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President Mullen Speaks to SGA about the Budget

By Katarina Kieffer

At Tuesday night's Senate meeting, President Shirley Mullen spoke to the senators about the college budget, specifically addressing student concerns about funding for off-campus programs, difficulties given the current unpredictable state of the economy, the probable mark up in tuition for next year, and also an outline of her vision for the College budget in coming years.

Asked by senior Senator Josh Nolen about how off-campus programs, specifically those that may not be particularly cost-effective, will fit into her vision, Mullen was quick to affirm that "Off-campus programs will be considered a very important part" of any budget considerations.

She called the college's past approach to study-abroad programs "insular" and emphasized that Houghton has been "remiss...at not cooperating with other programs." First and foremost, she feels that Houghton needs to expand its vision to make other schools' programs available to Houghton students.

Mullen said that she was committed to working out a way to get "more financial aid availability" to allow students to take advantage of study-abroad programs that are not currently affiliated with Houghton, noting that the most typical approach at colleges like Houghton is to allow students to take one semester of financial aid to use toward another program if they so desire.

As far as cuts go: "This is going to sound like a very strong statement: there [are] many good things in the world that Houghton is not called to do," Mullen said, adding that she understood that "any time you are making changes, it's difficult- we all love certain off-campus programs."

In regards to the First Year Honors Programs (FYHP) specifically, Mullen assured the Senate that there is "no question that the honors programs will continue." There are ongoing discussions, however, about "our off-campus programs, and I do know that there are some people who do believe that the London program should be more on the East Meets West model," Mullen said, adding that there are very strong views on both sides.

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Science Initiative: Renovations and New Wing Planned

By Monica Sandreczki

The science department at Houghton is in the beginning stages of a new science initiative.

According to President Shirley Mullen, the school is "committing to a three to four year initiative to seek external funding" to provide money for new faculty positions, collaborative research between faculty and students, student scholarships, new equipment, and to complete funding for a new wing in and renovations for the Paine building.

The sciences and research have always been strong at Houghton. Mullen noted that under former president Dr. Chamberlain, renovation of science at Houghton and the creation of a new wing of the science building had also been pursued. In fact, a gift of over \$1 million was given toward the project by an alumnus, but concerns with the idea "made it languish."

"We—initially the administration then also those raising funds—realized that the building project

needed to be set in the program commitment of Houghton to the sciences," said Mullen.

Mullen said that it is important to realize that if we're trying to be serious about preparing students to be global citizens, that science is the "most international currency."

"Almost every ethical or social issue has some kind of science base to it," said Mullen. She referenced genetics, abortion, euthanasia, food production, and poverty of the non-western world.

According to Mullen, Keith Horn, chair of the Science Advisory Council, which is made up of alumni of the science department, met and interviewed almost all members of the science division. Out of that, Horn came up with recommendations about what the science department needed. Some of his conclusions were "to find a way of creating new divisional leadership and [to regain] a collective voice in the Houghton community, and to extend out to a more natural way for partnerships to emerge with other institutions."

"The Science Advisory Council



Photo by Timothy Chen

helps us think about opportunities and as we make these plans, they have a lot of connections and give us advice," said professor Mark Yuly, chairman of the Physics department.

"When I first came as president in 2007, I began to realize that the sciences didn't seem to be as prominent," said Mullen. She

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New Vision Week: Working Towards a Global Vision

By Ryan Ledebur

Marked by special chapels, forums, and film presentations, Houghton College celebrated New Vision Week this past week. Sponsored largely by the Global Christian Fellowship (GCF) and the International Student Association (ISA), New Vision Week is an attempt to broaden students' views on global missions.

Committee chairperson for the week, Bree Shaffer states that NVW's purpose is "to instill or renew the vision that God has placed on our lives—to be witnesses for Christ in 'Jerusalem, Judea, and to the ends of the earth.'" Shaffer asserted that the NVW leadership also hopes that "the week will provide a way for students to take a look outside themselves and everyday life, to realize how big God has made this world."

According to Shaffer, the planning for NVW began toward the beginning of the summer—long before most first-year students had ever heard of New Vision Week. While the week is organized by a different group of students each year, Shaffer said that she hoped that with each year the week would become more and more tailored to the needs of the student

body in relation to the world.

Student response to the week was varied, but mostly optimistic yet could best be described as optimistic. Senior Jackie Shaw believes that the concept of New Vision Week should be promoted more prior to the actual event. Although the entire event is new for first year students, she believes that even many upperclassmen are not fully informed about the event. "I feel like it should be more like CLEW," Shaw said, "Where students are more aware of what the premise of the week actually is."

Junior Jess Lehsten remarked, "I think New Vision Week is a good opportunity for students to become aware of the possibilities for their future, even if they're not interested in the traditional idea of evangelistic missions. We've heard a lot about how, as Christians, we're all missionaries in some sense, and I think that's an important message."

New Vision Week kicked-off with chapel on Monday. Ron Bishop, president of Score International, spoke on a passage from the end of John 3, relating three principles about missions and living as globally aware Christians. Bishop asked

students to realize that any calling to ministry and any achievements must come from above. Secondly, he cautioned that all must learn their roles within God's plan. Finally, Bishop enjoined students to rejoice in the glory of God, not in their own accomplishments.

