



# THE HOUGHTON STAR

Volume 105, Issue 22

The Student Newspaper of Houghton College

April 24, 2009

## Student Conduct Policy Changes Made Official

By Amy Buckingham

After two years of continuing discussion, the newly named Student Conduct Committee has finalized the changes to the Student Conduct Policy, formerly known as the Judicial Policy. The wording of the policy has been modified to better represent the actual function of the policy, one that functions on a more contractual basis instead of a legal basis. These alterations to the judicial policy include the change in committee name from the "Judicial Committee" to the "Student Conduct Committee," a considerable change to the student appeal process, and changes to the role of the President and Vice President for Student Life. In addition, students will now be able to call forward two witnesses as well as a character reference in the hearing process.

With the near-simultaneous arrivals of President Mullen and Vice President of Student Life Shara Hynes, a reexamination of the policy was undertaken. Research began in the summer of 2007 when Hynes began to examine the judicial policies of fellow institutions of the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities and finding a noticeable

lack of legal language. Although the initial goal was simply to clear up vague language and remove legal jargon, the SCC quickly moved on to other issues. Daniel Minchen, professor of communication and faculty member of the SCC, pointed out that, to make such clarifications and changes, the essence of the document must be discussed and this discussion "inevitably brings up the prospect of change."

Thus, further changes were made, like the use and function of witnesses and character references to support the student in question. The previous judicial policy did not allow students to call on the support of witness in their meetings with the Committee, which many felt was unfair for students in question. With the support of witnesses and character references, students are given the opportunity to explain the situation without feeling immediately condemned.

Perhaps most noticeable are the changes made to the appeal process. The past judicial policy had the president as the final appeal, but the revised policy takes the president officially out of the process. Hynes assures that, "in weightier matters, the president will still be involved

in the process. Before a student is suspended or dismissed, I will review the case with the president," although Hynes has no official obligations to do so.

In September of 2008, Hynes brought to the Judicial Committee proposed revisions for the Judicial Policy. These changes were discussed several times throughout the course of the year and were revised and refined before being passed by the Student Conduct Committee, then the Student Life Council, and then the Faculty. Hynes says of its presentation to the Faculty, "It passed through without dissent, although that's not to say without dialogue. At the end of all the dialogue, I would say we reached a compromise as far as saying, 'this may not be perfect, but we feel that this is a good policy that we can move forward with.'" Before being passed on to the Student Life Committee, the revised policy was then presented to SGA, where it encountered some resistance, specifically in regards to the removal of the president from the appeals process and the change in the role of the Vice President of Student Life. The SGA felt that the

• *Conduct continued on page 2*

## Creation Care Task Force Sponsors Tree Planting

By Kristen Palmer

Members of the Creation Care Task Force have one mission on their minds — reducing Houghton's imprint on the environment. They have been at work on campus since President Mullen first commissioned the group about a year ago, and they meet bi-monthly to discuss ways in which they can meet their goal.

Andy Cahill, a Creation Care Task Force representative from the Custodial Department, decided to get involved last fall when he was asked to serve. "I decided to get involved because of my personal interest in being a better steward of God's Creation," he said. "More importantly, this role allowed me the opportunity to help Houghton College become a better steward of what God has blessed us with."

The group "makes sure that Houghton College is as 'green' as possible, balancing sustainable environmental management with economic development," said Thomas Kettelkamp, representing the faculty at large. Kettelkamp originally became involved with the group because of his concern with good environmental management at Houghton.

Cahill and Kettelkamp, along with the other members, have organized several events to get students involved with their goal of becoming better stewards of our environment, including a potluck dinner, several "hour-without-power" opportunities, an open-mic coffee house and the Tree Planting that will take place at 9 a.m. this Saturday, April 25, on and around campus.

"The purpose of the sapling planting is to eventually reduce the amount of grass that is now needlessly mowed," said Cahill. "The main location for planting the evergreen saplings will be in the 'Hearts' down past the athletic fields, as well as a secondary location at the Equestrian Center."

One concern about the specific planting area was expressed by a student in Dr. Kettelkamp's Nature Resource Management class. According to a visiting U.S. Geological Survey representative, a

• *Tree continued on page 3*

## Alumni Writing Festival Honors Professor Leax

By Laura Jackson

This past weekend, the Alumni Relations Office joined current students and faculty in welcoming alumni to Houghton's campus for the college's Alumni Writing Festival. The two-day event provided a venue for writers to connect with one another. This year many of the festivities centered around celebrating the written work and creative guidance of longtime faculty member John Leax, who will retire this spring after forty-one years of teaching in Houghton's English and Writing department.

The weekend began with a Thursday night coffeehouse featuring readings by an alternating lineup of past and current Writing students. Attendees appreciated the range of work presented: the first hour included readings of poetry, prose, and snippets from a comic book. Readers often mentioned Leax's influence and encouragement by way of introduction to their pieces, an element which Barb Baker Scira

'86 appreciated. "I believe part of [Leax's] legacy is giving each of his students the ability to articulate interior vision into distinct voice," said Scira. One of Friday's readers, Tom Noyes '92, talked about using research done for poetry class to write a short story more than a dozen years later.

The readings resumed at 1:00 on Friday afternoon. "I was impressed by and proud of our students and their work during the readings," said Writing professor Lori Huth. "It was great to have writing alumni hear that our students are doing such good work."

Leax also commented on the high quality of the writing shared during the weekend. Several alumni, he said, came to him with praise for current students. As someone who has been conversing with writers at Houghton over such an extensive period of time, Leax said hearing the work of generations of students read together was "very moving." He was gratified to "experience the

community that [current and past] students expressed" in their poetry and prose.

Matthew Chase Whittemore, a senior Writing major with a concentration in poetry, said the alumni were similarly "engaging and helpful." Chloe Ackerman, a Writing major and editor of the '08-'09 Lanthorn, felt the festival succeeded in strengthening the bond between past and current students. "I was thrilled to see Lanthorn booklets in the hands of so many alumni," she said.

