them in a specific social position. Perhaps the “cannot” in the statement is not meant to indicate an inability on the part of the oppressed. Perhaps it is meant to imply a lack of power or place to speak, which, according to Jackie Ogega, director of a non-profit that promotes peace and grassroots development in rural African communities, is one definition of poverty. Maybe the purpose of the statement is to call people to speak alongside those lacking power and a place to tell their story. But the “for” makes me think otherwise. The “for” acknowledges the power that we (faith-based people, do-gooders, the privileged, etc.) have and perpetuates the hold we have on that power. It encourages de-

pendence, which feeds into the savior complex that the West already suffers from, and inhibits the human right and ability to communicate one’s own desires and solutions

for one’s community. I have been profoundly impacted by the work of Paulo Freire, who said that the oppressed must be the ones to lead in their struggle for liberation if they are to claim their dig-

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nity. I believe that speaking for people has terrifying potential to deny that dignity and strip them of their humanity.

I was empowered by Eugene Cho, both personally and through his message. Bread for the World is an impressive organization that has a powerful influence and a vision for change in the government and in systems that allow hunger and poverty to continue. I believe that everyone who took part in the Symposium had good intentions, and I am sure that there are many who have considered the same things I have here. But if we truly desire to be champions of justice, we all must begin to think about the ways our words affect our worldviews and the way we relate to the injustices in our world. ★

Elizabeth is a senior education major

Words are particularly important because of the way they directly connect human beings.

Disce aut Discede / Honesty is Not the Best Policy?



LUKE LAUER

LYDIA WILSON

I started listening to Lorde recently. She is a sixteen-year-old musician from New Zealand who just released her first album in September. If you have not heard of her I am sure you have at least heard her hit song, “Royals”. She has a haunting voice and the hook is super catchy without becoming annoying. I like to listen to it when I run. It was the only song of hers that I had heard so far, though, so I decided to learn more about her. I stumbled across an interview in which she called out Selena Gomez, saying “I love pop music on a sonic level, but I’m a feminist and the theme of her song [“Come & Get It”] is, ‘When you’re ready, come and get it from me.’ I’m sick of women being portrayed this way.” When I first read this, I was on board. Without mak-

ing a comment about the singer herself, I have long found the lyrics to “Come & Get It” to be damaging; “You ain’t gotta worry, it’s an open invitation. I’ll be sittin’ right here, real patient. All day, all night, I’ll be waitin’ standby.” This passive voice paves the way for responses like Robin Thicke’s horrendously rape-y “Blurred Lines” (a song that has been banned at five universities so far), which asserts that women are too coy to express their desire for sex, so men should go ahead and take it from them. Lorde was offended, and so was I.

Then, however, Lorde also mentioned Lana Del Rey, saying “She’s great, but ... it’s so unhealthy for young girls to be listening to, you know: ‘I’m nothing without you’. This sort of shirt-tugging, desperate, don’t leave me stuff. That’s not a good thing for young girls, even young people, to hear.” I was a bit taken aback. While I like to think I agree with Lorde on an intellectual level, personally, I have always strongly related to Lana’s lyrics, so much so that I would never think to criticize her message. To me, her lyrics seem much more specific and thought-out as opposed to Selena’s general “come and get it” call to the world. After all, on an individual level, people really do feel intense longing and desperation. Are artists like Lana Del Rey supposed to sacrifice their candor and sincerity for the sake of idealism? Is it

not just as important to be honest about your emotions as it is to be a good role model?

Oscar Wilde wrote, “Life imitates art far more than art imitates life,” and I am not entirely sure I agree with him. To me, it seems more like a cycle. Artists pick up on barely realized themes within culture, or invent idealized ones, society notices trends within art and embraces them, artists perpetuate the trends, society perpetuates the trends, and the cycle begins again. Perhaps I relate so strongly to Lana’s lyrics because I have grown up listening to these common themes in pop music my whole life, and the mentality has become ingrained in me. What would it look like if musicians began ad-

We can celebrate our independence without denying our occasional loneliness.