Freshman Meredith Toombs, was particularly pleased with the New Vision Week chapel speaker, Ron Bishop. "I think that his example of how the players and coaches he knew affected those around them was a good example of how your walk affects those around you and that what you do really matters." On the other hand some students were concerned about Bishop's talk. "I didn't understand why he felt the need to put himself down as 'just a basketball coach' when he was given the authority to speak in chapel," junior Ellen Sortore commented. "It was as if he was apologizing for what he was saying."

Many other representatives of missions organizations of diverse backgrounds were also on campus. Many of these missionaries were lodged with students in the FaTs or C.L.O.s. One representative

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THE WORLD OUT

By Joel VanderWeele

Election Update: Final Edition

With less than a week until election day, Senators John McCain and Barack Obama are making their "closing arguments" to sway undecided voters their way. Although Obama has held a comfortable lead in the polls for the last two weeks and is leading in crucial swing states like Ohio and Florida, virtually all major polls show that McCain is narrowing the gap. The Republican candidate has recently made accusations that his opponent has "socialist" economic policies and has a hidden connection to a former University of Chicago professor who allegedly has ties to the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

U.S. Strikes in Syrian Territory

Syrian officials are accusing the United States of "terrorist aggression" after the U.S. military carried out a tactical strike in a Syrian village five miles from the Iraq border. According to American military commanders, the strike was a successful mission targeting Al Qaeda operative Abu Ghadiya, who was suspected to be covertly transporting money, weapons, and foreign fighters over the border and into Iraq. Iraqi government spokesman Ali Dabbagh reported that Iraqi officials have been asking the Syrian government to hand over the known terrorists for some time, but that they have failed to do so. Syria, however, maintains that these reports are false and that the U.S. attack led to eight dead civilians, including three children. This is the first American strike on Syrian soil since 2002, but there have been several missions that have brought U.S. troops within Pakistan's borders in the last month.

Korean Talks Turn Sour

Talks between North and South Korea have ended with a serious threat from Pyongyang that they will "reduce everything to debris." The meeting between the two nations, who have technically been at war for 58 years, were initially thought to be a positive step towards peace, but ended on a resolutely negative note. North Korean officials have accused South Korea of a policy of confrontation towards Pyongyang, and warned that they will not tolerate anti-communist propaganda, which has been spread by South Korean activists for years. The North Korean military has claimed that if the anti-Pyongyang leaflets do not stop, they will take "resolute practical action" and that their military capabilities are "beyond imagination, relying on striking means more powerful than a nuclear weapon." North

Korea claims that the leaflets are in violation of an agreement to stop all government level propaganda, signed by both nations at a summit in 2000. On Monday, the day that North Korea's military issued the warnings, South Korean activists floated another 40,000 leaflets into their northern neighbor's airspace by balloon.

Congolese Rebels March on Capitol

The Congolese army is retreating from the capitol city of Goma amidst threats from an advancing rebel force. Ignoring pleas from the U.N. Security Council, rebel leader Laurent Nkunda has threatened to violate the cease-fire that was brokered by the U.N. in January and take the city by force. The U.N. has a 17,000-strong peacekeeping force in the Congo, the largest in its history, but the 27-nation bloc is reportedly stretched to its limit. According to residents, the retreating military forces are out of control and it is feared that violence will break out and that soldiers will loot local businesses as they have done in the past. The mayor of Goma has reported that there is a sense of panic spreading through the city as residents are left to deal with their volatile military, a huge influx of refugees fleeing from the rebel forces, and the impending invasion from the rebels themselves.

Markets Remain Volatile

After a dismal week of trading, the Dow Jones Industrial made an 889 point comeback on Tuesday on news that the Federal Reserve was cutting its short-term interest rate to 1%. The surge marked the second largest daily gain in history. These historical gains were erased on Wednesday when late trading plummeted, reflecting a grim warning from the Fed that the economic slowdown is probably going to get worse before the credit crunch is over. Already, the Dow has lost 16.5% in October, making it one of the worst months in market history.

Quake Shakes Pakistan

A 6.4-magnitude earthquake has killed at least 170 and injured 375 in Ziarat, an impoverished town in southwestern Pakistan. The quake struck at 5:10 a.m. and continued to cause tremors throughout the day, one of which reached a magnitude of 6.2. The tremors and subsequent landslides reportedly destroyed virtually every structure in the region, forcing 15,000 out of their homes. Officials are reportedly distributing temporary shelters and blankets throughout the region to protect the displaced villagers from the oncoming winter.

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commented that often it is in such housing situations that they have their best conversations on college campuses. Representatives from OMS, OM, SIM, Bread for the World, Wycliffe, and a slew of others flew or drove in from a variety of places, many traveling long distances to be on campus this week.

Tables were set-up in the campus center throughout the week for the different representatives, not only so they could talk to possible recruits but also so they could engage in conversations

with students about the outlook of global missions. Students were also invited to have lunch or dinner with representatives to get to know them and to gain a better understanding of their work in missions. Additionally, some of the representatives gave presentations in intercultural studies and missions classes.

Global prayer groups continued to meet at their regular times this

week, praying for a "new vision" for Houghton, and also for God's calling and direction in the lives of students. An additional global prayer session occurred on Sunday night following Koinonia where a number of students and representatives gathered to pray.