Although it was clear connections were being forged between current and past students, the writers clearly wanted Leax to remain at the center of their celebration. On Friday evening Leax read a carefully selected set of poems from a variety of his books. Following the reading, which was greeted with a standing ovation, attendees retired to a reception where copies of a writing collection entitled "Our

• *Writing continued on page 2*

Inside  
this  
Issue...

Senior Art Show  
Opening and Reception  
Tonight at 6pm  
Page 4

Man, I Love  
College  
Page 7

Artist of the Week:  
Journey Osburn  
Page 8







# WORK out there

By Monica Sandreczki

## Freddie Mac Giant Found Dead

Financial giant, David Kellerman, chief financial officer of the US mortgage company, Freddie Mac, was found dead in his home at 5:00am on Wednesday. The police say that there is no evidence of foul play, and suspicions have leaned towards suicide. Kellerman was found hanging in his basement. This comes as a hard blow after David Moffitt, CEO, resigned last month after only six months on the job.

Last year, Freddie Mac was bailed out by the US government. Kellerman, who had worked for Freddie Mac for 16 years, became the chief financial officer in September. In 2008, the mortgage company lost more than \$50 billion and was given about \$13 billion in federal aid this year. In March, Freddie Mac was under investigation with the Securities and Exchange Commission, but the mortgage company was not aware of any correlation between the investigation and Kellerman.

## South Africa Election

South African Elections yielded an "overwhelming" turnout resulting in long lines and a shortage of ballots. This election is predicted to be the most competitive one since the 1994 election at the end of the apartheid. The current party, the African National Congress (ANC), headed by Jacob Zuma, is the intended winner, but it could lose its majority in parliament. Part of the competition comes from the newly formed Congress of the People (Cope), which broke away from the ANC after the former lead of the party was replaced. Many of the voters are young people who were not conscious during the time of white rule. Desmond Tutu, archbishop, has said that Zuma is unfit to be the country's leader and that many people continued to vote for the ANC because they were elected after the freedom from apartheid. However, Cope's popularity has diminished in the past several weeks and its candidate, Bishop Mvume

Dandala, has not succeeded in energizing its followers.

## Burundi Rebel Group Disarming

The African Union (AU) has begun disarming members of the rebel group, Forces for National Liberation (FNL), after the leader of the FNL, Agathon Rwasa, turned in his weapons in a ceremony last weekend. After ten years of ethnic conflict, there are estimated to be between 100,000 and 300,000 illegally owned weapons. The AU has set up five points in the country to collect these weapons. 3,500 of the fighters are going to be integrated into the police force or the army, 5,000 will receive 18 months' salary and \$600 to start a business in addition to a course to help them integrate back into civilian life, and 12,500 will only receive \$80 to integrate back into civilian life. Many of the fighters returning home have said that, after fighting with the FNL for 10 years, \$80 is not enough money to get reacquainted to civilian life. Rwasa has said that since Burundi relies on donor funding, they do not have enough money to help all of the ex-rebels.

## Meeting of Koreas

North and South Korea met for the first time in over a year on Tuesday with talks that lasted a mere 22 minutes. North Korea requested the meeting, but neither side will say what was discussed. Seoul officials say that no agreement was reached, however. The talks were held in Kaesong, an industrial area in North Korea, and they have also said that they plan to make a statement about the meeting. These talks fall during a time of increased tension from North Korea's recent rocket launch earlier this May, which is suspected to have been a missile test. Recently, North Korea has been increasingly threatening towards its southern neighbor reminding South Korea how close Seoul is to the border. Also, South Korea has joined a US led movement to stop all ships that may be carrying weapons of mass destruction, which angered North Korea.

## • Conduct continued from page 1

Vice President was too involved in deciding the fate of students in question and drafted a letter to Hynes expressing their concern about the policy changes. However, Hynes believes that the letter was written from some miscommunications between Hynes and the Judicial Committee and was surprised that the revisions met so much resistance.

Senior and former Speaker of the Senate Ryan Ledebur said, "Vice President Hynes was blindsided by some of our concerns so it was a frustrating situation for all of us. In the end, we didn't achieve exactly what we had hoped for which was

an appeal in the judicial process outside the Office of Student Life... Although no one walked out of the meeting with exactly what they wanted, we all felt as if we had something we were comfortable putting into policy."

After the Judicial Committee approved the document unanimously, it went to the Student Life Council. Following minor revisions, it was sent to the

faculty where a vote was taken. "The new policy has a few things with which student members of the Judicial Committee and the SGA are uncomfortable but the revision as a whole is a big step forward in a lot of ways," says Ledebur.

"This may not be perfect, but we feel that this is a good policy that we can move forward with."

## • Writing from page 1

Tribute" were made available. Organized by Noyes and executed by Lanthorn editors Ackerman and Whittemore, the collection contained work by twenty of Leax's students and friends.

"It was good to see alumni, current students as well as faculty and staff turn out in force to honor Jack Leax," Scira reiterated. "As a professor, Jack always sought to cultivate

in the quality of work we heard presented."

In addition to poetry readings, the weekend included a Writing

Festival dinner hosted by the Alumni Association. The dinner featured a talk entitled *Poets and Gardens* by John Tatter '85, who spoke about the similarities between landscaping and written verse.

Other visiting alumni included Linda Taylor '80, Thom Satterlee '89, Sandra Duguid '69, Adam Sukhia '06, and Suzanne Nussey '74.

"Jack always sought to cultivate writers. That was clearly evident in the quality of work we heard presented."

## Staying Put

Vanity dies hard.  
When the letter, official and inviting,  
asked me to drop all,  
cross purposes and miles,  
to take up another's task,  
I wanted to go.

But I have imagined  
a here not present  
except by my labor.

I am bound to friends,  
to four apple trees,  
a row of blueberries,  
and a dream  
of asparagus waving  
in the wind.

I choose to stay.