Lorde also qualified her opinion by adding, “People got the impression I thought writing about love was shameful. I don’t! I just haven’t

found a way of doing it which is powerful and innovative.” I don’t think we need to throw out emotional honesty and vulnerability altogether. I think we can be honest about that fact that our dependence on romantic relationships is unhealthy. I think we can be honest about the fact that we need to find more constructive ways to communicate our desires and our boundaries. We can celebrate our independence without denying our occasional loneliness. Pop music has an incredible influence, and that does not have to be a bad thing. ★

Lydia is a senior art and writing major

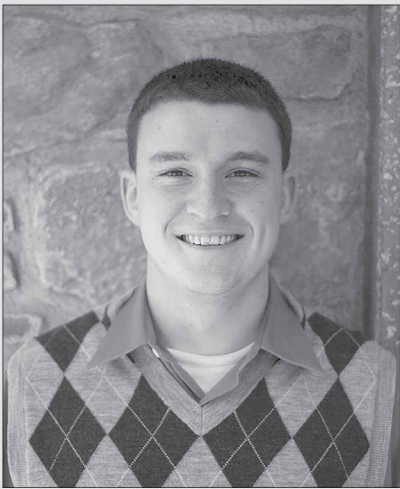
Is it not just as important to be honest about your emotions as it is to be a good role model?

actions over time until we were all engaged in relatively healthier relationships?

Where is the line between being honest and being a good example—

FEATURED EDITORIAL/

A New Old Ecclesiology



JIM VITALE

This past summer and current school year, I have been given the opportunity to work at a local church, assisting with youth and adult ministries. So far the experience has been a good one, but it has got me thinking about the nature of “the church” and its role in society. Ultimately I believe the church as it stands is in dire need of re-imagining lest it slip further and further to the periphery of Western society.

The re-imagining of the church is not a matter of being relevant. It is not about trying to make your church as appealing as possible to the outsider in order to draw her in. This, unfortunately, is what many churches are resorting to these days. I see churches that meet in bars, advertising a nice cold pint while

you talk about the moral issues of the day. I see churches where worship is akin to a rock concert. And of course there are the 15,000 person mega-churches where the 45-minute sermon reigns supreme. All the while the idea of sacrament has all but vanished from many of these institutions. We are a collection of individuals appealing to individuals.

These attempts at a new church experience ultimately fail. After a while the new tactic stops attracting people and the church is left to find a new way to pull people in. If I were a member of one of these churches I would be infuriated because so much effort is spent on drawing people in that those who are already in the church are left to struggle their way on their own. Thus we are left with spiritually malnourished congregations and rapidly declining numbers in almost every one of the near 40,000 denominations.

So what do we do? Well, many have suggested that we have to start over, abandon our current traditions and become like the first century church. But the problem does not necessarily lie within our traditions; indeed I believe some of the answers are found exactly there. The solu-

tion is found in Jesus’ view of the family. For most they are familiar passages (Luke 14:26, Mark 3:31-35): Jesus repels his biological family and says that his followers are his real family. He even goes as far as to say that those who want to follow him must hate their family, turn and follow him.

I don’t think Jesus really means that we should hate our families; I think rather that he is emphasizing the importance of the church as a family. This is what we need to embody for the church to survive in our culture. I do not mean the church should be a family in the sense that we all feel close to one another only every Sunday when we gather. The term “family” does not mean simply that we have to tolerate each other. Reimagining the church as a family means that we meet like a family, interact like a family, care for each other like a family. It means that instead of church being a once-a-week thing, it is a lifestyle, founded on the sacraments. As Dean Jordan stated in chapel on Monday, church is not about the individual experience, it is about existing as a corporate body. The church should be a refuge against the anti-gospel veins in our culture, supplementing them with the words of

Christ.

This is where my work at the local church comes in. They are a church that is on the right track. Worship is only every Sunday. The Lord’s Supper is celebrated every Sunday without exception and the church is grounded in the notion that we meet Our Savior every time we eat the bread and drink the wine. But the church does not stop there. Every other day of the week, the church is busy with parishioners coming and going, tending not only to the building but also to each other. The church building is a hub for all that is going on in the church community. People help supply each other with food, tools, service. It is not a group of people who are cordial to each other on Sundays. It is a group of people who live together, work together, play together and depend upon each other. That is what the church must be.

This is not to say that outreach is not important. Of course it is. But if the church wants to thrive, it needs to drop its attempts at tricking individuals into its doors and start focusing on the function of the gospel in a corporate body. If we can be the people we are supposed to be toward each other, then that will serve as more than enough of an advertisement to bring in new parishioners. The answer is not found in clever marketing; it is found in establishing a community in which members live for one another. ★

Jim is a senior religion major

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ARTIST OF THE WEEK



LUKE LAUER

ASHTON
OAKLEY

Animals have always been my true passion. Through science I can observe the beauty and intricacy of God’s creation, and through art I attempt to understand and draw attention to its ornate detail. I tend to find a lot of things fascinating and beautiful that other people would just write off or ignore, and art is my way of proving to people that anything can be made beautiful.