In addition to a coffeehouse Tuesday night, the week also included the documentary *The Untold Stories of Columbia* Thursday night. Today's line-up includes representatives from missions organizations in Allegany County and the surrounding areas, as well as a chapel talk by Alicia Walmus-Clifton, a 2007

Houghton graduate now working for Jericho Road Ministries, a homeless shelter and rescue mission in Buffalo, NY. Joining Walmus-Clifton is Jason Fileta, U.S. coordinator for Micah Challenge, a Christian campaign to work with impoverished communities and marginalized people. The week will round out with Saturday service projects at three locations in Allegany County.

"...as
Christians, we
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said that when the college went to a departmental structure from a division structure, it left the natural sciences without a strong collective voice.

"The structure of four separate department could be more effective if we work together," said Yuly.

According to professor Matt Pelletier, chair of the Biology department, science is becoming more multi-disciplinary. For example, Pelletier said that there are different methods to visualize plaque in a person's arteries and there is a new imaging system being developed that is making a huge impact on finding disease causing plaques. This scenario is a physics and engineering question, rather than just a one for biology.

"We have some programs that are already designed to be multi-disciplinary like bioinformatics and biochemistry," said Pelletier. He also said that this multi-disciplinary aspect shouldn't change the type of degree one gets, but it does change the experience.

Pelletier has been representing the biology department to the Science Advisory Council and meeting with architects and faculty with regard to the renovation.

According to Mullen, the building and renovating costs will be "approximately \$6.5 million."

"Exact plans have not been finalized," said Pelletier. The science division has spent more than \$500,000 for new equipment in the last five years. He anticipates more new equipment as a part of the renovation.

There is a difference between the new wing and the renovations for the Paine center.

According to Pelletier, the new wing is designed to create more

space for labs, the new science honors program, and collaborative research between faculty and students. The renovations will be in the existing space for things such as new windows, a new heating and cooling system, plumbing and the rearrangement of space. He said that both can't be done at once because there has to be a space to continue teaching science while that is going on.

"We're hoping to have the groundbreaking at Homecoming 2009 and begin building in the spring of 2010," said Mullen in regards to construction of the new wing.

Another feature is the introduction of the new first year science honors program starting next year, according to Yuly. It will be for the first whole year, but unlike other first year honors programs, the students will stay at Houghton. They will have special calculus, Western Civ., and philosophy courses.

"Our goal is to give students an experience where they can be looking at some big important interesting problem and see how things they're learning, even in non-science courses, can be brought to bear in this problem," said Yuly.

"The program is designed to get first year students who are biologists, physicists, or chemists working together on a common problem," said Pelletier.

The students will be driven by a single scientific problem, said Yuly, and next year it will be "alternative energy for transportation." At the end of the year, the students will build go-cart sized renditions of the automobiles they've come up with like solar, fuel celled, biodiesel, and ethanol powered vehicles.

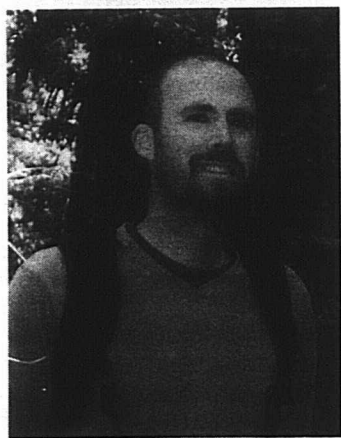


Faculty Profile: An Interview With Professor Aaron Routhe

By Amy Buckingham

STAR: Could you tell me a little bit about your background?

Routhe: "I grew up mostly in New Hampshire from fourth grade through high school. I spent my summers going to camp, as a camper and as staff. When I came to Houghton I had no idea what I wanted to study, but eventually declared a biology major with an environmental emphasis. In my last years here, a few other students and I formed the Houghton Environmental Club (HEC) because of our conviction about the relevance of our faith and Christianity for environmental issues. I also met my future wife, Ginny. During the summer of '07 after we had graduated, Dr. Wolfe contacted us and told us of a Houghton alumnus looking to start an environmental education program at a Christian camp in Texas. We moved there in August and I began working as the



Environmental Education Program Director. In January, I became the Director of the Experiential Outdoor Recreation Program. Ginny was hired as the Director of Environmental Education programs for all varieties of students. In 2000, we moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, where I began graduate work in sociology with an emphasis on environment and development at the University of Tennessee. I began teaching introductory sociology classes on social justice and got some great opportunities to do research on environmental attitudes as they relate to water supply issues. In December 2005, I was contacted by the Creation Care Study Program (CCSP), a Christian environmental study abroad program for schools of the CCCU that is focused on the intersection of faith and social and environmental justice. The branch of the program located in the South Pacific was in need of a program director. In January 2006 we moved to New Zealand and lived there for two and half years until we came back to the US this past March. While we thoroughly enjoyed our time there, circumstances had forced the program to shift locations a few semesters because we were only leasing facilities. With two young boys, we were looking for stability and so moved to Houghton after learning of the sociology position. Part of what made Houghton appealing was the direction President Mullen is going in terms of talking about global justice and creation care and the

specific initiatives that are being put into action here for making this vision a reality."

STAR: What was life like in New Zealand?