By Rebekah Miller

This article, found in the March 7, 1997 edition of the Houghton Star, addresses a reoccurring problem in the lives of graduating seniors. Job searching, finding one's calling, and assured economic support are not only problems today, but were issues for Bruce Campbell when he graduated in 1982. His piece provides a bit of encouragement that he saw appropriate for graduating the seniors of 1997 and may be just as applicable today.

Houghton Alumni  
Find Their Niche  
Bruce Campbell

1982 was not a great time to be looking for a job. A recent Houghton grad, I found the job search mystifying, a feeling that was amplified

by an economy smothering recession. A psychology major, Spanish minor and generalist, I had no specific career plans, though I could identify things I did not wish to do. I often felt awkward about that and envied friends who held very specific, longtime career goals like emergency medicine, music therapy and editing physics textbooks.

A break came along for me not in the form of a job but rather in a remark made by a casual acquaintance. Sensing my frustration, he noted, "Relax, when was the last time you heard of someone starving to death?" This was not intended as a comment on the world scene where these tragedies certainly occur, but rather was his way of assuring me that I'd find my niche.

He was right. I did find it, via jobs held through my twenties. Not all of these were exciting but they were educational. They taught me some about this thing called vocation. I've come to believe that vocation, or calling, can be played out in what you do, how you do it, and

where you do it. The ideal job, I suppose, combines all three.

We've all been gifted with particular abilities and inclinations. Discovering and using these in the world place can be quite positive. Indeed, even if that place isn't the greatest or has no eternally significant mission there can be joy in writing well, managing well, teaching well - making good use of God-given abilities, whatever they are.

Approaching your work with purpose and grace can be part of vocation as well. In fact, I often

think it's the most important part. You can be influential in the work place, even if it is dreary, by considering your persona there as part of God's calling. Keep this in mind, and you can bring eternal significance to a secular job.

Each summer Houghton is blessed to have several senior alumni volunteers on campus. These folks, often joined by community volunteers, paint rooms, landscape, mend books and serve conference guests. These tasks bear little resemblance to the professional positions these volunteers once held. Their valuable service, though, illustrates that vocation may be manifested in where work is done. A necessary but uninteresting task done in the right place has great importance.

About those who would be music therapists and science editors, I'm in a unique position to see how their plans have developed. In some cases, things have gone according to blueprint. Many of these folks, though, have discovered how really big the world of work is and they have ventured, quite happily, into careers which in some cases are far removed from their college age visions and, in others, didn't even exist in 1982. These alumni have found their niche and their sense of calling. You will too.

"...you can  
bring eternal  
significance  
to a secular  
job."

**Want to advertise  
in the Star?**

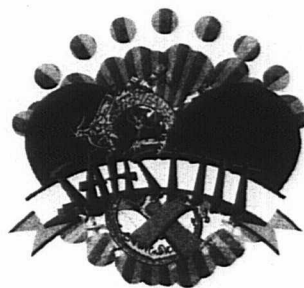
**E-mail**

**star@houghton.edu**

## Christensen Triumphs in S.A.H.S.T.T.I.T

By Joel VanderWeele

At long last, the Second Annual Houghton Star Table Tennis Invitational Tournament (S.A.H.S.T.T.I.T.) has come to a close. After sixteen rounds of fierce competition, we are proud to announce that the S.A.H.S.T.T.I.T. Champion is freshman Philip Christensen, who won the prize of a brand new Stiga paddle and earned the right to sign the dragon trophy kept in the Star office. Christensen defeated Rhett Kenny on Monday night in a match which contained some of the longest points Ping-Pong Chancellor Joel VanderWeele has ever seen. For winning second place, Kenny was awarded ten dollars to Java 101; junior Daniel Brubaker walked away with the third place prize of a Table Tennis textbook. Perhaps he



will be able to use the book to study up and strategize for next year's T.A.H.S.T.T.I.T.

In the doubles tournament, Brubaker and partner Joel VanderWeele dominated the competition and were awarded with matching red athletic polo shirts. Next year they hope to defend their title in style. The Star staff would like to thank the 36 competitors who played with clear eyes and full hearts. ♪

• Tree continued from page 1

map of the local area indicated that the area where the trees are being planted on Saturday received the worst "sapling mortality" rating.

Despite the potential risk to the trees, the survival of the trees will effectively benefit the College in more ways than one. Once the trees mature and grow to their intended heights, the college will save an estimated \$ 1,000 per year in mowing and other related expenses, as the lot is approximately two acres. The amount of exhaust expelled in the atmosphere will also decrease as a result.

Kettelkamp believes that this activity is "simply good environmental management with a significant cost saving of mowing grass and consuming gas." More importantly, he said, "It is simply the right thing to do, and it is sound Christian theology to take good care of our environment."

The Creation Care Task Force anticipates over 50 students, faculty, staff, and community members helping out this Saturday. Some Cub Scouts from the area will also be a part of the event and help students plant the trees.

The idea of the tree planting was thrown around for some time. It has been brought up, mainly by the grounds crew, for over a decade, according to Cahill.

"The Creation Care Task Force began talking about doing this last fall," he said. "The timing wasn't right then for planting saplings, but it is now. It is a great way to become involved with doing something practical and hands-on for Earth Week."

It is too late for students to sign

up for the tree planting, but not too late to become involved with the Creation Care Task Force.

"Becoming involved is a good way to connect your faith with actions," said Kettelkamp. "Many have problems with this connection, but taking part in the Creation Care Task Force is a good way to develop it. Hopefully participation will carry over to behavior after graduation and hopefully within the church."

According to Cahill, there have always been student groups that have taken up various environmental causes, but those efforts have never really been sustained for more than a year or two at a time. However, he expects a growth in participation with the Creation Care Task Force.

"This year with the student representation on Creation Care Task Force and student involvement with the Residential

Life Simplicity Initiative, we are beginning to see a more concerted effort by many groups on campus to raise awareness of Creation Care issues as well as to affect long-lasting positive change for the good of the immediate Houghton College environment and also God's earth in general," he said.