My art is very detail oriented and nature inspired. I love to paint with water color or acrylics and work with oil pastel in my traditional art because it’s so forgiving, but it still allows for detail. I enjoy calling attention to the sweet moments and beautiful details of life with my photography.

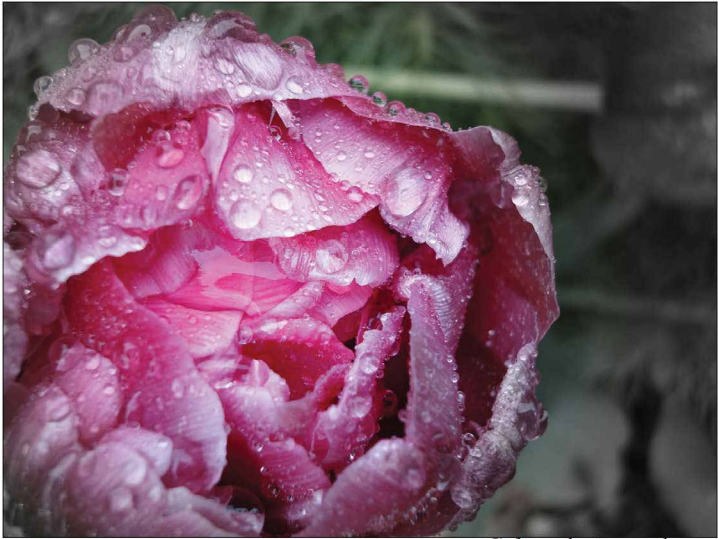
Ashton is a junior biology major with minors in wildlife studies and art.



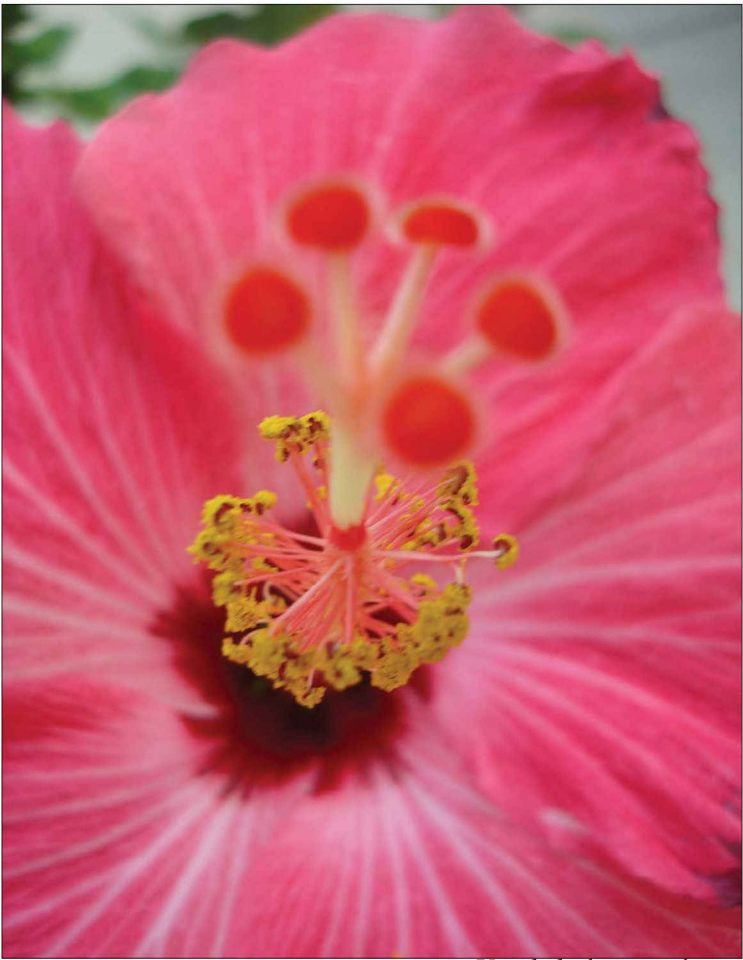
African Painted Dog, oil pastel



Oh Hey, photography



Celia, photography



Untitled, photography

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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