Routhe: "Everything you've seen or heard about it is true and more spectacular in person. CCSP emphasizes and strives to integrate together personal spiritual formation, academics, community, and cross-cultural interaction into an intense semester long experience. In CCSP, a large emphasis was placed on intentional community living; with anywhere between 10 and 20 students every semester, we lived in close proximity with one another. As a program, we tried to put into practice the ideas of living with an eye towards simplicity and living intentionally. We wanted to be conscious of how our daily choices affect the people and places around us and abroad. In CCSP, we were trying to be more integrated and holistic in figuring out what it means to be a follower of Jesus as a member of U.S. society in this particular historical moment of our increasingly globalized world."

STAR: How do you hope to apply "intentional, Christian community" to Houghton?

Routhe: "Ginny and I have a vision and dream to implement, on a smaller scale here in Houghton, the same kind of community living experience that we had in New Zealand through what we're calling 'Seed House.' A draft mission

statement for the house is that it be a place where individuals intentionally live together and creatively reflect Jesus Christ's compelling call to work toward shalom and reconcile ourselves with God, neighbor, and land through more sustainable lifestyle choices with the help of the Holy Spirit. We want to connect more closely on a daily basis with the lives of students and explore questions like: How do we live out a more holistic environmental consciousness with a Biblical perspective as followers of Christ? And what are the implications of this on our personal lifestyle? Part of this project includes two specific goals. The first is to move our house towards being a net zero energy home; one with a combined energy output and consumption equal to zero. The second is to move towards being a zero waste house for at least a year. While it is easy to feel helpless with such big global social and environmental problems, doing what we can with things we can control, like our waste output is significant. We're still finalizing the purchase of a home here in Houghton, but we're hoping to move in by Thanksgiving. If this happens, it's possible one or two students could move in with us next semester and begin helping with some of the planning for Seed House. Next year, we're aiming for having four to six students in the house with us. If there is anyone interested in being involved we'd love to talk to them."

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The FYHP London program is the most expensive of the off-campus programs, and therefore technically the least cost-effective, but Mullen noted that "if you start with the assumption that students wouldn't be at Houghton at all without the honors program" then the calculation becomes more complicated.

"Off-campus programs are probably one of the most sensitive issues" when it comes to funding, she said, because they have such a transformative effect on individuals, and because they best illustrate the "entrepreneurial spirit" that has characterized the Houghton approach to the budget in the past. Typically, these programs have been "associated with one department or one person," so "every one of the programs exhibit huge investment on the part of one or two faculty members."

Any budget considerations have been "made more interesting by the economic realities of the coming months." Mullen said that as far as funding goes, the endowment is most obviously affected by the stock market crash. "This is the only time in the history of the world I'm glad we don't have a bigger endowment," Mullen said, adding on a more

serious note that "the only part of the college right now that is sufficiently endowed [and therefore affected by this] is the School of Music."

In order to assist students whose families may be struggling with lost jobs and income, the college is "committed next year...to try to have some money set aside in the financial aid budget for students to apply for who have been thrown into hardship by the economy." But Mullen was quick to note that whatever the college is doing with the budget right now "we would be doing anyway to try to put the college... on a more long-term, systematic approach to budgeting."

Mullen was also asked whether she knew what the markup on next year's tuition would be. "I would guess it would be five percent again," she said. "That's really the typical approach." She did say that the administration had discussed "whether to have no increase this year," but that's a "danger because you then communicate that's the norm." She again emphasized

that "it will not be more than five percent," but the final figure has to be approved by the trustees in February; everything is an "expectation and assumption" at this point.

By way of background, Mullen gave five points to focus on when talking about the budget. She first explained the budget process, noting that after going through the staff cabinet, the faculty, and the President's Staff, the budget is ultimately approved by the trustees.

Mullen then said she wants to see the budget process characterized by transparency and dialogue, and

recognized the need for more long-range planning when it comes to deciding where money will be spent. The formation of the "Ideal Houghton Operations Plan," or IHOP, is part of this effort, and essentially is "what we think Houghton ought to be... and how we work to get there." Any decision made in a given year, Mullen noted, should be measured against that ideal.

Also essential to her vision for the budget is working on reversing the mentality she perceives at Houghton

that says "there is never enough money" to go around, as well as looking at ways to make the vision more comprehensive instead of having a "retail" model. In the past, "if you came along and you had a project that you wanted to do, and if you could demonstrate that you could bring in a few more students, you would be allowed to embark on it." In Mullen's view, this led to many underfunded programs and strong personal associations with programs.

Instead, she wants to ask, "What does it mean to build a college" to "have a coherent vision of the educational process?" Mullen's answer: "We don't want to be a smorgasbord or take a retail approach" when it comes to the budget.

"It's not as if you ever have enough, or what everybody wants," she conceded, adding, "I'm not implying it's easy," but that doesn't mean there aren't creative ways to address funding. Ultimately, Mullen stressed that "these will be ongoing discussions," and emphasized that addressing the budget "is a huge issue of really trying to be wise in the middle of more than usual uncertainties."

"There are many good things in the world that Houghton is not called to do."



The Woods Themselves Perform Houghton's First Hardcore Show

By Amanda Kronert

The Woods Themselves, a hardcore band made up of Houghton students, played in their first Houghton sponsored full length set with friend and fellow musician Jonathan Herr this past Thursday, October 23.