Earth Week is a great opportunity for the Creation Care Task Force to promote its mission of helping "lead a cultural shift, resulting in less food and energy waste throughout campus, more attention to Sabbath practices and being still with God, and focused efforts to leave a cleaner legacy for future generations." More information on the Creation Care Task Force may be found at the Creation Care page on the Houghton website. ♪

"...it is sound  
Christian  
theology to  
take good  
care of our  
environment."





## Senior Art Show Opens Tonight, Reception at 6

By Megan Little

Tonight at 6pm, a reception will be held in honor of the senior art majors at Houghton who will be showcasing their work in the Ortlip Gallery. The work displayed at this show comes out of many long hours of work done throughout the year. A wide variety of mediums will be presented, including painting, ceramics, photography, printmaking, and furniture.

Gary Baxter, the ceramics professor and the advisor to this group of seniors, writes this about the exhibit: "It swings from whimsical forays into the human condition to traditional landscape painting, from utilitarian ceramics vessels on a wooden table designed to celebrate domesticity to non-functional pottery combined with photography." The senior art exhibit is a highlight for all the students because they have the

opportunity to show the work they have spent so much time and energy on. As Gary writes, "The important thing about showing in the senior art exhibit is sharing with the Houghton community where each artist has come after four years; what is important right now."

Seniors at Houghton have been exhibiting their artwork in a final senior show for years. Gary explains that "Participation in the senior art exhibit has never been a requirement for graduation, yet over 99% of all art majors opt to exhibit, in spite of all the hard work necessary to produce a successful body of work." He is not exaggerating when he says hard work: "In every case the work on display has been culled from dozens, or even hundreds, of pieces."

To get a better idea of what to expect to see at this exhibit, I

interviewed three of the 15 artists who will be displaying their work. Kaylie Sauter has created a series of portraits of children in pastels. She writes that she hopes "to reconnect the viewer with their own childhood as they see other children."

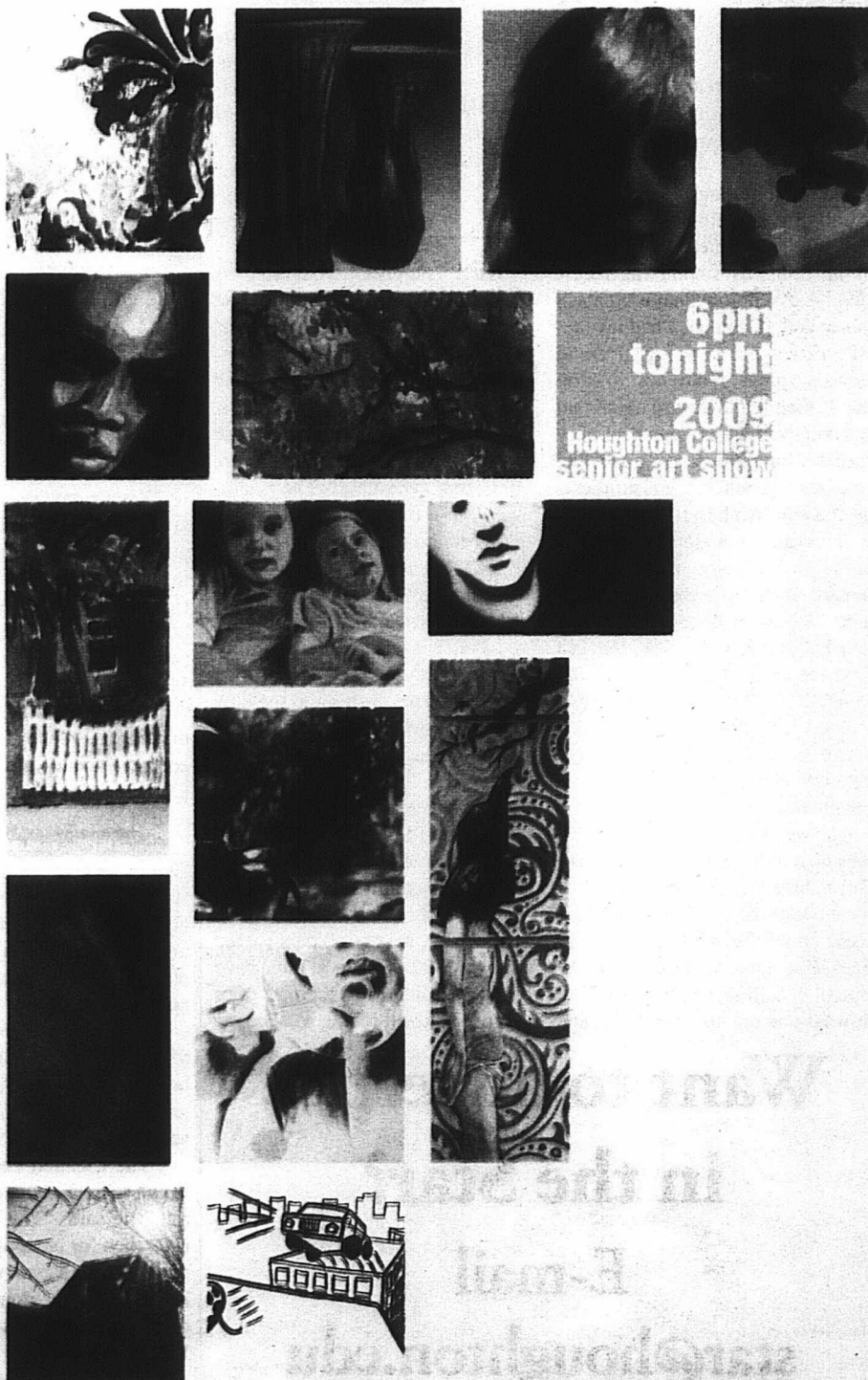
Experimenting in a variety of mediums, Kimberly Piscaldo is displaying both photography and ceramics. She is also exhibiting ceramics that have photo images on them. She writes about these works; "I wanted to combine both of my passions together and to try something new."

A third artist, Elizabeth Jancewicz, will be displaying large scale oil paintings. In her art, she is interested in "personal philosophy" and she writes that the paintings are "a curiosity into my own mind and into the thoughts of the viewer. My greatest interest lies in what others believe to be

the meanings behind my pieces, and why exactly these thoughts are brought forth." Her works, with their brightly coloured patterns and mysterious figures, are certainly thought provoking.

To see the fine work exhibited by the 15 senior art majors, come to the reception tonight from 6:00 to 8:00 in the Ortlip Gallery. There will be refreshments and live music at the reception, featuring the musical talents of the Stelly Mistres, Micah Warf, Jesse Stevenson & band, and Boecker Sanford & Langston. The exhibit will be on display from April 24th through until May 15th. Come out and support your fellow students. Your presence is very important to the artists; as Gary concluded, "Although artists often work alone, their work is only complete when it engages other people."

**The Artist's  
Guild  
and all who  
participated  
would like  
to thank the  
CREATIVE  
CARE  
TASK  
FORCE  
for  
sponsoring  
the FOUND  
exhibit!**







# Soup Run 5k Race Draws Nearly 130 Participants

By Tirzah Cook

Despite the rumors, the Soup Run that took place this past Saturday morning did not involve jogging around Houghton campus while holding a bowl of warm soup. It was in fact, an exciting and healthy way for the Houghton Community to come together and support the local organizations of Youth for Christ (YFC) and Wellspring Ministries. Participants contributed \$10 to run or walk a 5K around Houghton. Starting at 9:00am, the runners began at the gym, circled around the campus, down Lambein path onto Seymour Street, continued back on Luckey Avenue to the Rothenbuhler path, around the Quad, through the Center for the Fine Arts wind tunnel, and finished at the gym.

The first Soup Run took place in 2006 and for the past two years has been organized by senior, Alaina Williams. "The Soup Run was something that was started by Mary Claire Lazure (Class of 2006), Mary Dougherty (Class of 2006) and Laura Jarvis (Class of 2006). These girls, as seniors, were individuals I really looked up to as a freshman. When I volunteered for the run my freshmen year I had a blast and when it did not occur the next year I was determined to



Bjorn Webb finishes the race strong.



Dr. Ben Lipscomb and Josh Gottron attempt to outsprint one another on the last leg of the race.

carry on the tradition these girls had started and continue the Soup Run."

Saturday was the perfect day to be outside and 128 runners/walkers comprised of students, faculty, staff, and community member of all ages seemed to agree by coming out to show support. Even the volunteers and spectators enjoyed the highlights of the race including the entire Schilke family running alongside Coach Stephan Schilke carrying a "Go Dad" banner, or sophomore Josh Strange who showed his dedication by completing the entire Soup Run on crutches. Williams views the event as a great way to promote community in that it's, "a venue for everyone in Houghton to participate. You can take the event as seriously as you want to. Whether it's Josh Gottron trying to out-sprint Dr. Lipscomb or Dr. Freytag and Dr. Daugherty laughing together as they finished, everyone was having a fun time. The Soup Run also welcomes non-community members into

the community from places such as Cleveland, Buffalo and Adams Center. This run is a chance to interact with the community that you don't usually get to have."

The winner of the race was junior, Steve Grudda, coming in first with a time of 17:52.51. Grudda enjoyed the Soup Run and said he would participate again. When asked if he would do anything differently, he claimed, "I would have splashed Jesse Woolsey with one of the water cups he was handing out at the half way point." That may be an option for next year.

Close competitor, Rhett Kenny, a senior, has finished second in the Soup Run for the past two years. He said, "The only thing I would have done differently is to trip up Steve Grudda at the starting line." Although, he seemed to have a good time, joking, "I enjoyed seeing the tears of my competitors after heartlessly stealing what prizes I could." The first female to finish was Leah Williams, age 17, sister of Alaina Williams, said, "the thing

I enjoyed most about the Soup Run was participating in the run with my family and raising money for a good cause." She went on to say, "it was one of the most fun 5k's I have been involved in."

The Soup Run received contributions from over 20 local businesses and through the efforts of all the participants raised close to \$1500 to be divided between YFC and Wellspring Ministries. Staff Member Rachael Allison shared that the "Soup Run allows for various businesses within the local and surrounding communities to support the efforts of the college in making a difference for the individuals of their local community." All those who participated in the Soup Run received a t-shirt to remember their contribution. Senior Landry Jarvis claims, "The Soup Run t-shirt is probably the coolest shirt in my wardrobe right now." If you enjoy running, walking, helping a good cause, or just want another t-shirt, you may want to participate in the Soup Run next spring!



Jazzy McClure and Chaustin Taylor sport the 2009 Soup Run t-shirt logo.

## RESULTS

Overall Male: Steve Grudda 17:52  
 Overall Female: Leah Williams 21:24  
 Under 18 Male: Gregory Wright 19:39  
 Under 18 Female: Allyson Murphy 28:48  
 18-22 Male: Rhett Kenny 18:13  
 18-22 Female: Kaitlin Smith 21:48  
 23-39 Male: Stephan Schilke 20:23  
 23-39 Female: Andrea Williams 25:38  
 40-55 Male: Tom Williams 19:55  
 40-55 Female: Betsy Webb 25:33  
 55&up Male: David Brautigam 24:06  
 55&up Female: Karen Daugherty 57:09





## The 2008-2009 STAR Staff

would like to thank...

**Prof. Ben Lipscomb**  
Fount of  
Journalistic Wisdom

**Pres. Shirley Mullen**  
Calm and Sincere

**Ryan Ledebur,  
Shane Marcus, and  
Rebekah Miller**  
Our go-to reporters

**Tim Chen**  
Indefatigable Photographer

**Prof. Dave Huth**  
Once again, Our Mac Lab  
Saviour

**The Majority of the  
Houghton Community**  
For giving us a (almost)  
never-ending source of  
inspiration for articles.