The band, comprised of senior Brian Stein and juniors Jon McKinley, Broc Verschoor, and Alex Glover, found the response to their music at Shenawana to be both exciting and encouraging, and were pleased with the outcome and overall reception, particularly considering that many of audience members were new to—or not typically fans of—the genre. Even their RA Steve Grudde came out to show his support. Although later commenting, "It was the loudest show I had ever been to," he remained in the front for the entire duration of the set. Host of the show and Resident Director at Shenawana, Pete Hutchinson, also offered his voice of approval. The Woods Themselves insisted that it was one of their most fun shows to date, and that they would love to play on Houghton campus again, given the opportunity.

The band has played many other shows in the area, including a bowling alley in Cuba, Isaac's Youth for Christ center in Wellsville, and New Hope Assembly of God church in Fillmore. The members have been impressed by the positive response that they have been receiving in the surrounding communities, and are flattered by the admiration that they are consistently receiving from larger local bands.

In the words of McKinley, The

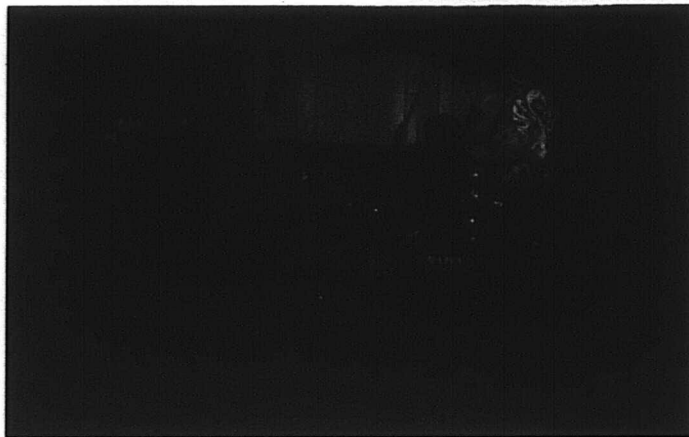


Photo by Leah Gauthier

The Woods Themselves has played many shows in the Houghton area, including their most recent performance in the basement of Shenawana.

Woods Themselves are currently "fine tuning songs in preparation for [the release of] an EP," while continuing to seek out new opportunities to play their music. As always the band is continuing to write and is striving to improve their musicianship, coming together for an hour nearly every day to practice, with band members blocking out additional time in their already busy Houghton schedules to practice individually. Next-door neighbor Josh Gottron comments "We can hear them through our walls, and they are rockin'." Though the band did try to soundproof their living room, it is to their advantage that neighbors don't seem to mind the sound escaping through the walls.

The work can be emotionally and physically draining, but all four members are extremely passionate about what they do. Not only do they love the type music they write; they also insist on writing songs that they hope will make a positive impact

on their listeners. "We see what we do as our ministry," says McKinley. Vocalist Verschoor shares that his lyrics reflect his personal struggles with sin, the Bible, and faith, and the band hopes that their spiritual message is obvious in their music.

The band unanimously agrees that their music is for anyone, but admit that their focus is currently reaching young people who already enjoy the particular genre they play in. All of the members have been drawn to the genre themselves, albeit for different reasons. Stein and McKinley both reveal that they were influenced by peers and enjoyed the challenge and musical intrigue the genre provided. Jon McKinley discloses that during the writing process he tries to write songs that he would want to hear, saying, "When I hear a good song, I think, 'I wish I had written that.'" Verschoor was drawn to the genre because he found that it was passionate and interactive, and

therefore something he wanted to be a part of. Bassist Alex Glover admits that much of his musical taste differs from the other band members, but finds that this is to his advantage, providing him with the opportunity to bring "something different" to their music.

The band was initiated by lead guitarist Jon McKinley and drummer Brian Stein when the pair began writing music together in the summer of 2007. Vocalist Broc Verschoor joined the project in the fall, followed by the eventual inclusion of Alex Glover on bass guitar in 2008. The band, which first played live last November in Houghton's Battle of the Bands, plans on playing for the benefit again next month.

The band hopes to be able to support themselves in the future with their music and are always looking to improve musically and to build a wider fan base so that this can be a possibility. The members list their goals as "trying to write good music, trying to get new friends, playing hard, and growing facial hair." "Seriously," Alex Glover playfully inserts, "Broc is growing out his beard until we get signed."

The band encourages fans to show their support by buying merchandise and sharing their name and music with friends. Verschoor adds, "When we know that people enjoy our stuff, [their support] gives us [an even greater] motivation to play."

For more information on The Woods Themselves or to listen to a sample of their music, visit their MySpace at www.myspace.com/thewoodsthemselvsmusic.

After Years of Heartbreak, Has the Bills' Time Finally Come?

By Greg Dabb

The life-long struggle that comes with being a Buffalo Bills fan may be getting just a little bit easier. The team is off to their best start since the 1995 season. The defense looks solid, the special teams is at the top of the league, as they always are under Coach Bobby April, and it seems like there is finally an answer at the quarterback position. Having become an actual football fan about a year after Jim Kelly retired and living through an onslaught of incompetence at the quarterback position, it is nice that there appears to finally be a solution. Quarterback Trent Edwards, a second year professional from Stanford, possesses the eighth-best QB rating in the league and fourth best in the AFC. He is very decisive with ball and generally avoids turnovers. He is accurate on the underneath routes, but after putting on some much needed bulk in the offseason, he is now able to work with the team's

deep-threat Lee Evans. Evans is averaging 20.5 yards per reception, second most for all receivers with ten catches or more. The running game is efficient with the one-two punch of second year back Marshawn Lynch, the Bills 2007 first round pick, and Fred Jackson, the former NFL Europe MVP.