**The Rewrite Staff**  
For their dedication  
despite our disorganization.

**All of our writers**  
You make or break us.

**Everyone Else We Forgot**  
Because the long, sleepless  
nights sometimes get to us.

## Outgoing Senior 2008-2009 Star Staff

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Katarina Kieffer

**Sports and Culture Editor**  
Margaret Boecker

**Business Manager**  
Mark Satta

This week's issue was  
fearlessly put together by  
Joel VanderWeele, next  
year's Star editor-in-chief.  
Next year's staff will also  
include Amy Becking, and  
Mitchell Edwards, who  
Sandra and Micah

# Seeing the Invisible Children in 20/20

A former resident of Uganda responds to the well-meaning, yet ill-informed comments of "the Noble Savage"

by Micah Warf

I was rather disappointed to read Peters Savage's article in last week's Star, entitled "What Are We Doing to Make the Invisible Children Visible?" I respect his concern for the work of the Invisible Children group, especially given that he has been spending time in their geographic region, amidst the people they are seeking to help. I disagree with his conclusions, however, and feel pressed to provide a different perspective on the situation.

I had the privilege (dubious at times) of growing up in Uganda. I was in a town called Mbale, only a few hours south of the terrorizing raids that Joseph Kony was making on villages in the northern districts of the country. In 2003, when the Invisible Children movement was just starting out, the founders of the group visited the hospital which was run by our organization. We were able to meet and talk to these people, and there was quite a bit of excitement surrounding the project they were proposing. At this time, very little was being done about the situation in northern Uganda. The international publicity that the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was receiving was quite scarce considering the amount of time that had passed since Kony had declared himself a divine messenger and set about seeking the "Lord's will" by sweeping the countryside with destruction.

The LRA is well-known for its "children's army," which is made up of young boys, the so-called "invisible children," who have been abducted and brainwashed,

and most of whom were made to kill their own families. An attack by the LRA regularly meant mass rape and murder, the burning of villages, and of course the abduction of children to serve as soldiers. A woman I knew personally told me of a pregnant cousin who had been disemboweled with a garden hoe. The Christmas massacre of 2008, in which the LRA hacked over 40 civilians into pieces in a Catholic church near the Sudanese border, was performed without provocation, and was followed by other massacres in that same week, with the death toll nearing 500 in just a few days.

The excitement about the Invisible Children project was because we, the residents of Uganda, were desperate for these crimes against humanity to be exposed on an international level, and the people involved with this project did that in a remarkable way, drawing the world's attention to Kony and his troops. They have continued to achieve this goal and their campaigns have led the UN, and many of the nations involved therein, including the US, to denounce the LRA publicly and take military and political action against the rebels.

What Peter doesn't realize is the incredible value of awareness. One of the things I learned while living in Africa is that people who are there on a short-term basis attune much more quickly to the problems of the African nations than to the context of these problems. Peter expresses a very noble compassion for the plight of Ugandan farmers, schoolchildren, and disadvantaged communities. But he (necessarily, I believe) does not understand the context of these problems. One of the hard things

about relief and development work is the realization of how much work there is to be done, alongside the knowledge that in order to actually have an impact, the goals of an individual or an organization must be very tightly focused. A dilemma we commonly faced in Uganda was putting the majority of our resources and energies into the specific work of our pediatric hospital, when every day we would meet many people who needed aid in the form of food, clothes, and shelter. But without that degree of specificity, the needs that our hospital met would not have been attended to as effectively.

Peter's problem with the work of the Invisible Children organization is that he believes they are focusing on an issue that is less urgent than the lack of school supplies, food, and sustainable business opportunities in Uganda. The problem is that he doesn't realize how quickly the countries in this world that have the resources to help in such ways lose sight of situations outside of their borders. Certainly there is a need for basic amenities and the reduction of corruption and poverty in East Africa. No one would deny that. But if every organization focused on this, dozens of other issues would go unnoticed. The members of the Invisible Children movement aren't putting money into food or clothing or pencils for school children, but they are making great headway in ridding the country of Kony's terrorism and violence. And in this way, they are a necessary part of enabling the nation as a whole to stabilize and flourish.

*Micah is a junior Philosophy and Music major.*

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,

I was extremely distressed by the gorilla and banana prank pulled in chapel on Monday. Certainly I have nothing against harmless pranks (though it is doubtful that a worship service is the right place to carry them out) but this was not a harmless prank. This was a stunt that taps a racial insult as old as the country, one that belittles and dehumanizes African Americans.

The question is, why did the pair choose this particular chapel to disrupt in this way?

I see at least three possibilities. The first is that they deliberately wanted to humiliate the African Americans on stage at that moment, both Gospel Choir members and Professor Kiiti. In this case it was a despicable and hateful act and something that quite obviously flies in the face of everything that the gospel requires of us. How can we

lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters – the love demanded of us by the New Testament – while we are busy humiliating them?!

The second possible stance of the "performers" is that they just weren't thinking. They wanted to be silly, let off some steam, and get some attention but they didn't mean anything by it. In this case the act was simply – but deeply – insensitive. It says that they took no thought for the feelings of their sisters and brothers in Christ, or worse, they knew of a possible insult but believed their intentions were all that mattered.

I can almost hear the defense: why should people get upset since they didn't mean it that way? Obviously intentions are important but good communication (not to mention Christian love) demands that we also care about how our words and actions come across and the racial slur here is inescapable. Regardless of their intentions, they used a symbol that taps into the dehumanization and consequent violence that typified treatment of African Americans in

this country right up into the latter part of the 20th century.

The third possibility is that they were completely ignorant of the racial overtones of the gorilla costume. In this case the act is not malicious, or even, one could argue, insensitive on the micro scale, simply ignorant. It shows the privilege of their race that they can be oblivious to racial insults. In other words, they have likely never been demeaned on account of their skin color, so they have never paused to consider what African Americans have to put up with in this regard, even on this campus. This is a broader sort of insensitivity, and one, I might add, that could be addressed by engaging in open conversations and friendships across lines of race.

May we move forward with the humility and repentance appropriate to the moment, as well as a deepened desire to love each other as Christ loved us. That is, after all, what we are called to.

*-Kristins Lacelle-Peterson, professor of Religion*





From the Editors' Desk...