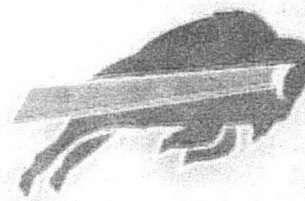
The defense has been solid overall this season, holding elite backs like LaDainian Tomlinson to 41 yards and Jacksonville's Maurice Jones-Drew/Fred Taylor tandem to 31 yards. The pass defense has surrendered some big games, but much of that has been due to the #1 cornerback, Terrence McGee, being out since hurting his knee in the St. Louis game. He is not yet 100%, as evidenced by this week's game when second year receiver Ted Ginn Jr. burned the Bills for 175 yards, 171 of them coming when McGee was covering him. Ginn had 173 on the season coming into Sunday's game.

The big offseason additions of

Marcus Stroud at defensive tackle and Kawika Mitchell at linebacker have proven to be great moves, as both bring playmaking ability. Stroud is a dominant force in the middle, begging the question, why did the Jags ever trade him? Mitchell had an interception, forced fumble and a sack last week in San Diego as well as a forced fumble this week in Miami. Along with the new acquisitions on defense, the Bills welcomed the return of middle linebacker Paul Posluszny, who broke his forearm in last season's week three matchup against the Patriots. They also got back free safety Ko Simpson from an ankle injury. With a shored up defense, with much more depth than last year, the Bills are stable in that department and will only get better once Pro Bowl defensive end Aaron Schobel returns from a foot injury.

There are still questions on the team, such as tight end, which has been an issue since the days of Pete Metzalaars, and a number

two receiver to take pressure off of Evans, but all in all the team is in good shape. They are a young team that has finally found a way to win tough games and has rallied behind Trent Edwards, who has incredible poise and leadership skills for a second year player. With the Bills tied for first in the division and looking at a relatively soft schedule, it is not farfetched to think that they can take the division crown for the first time in 15 years and reach the post-season for the first time in nine years. After years of ineptitude, our time may have finally come. Bills fans get ready. The ride will be great, and the potential for heartbreak even greater.





'Banished' First in Film Series Sponsored by Sociology Club

By Shane Marcus

Monday night, the Sociology club sponsored a showing of the film "Banished: American Ethnic Cleansing." The film, produced by Marco Williams, was based on the research in the book "Buried in the Bitter Waters" by Pulitzer-Prize winning author Elliot Jaspin. More than 50 students came to the showing, and about 20 stayed for discussion afterwards. Additionally, a small group of students and Sociology Club officers went to St. Bonaventure on Wednesday night to hear Jaspin's lecture "Separate Histories: How We Lie to Ourselves." The film and Jaspin's lecture help to bring out into the open a difficult topic—racism—that lies silent beneath the surface.

The film itself covered the history of ethnic cleansing in three communities at the turn of the 19th century. While statistics were given for many cities in the southern United States, Forsyth, Georgia, Pierce City, Missouri, and Harrison, Arkansas were detailed specifically.

Generally, ethnic cleansing followed a simple pattern: a violent (often sexual) crime against a white woman, a black man was lynched without trial, and all the other blacks were driven from the community. Some cities forced blacks to leave, telling them they had to be gone by midnight—or else. But other

communities surrounded the houses of the accused with armed men, forcing them to flee under heavy gunfire. These displaced families had no opportunity to legally sell their land, and were universally too afraid to come back and attempt any lawful sale of their rightfully owned land.

The land was then gradually possessed by the white people who drove out the rightful owners through a legal process called "adverse possession." After a period of time where the land was unpossessed, the whites could acquire the deeds to the land for next to nothing. Their descendants often still live on that land today.

The white citizens of Forsyth went so far as to dynamite many houses owned by blacks, who fled immediately, leaving their land unsold and many of their possessions behind. In Pierce City, MO, the blacks were a progressive part of the community, many highly educated and even owning their own church building. They were driven out of town at gunpoint. And in Harrison, AR, the Klu Klux Klan drove the blacks out not once, but twice, in two different periods of violent uprisings.

Today, those communities are all still not radically divided, but completely homogenous. In Forsyth in 1987, a biracial committee organized what was supposed to be a peaceful protest


march for reconciliation. However, before they even reached the city limits, the roads were completely blocked by thousands of protesters, waving Confederate flags and throwing rocks at the bus itself. In Harrison, the KKK is not just present, but public and active. In an interview with Marco Williams, their leader was completely honest about the fact that blacks were not welcome to live in the community. The community is proud of the absence of black people, and has experienced significant growth in the last twenty years, with many people willing to admit that they moved because of the homogeneity of the town.

The issue that the film tries to deal with is the question of reparation for the wrongs done. In some cities, some attempts have been made. One living member of the Forsyth cleansing and her family have been able to reclaim the small piece of land on which their family's traditional burial ground rests, but the remainder of the land remains out of their possession. A family from Pierce City was able to move their grandfather's grave to their current hometown. But in all situations, there is a general unwillingness to make any kind of official compensation. The reasoning is generally that it's too difficult a question to simply restore the land to the descendants of those who were banished, and money

can't heal the emotional wounds. What then, can be done?