## The Last Word: Man, I Love College!

What I've learned about the importance of realistic social conventions, and why I'm looking forward to leaving Houghton behind.

by Katarina Kieffer

While the typical Houghton College experience is nothing like Asher Roth's song (though mine has shared some similarities) there are still plenty of reasons for Houghton students to affirm that they love college. We tout the strength of our community, and with good reason: for the most part, Houghton is, as the tour guides almost always note, a place where people smile at you on the sidewalks, stop to say 'hello' and 'how are you,' and where campus life is pretty strong. It's pretty common as well to note the small class sizes and our excellent faculty, and the opportunities to work closely with professors on areas of independent interest and study. While there are certainly students whose experiences differ from these general statements about life at Houghton, for the most part they provide an accurate picture of what it's like to live in the community here.

Our rules, on the other hand, do not. I would venture to say that the vast majority of senior students who are of legal age drink while enrolled at Houghton, and most have consumed alcohol either on-campus or somewhere close by. Many students also smoke—cigarettes, cigars, probably marijuana, and I know of some students who are particularly fond of sharing a pipe in the woods every now and again. I'm also going to go ahead and guess that many students also engage in sexual behavior outside of marriage, though the only conclusive proof I can offer on this is an empty condom wrapper spotted in the parking lot outside of the town houses. I will add, however, as additional (and more legitimate) proof that statistics about this age group, and common sense, tell me that Houghton cannot be as "pure" as its standards seem to imply.

Any of these activities are grounds for disciplinary action at Houghton, based on the rules set down in the

Community Responsibilities. I have heard multiple administrators in Student Life, as well as students serving on the Judiciary committee, insist that they see relatively few cases involving students breaking the rules—and I am talking specifically here about the perceived "more serious" grievances like drinking, smoking, and sexual activity. This would seem to be encouraging; fewer instances of students being caught doing something wrong would seem to imply that not many students break the rules. However, given the number of people I know who break these rules almost every weekend, if not every day, and have never once been "caught," I simply cannot draw such an "encouraging" conclusion.

Instead, I see conventions that are not in any way in touch with the reality of the Houghton community. Let me be clear: I affirm the value of convention. Any social group is governed by certain norms and rules of conduct, and I think ours work fairly well; as I noted before, the average Houghton experience doesn't include what we often think of as the average college experience (if at this point you need clarification, google Asher Roth's "I Love College"). And I would actually argue that this is a good thing: hungover students aren't very functional, excessive smoking is quite damaging to a person's health (though arguably not as bad as habitual overeating), people tend to commit more indiscretions when intoxicated, and a culture of sexual promiscuity has many results that aren't conducive to remaining a productive student (although it may aid in students being more reproductive; the empty condom wrapper, however, gives me hope that at least some students are

thinking ahead).

I don't think, however, that this is the result of the rules laid out in the Community Responsibilities, which prohibits these activities to any degree. Rather, I think the reason we see a Houghton culture that isn't characterized by these notorious plagues of public college communities is that Houghton students have learned how to be responsible in their participation in these activities. I have no way of proving this, other than what I have already noted: large numbers

**I see conventions that are not in any way in touch with the reality of the Houghton community...**

of students regularly break the rules, few of them are caught and punished, yet for some reason, we see a fairly healthy Houghton community. I'd venture to say that has very little to do with prohibitions and a lot more to do with healthy, responsible involvement in these "against-the-rule" activities.

This is not to say that there are not those among us who do struggle with addictions, alcoholism, or unhealthy sexual relationships, because there certainly are. I don't think, however, that the best way to address those issues or help those individuals is to subject them to a rule system that does not reflect the reality of the culture that they live in. There aren't any community wide discussions about alcoholism, or the healthy use of alcohol (believe it or not, it can be good for you, and enjoyable!), because it's just set beforehand that we here at Houghton "don't do that."

This is the danger of convention that doesn't mesh with reality: it sets up expectations that most just don't see as legitimate and thus makes it a lot easier for people to justify living different lives—one that reflects the "approved" values, and one that is

characterized by the reality of the activities that they don't really find fault with and engage in responsibly. And those that do struggle with excess or addiction are implicitly encouraged toward the same "don't ask, don't tell" model of existence unless they are caught and punished, which often doesn't do much in helping them modify their behavior.

Rules that are largely unenforceable simply aren't good rules. They are essentially meaningless, except as general standards that we can either point to and claim to be striving towards, or use as a means of covering the reality of our culture. Sure, it looks good to be able to tell prospective students and their parents that Houghton isn't a party school, and there is some truth to that: there aren't drunk, nearly naked people running around campus on the weekends—though there are strangely dressed and frenzied groups of male students at soccer games. But there are many students who engage responsibly in drinking, smoking, and sexual activity, and those that are irresponsible aren't offered many options for aid.

In sum, there's no getting away from rules: social interactions are inevitably governed by something, and unless you want to be an anarchist, you'll just need to accept that. What you don't have to accept, however, are rules that simply don't mesh with your reality as a responsible, Christian adult who sees the God-given enjoyment to be had in the many "prohibited" Houghton activities that aren't in any way evil. And that is why I am able to say with no reservations that I am looking forward to moving on from this place, with the hope that this final bit of honesty on my part may prompt a little more honest discussion on this topic in the community at large.

*Katarina is a senior Political Science major, and serves as Editor-in-Chief*

• Letters, continued from page 6

Dear Editors,

Answering a question that I asked after Saturday night's performance of "Swallow," Josiah Richard Armstrong told me quite clearly what the play was not about. He made the point that calling the stories within the play 'real' was not to suggest that other stories aren't. It's just that the stories told in "Swallow" are real too. I respect that. I appreciate what he and everyone else did.

Still, in a question immediately following my own, a dangerous and recurrent misconception came up. The question was to the effect of:

"What's the test; what's the test to know if I'm living a real life?" That questions flows from the heart and soul of the error I wanted to resist and reject. Too many times I've heard around Houghton (and other Christian circles) complaints to the effect of: "You know what's wrong with people here man? They're not REAL." Well it's time for a sacred "No, I am real, and so are you." There are no 'real' people out there living 'real' lives as opposed to me, to us, here. What we live in every day is reality, whether we like it or not. My life is a real life, whether it's devastating or beautiful or tragic or numbing or mundane.