The film leaves the question open. The discussion afterwards picked up the question, with many feeling that the only way to truly work toward this goal is for those communities today to show that they regret what was done. This could be in the form of making a visible monument to the atrocities that happened, or welcoming black people back into the community.

Some wondered if money is really an adequate form of reparation. Significant money has been granted to Jewish descendants of the Holocaust victims, and Japanese citizens following World War II. Senior Alaina Williams inquired as to why blacks were excluded from this. Fellow senior Wes Ferwerda wondered where the line can be drawn for what reparations are made. Do we extend the same gesture to Native Americans as well?

Elliot Jaspin's lecture addressed some of these issues. His main focus is to re-write what we know as American history, so that it is not only "white history" against "black history," but one united history covering both sides. And while he acknowledged the difficulty in trying to classify monetary reparations, he stressed the need to actually and physically make things right, instead of just admitting to wrongdoing. 

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December

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Leeland

Monday, Nov 10th 8:00 PM





Approaching the Ballot Box: Know the Candidates *and* the Issues

A political junkie explains why, before you exercise your right to vote on election day, you should fulfill your responsibility to be well-informed.

by Joshua Nolen

Election season is upon us (finally). Yes, after more than a year of campaigning the end is finally in sight. Next week, either Barack Obama or John McCain (or some third party candidate) will be elected the President of the United States of America.

As citizens of the United States (as most Houghton members are), we have a responsibility to make an informed vote. We do not simply have the right to vote! Instead, we have the responsibility, the duty, to examine the issues and the candidates and then to make an informed decision.

Please do not vote! – if you don't know anything about the candidates other than what party they belong to, or where they stand on one particular issue. Please do vote if you believe you have the ability to make an informed decision.

For a year now, my internet homepage has been set to CNN's Political Ticker; it's the first thing I do each morning and the last

thing I do before I go to bed, and in between I visit it at least 10 times a time. During the primary season, I will admit that I sat at my computer, and watched the results come in each voting day – hitting refresh, refresh, refresh... I watched the Republican National Convention over the internet, and listened to the Democratic National Convention on the radio. I listen to

We do not simply have the right to vote: we have the responsibility to make an informed decision.

NPR's podcasts of Talk of the Nation everyday, Political Junkie every Thursday, and Wait Wait Don't Tell Me each weekend, along with the Real

Time with Bill Maher podcast. I read my Newsweek each and every week, and skim through articles in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and Time magazine. I am on the mailing lists for a major party candidate, a third party candidate and a PAC (political action committee). And to top it off, I spend hours a day on Google, Wikipedia and YouTube, searching out for any of the campaign information I might have missed.

Now, not everyone needs to have done that, but you should at the very least make a list of the issues that are important to you and find out where each candidate stands on those issues (make sure you get your information from a reputable source).

I believe that the government should help people to do things they cannot do themselves, and should facilitate, rather than limit, what people are able to do. For these reasons, the issues I believe are most important are the economy, defense, and health care.

I know that many people at Houghton will be concerned with whether or not the candidate is a "good person." But please also take into consideration whether or not the candidate will make a good leader.

Although the president needs to be someone who can relate to the American people, and not someone with 8-11 homes, the president should not be some average Joe Shmoe or Joe-Six-Pack. If the average person could be president, I'd vote for Jane Doe, but the president actually needs to be someone who knows what they

are doing. This does take some experience, and some connection to the American people. It also takes good ideas, an ability to inspire, and the ability to act "presidential" – a calmness in the face of adversity, not a hot, violent temper.

This does not mean, however, that a candidate's morals can simply be ignored. Think about what virtues you would like to see in a candidate: leadership, honesty, integrity, respect etc... Don't simply vote for the candidate you would most like to have a drink with.

Frankly, when the election is over, I'm not sure what I'm going to do. I attended both of George W. Bush's inaugurations – the first as a volunteer, the second as a protestor – but January 20, 2009 seems so far away.

Remember, as Plato said in *The Republic* "The penalty for not participating in government is to be governed by your inferiors."

In my case, I already voted. But, I ask you, I beg you and I implore you: Please vote, just don't vote for John McCain.

Joshua is a senior Philosophy and Biology major.

The Greatbatch School of Sabbath Exemption?

Given the current practical application of the Sabbath policy, the ongoing discussion may be moot.

by Joshua Wallace

This past weekend, the Ultimate Frisbee team held their semiannual tournament, simultaneously operating four active fields from the early hours of the morning to near dusk. Because this tournament was entirely planned and run by Houghton Students, it took place within the confines of one day, not "spilling over" into the Sabbath which we have designated as our day of rest. Since not all of the schools who host such tournaments are Christian, Sunday often serves as the final day of gaming where the top teams fight for the title of champion.

For the Frisbee team, participation in these games, as outlined in the Sunday Observance policy found in the list of Community Responsibilities, compels the now former club sport to forfeit college funding since it breaches a vital aspect of a mutual agreement between student (in this case students) and the Institution. As a student who has signed this Community Covenant, I am in full support of this policy except for one very important thing... not all facets of the College are held to this particular communal standard.

The actual provision in the college policy, as updated in November of 2000, states: "On Sunday, intercollegiate or intramural

athletic events or practices are prohibited. The library, classrooms, laboratories and music practice rooms are closed". It is obvious the intent and purpose of such a provision is to ensure all students observe the Sabbath as a day of rest and worship just as God mandated in the Ten Commandments of Exodus; however, its enforcement on campus has been less than steady across the boards, especially regarding the operational hours of the practice rooms in the Music Building.