Where did we catch this bad craziness, this insane nonsense about a real life that is separate from own life? It doesn't really matter at this point, but one sad truth is media. I am sick and tired of the TV telling me I'm less interesting than I should be just because nothing tragic happened to me today. And I'm sick and tired of this sensationalist nonsense about the world outside of Houghton (maybe the inner city right? Because people get killed there, right?) being real, and this place being fake. Enough!

Friends of the human race and whatever is holiest to it! Let's throw off the specter of some

distant Hollywood-perfect 'real' life. There is no such thing! Say with me, "I'm real, I'm alive, I'm now, and this is my life story every day." Give up this mad pipe dream that some people are more real than others. If you're lying to yourself, cut it out, but don't tell me I'm less real because somewhere, someone else is living a more vivid life and you think I should too. Jim Morrison: "I'm real, I'm me, can you dig it?"

- Daniel Metzger, class of 2009





# artist: JOURNEY OF THE WEEK: OSBURN

## Notes from the artist:

Art is an important mode of communication, and I strive for that connection in my work. I want my viewers to see a narrative and be able to formulate a unique story in their own minds. Ultimately, art can be anything, but it hardly ever is.

*Journey is a senior Art major with a concentration in Painting.*



Percolating, watercolor, ink, and marker



Thieves like us, Linograph on handmade cotton rag and abaca paper

## CROSSWORD challenge

### Across

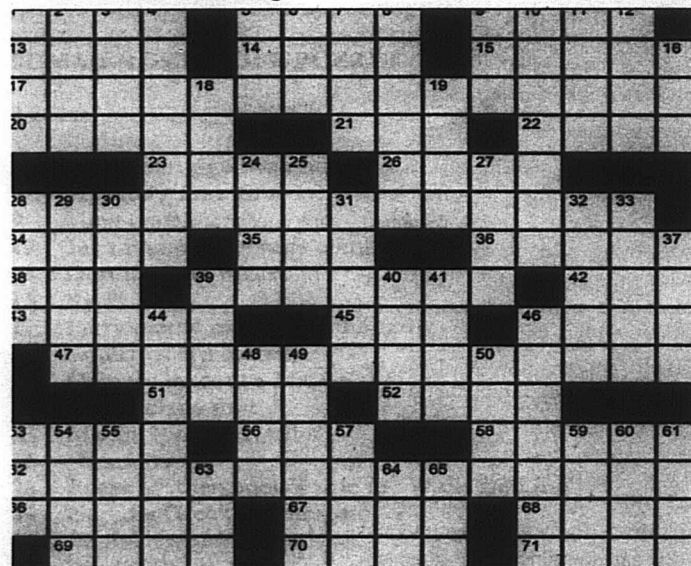
- 1 "Atlas Shrugged" author
- 5 Get ready for a final
- 9 Alien craft
- 13 Java Freeze beverage company
- 14 German auto maker
- 15 Swift
- 17 Party theme requiring fake snow
- 20 Smurf with a barbell
- 21 Chinese takeout additive
- 22 Archipelago unit
- 23 Machu Picchu dweller
- 26 Not quite all
- 28 Reese Witherspoon's role in "Walk the Line"
- 34 Cupid's Greek counterpart
- 35 Sound heard in a herd
- 36 In motion
- 38 Pothole filler
- 39 Current helpful to a kite flier
- 42 "Evil Woman" band, for short
- 43 "Forever Free: \_\_\_ Pride" ("Born Free" sequel)
- 45 College in Nashville: abbr.
- 46 St. Louis's \_\_\_ Bridge
- 47 1964 Burt Lancaster-Kirk Douglas political thriller
- 51 Suffix with switch
- 52 Slippery swimmers
- 53 Fax cover sheet abbr.
- 56 "Gross!"
- 58 Claret and port, e.g.
- 62 1963 Pulitzer Prize-winning

### Down

- 66 Sources of CIA leaks
- 67 Long-billed wading bird
- 68 Setting for "Third Watch" or "Life on Mars"
- 69 World Series champs, 1975-
- 76
- 70 Garment seen in the Senate?
- 71 Hyphenated IDs
- 1 Well-to-do
- 2 Feel sore
- 3 Big name in spongy toys
- 4 34 Across and 54 Down, e.g.
- 5 Word with calico or alley
- 6 Bahama Mama ingredient
- 7 He raised Cain
- 8 Question often asked long-distance
- 9 "Ode on a Grecian \_\_\_"
- 10 Tex-Mex orders
- 11 Significant work
- 12 Flowerpot's spot, at times
- 16 Colorant
- 18 Lip-\_\_\_
- 19 Composer Stravinsky
- 24 Rough it, maybe
- 25 Yankees nickname since 2004
- 27 Do some jazz vocals
- 28 Ballet leap
- 29 Mountain range dividing Europe and Asia
- 30 Like 54 Down

- 32 Cause of a kitchen whistle
- 33 Broom-\_\_\_ of the comics
- 37 Apple-cheeked
- 39 One calling tech support
- 40 "Inasmuch \_\_\_ have done it unto one of the least of these..." (Matt. 25:40)
- 41 Cherry bomb stem
- 44 Got satisfaction for
- 46 Junior naval officers
- 48 It's common in English class
- 49 Gives half-hearted effort
- 50 Dockworker's labor org.

- 53 Bank card reader
- 54 Mythical hammer-wielder
- 55 Prefix with marketing
- 57 Vagabond
- 59 Van \_\_\_, Calif.
- 60 Cable channel based in Bristol, CT
- 61 Benchmarks: abbr.
- 63 Letters before Constitution or Enterprise
- 64 Mediterranean fruit
- 65 Center of many similes



Puzzle constructor Brad Wilber ('91) is a member of the library faculty. Besides the Star, he also has a puzzle appearing in the New York Times this weekend.