As a second year student, I have been on campus for a fair number of Sundays and have, without fail, encountered some manner of toot, plunk, or crash that has originated from behind one of the overhead windows as I walked through the icy tunnel on my way to or from meals. One could argue (and some actually have) that The Greatbatch School of Music is a separate entity from the College and this policy does not apply to its students. While I support such ardent patriotism for the department, the two are one in and of themselves as a degree in Music is issued by Houghton College, not by the Greatbatch School of Music as a stand-alone institution. If the provision exists for community of

the school, it should be followed by all, not by a few.

So what solution do I offer to reconcile the discrepancy between that which is preached and that which is practiced? I am in no way suggesting the Center for the Fine Arts be placed under lock and key with guards posted at each door and escape hatch from twelve to twelve on Sunday, simply that everyone is extended the same opportunities. If

... not all facets of the College are held to this particular communal standard.

students are allowed to use the music, science, or library buildings on Sunday for study, work, or fun, then concomitantly, the Frisbee team should be allowed to play a few organized games as well.

As a community, we have a responsibility to treat each member in our collection as equal. We can't be lukewarm when it comes to the execution of such policies; and what have the members of the Frisbee team hurt? I say let them play and support them as they go, both fiscally and morally. I'm quite confident the music students would support them if it came down to making a decision to go one way or the other.

Joshua is sophomore Chemistry and Political Science major.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,

"A higher purpose in mind" this is something that I have read repeatedly in my college career here. Now, maybe I am one of those people who believe everything that I see or read. Or, maybe I am one of those people who really believed that Houghton has "a higher purpose in mind." We are admitted into this college based on our abilities and potential. Houghton's philosophy states that it "builds on the concept of preparing its scholars with 'qualities of serving enthusiastically and unselfishly.'" However, it seems to me that we as students sometimes forget these things. And the sad thing is, these are the very things that brought most of us to this campus.

I have noticed throughout the course of this semester that we as students have not been meeting the standards when it comes to our very own Philosophy. Particularly the part that says we are being prepared to serve "enthusiastically and unselfishly."

There has been a lot of controversy going around about the Gospel Choirs attempt to bring Nicole C. Mullen to campus. Now, I believe that as Christian scholars that are being prepared to serve "enthusiastically and unselfishly" we should have supported Gospel Choir in their endeavors to bring a diverse artist to campus. Instead,



there have been numerous shut downs and put downs regarding the money involved in getting Nicole Mullen here.

Honestly I can't believe the student body's reaction to the \$8,150 that Gospel Choir requested. "We don't have enough information." "Who's to say Gospel Choir won't stop trying to raise the money once they have it?" "We have enough diversity on campus, because we have off campus programs and with the class of 2012 we have doubled our minority numbers..." and these are just a few of the comments that gospel choir has had thrown at them.

Gospel Choir has handled a lot of flack over this concert. It is my hope that we could come together like that community president Mullen always talks about. Rather than creating drama over the money issue, why not try and help our friends and community members reach their goals? Why not try and serve "enthusiastically and unselfishly?"

-Joshua Strange, class of 2011

Dear Editors,

Over the last weeks I have heard a range of responses to my veto of the Nicole C. Mullen concert. I wanted to take a moment to clarify an issue that, such as its nature, may have been misconstrued or misinterpreted.

When I spoke of race and diversity in my campus wide email I was responding to a discussion that had been raised primarily within senate. As one senator stated, "It is important to understand that Houghton College embraces all cultures and forms of worship." The Gospel Choir plan itself outlined the importance of diversity and how bringing Nicole C. Mullen as an African-American gospel artist would truly benefit the campus. I agree with all of these statements and fully support the intended meaning behind them.

My email was designed to inform the student body that though I understood and agreed with all of these arguments, I was looking at the concert from only a financial perspective. We should not look at this issue as though those who support the decision do not support diversity and vice versa. I did not mean to imply that Gospel Choir, including any senators supporting the concert, was advocating this position. If that was inferred from my email I am sorry and I will take responsibility for my miscommunication. It is important that our campus tackles issues in a courteous manner. It is my utmost hope that my leadership will fully embody this principle. If you have any concerns or would like to discuss this further, feel free to contact me.

-Peter Savage, class of 2010

From the Editors' Desk...

Pavlov's Nation: Ringing the Bell on Capitalist Conditioning

Does our capitalist upbringing make it impossible to fully appreciate the privilege of higher education?

by Micah Warf

When I was young, I was told that when Abraham Lincoln was my age he wanted nothing more than to learn, and went to great lengths to get an education (it's true, by the way—I read it in a book). The reason I was told this was so that I could model my own view of education on this fine example of scholarship. Look at Abraham Lincoln, or Albert Einstein, or Booker T. Washington, or John Wesley, or Isaac Newton—take your pick. These are all people that are recognized for major achievements in all sorts of fields, but are also given to children and young adults as role models because of their devotion to and love of learning.

And yet how many American students in this day and age, even the above-average (so we're told) students at Houghton College, have this kind of commitment to becoming learned?

I don't want to talk about work ethic (something I am under-qualified to do anyways), and how we live in a lazy period of history. Rather, I'd like to talk about something more definable: namely, the way that we view our education, especially in the college and graduate school years. And I'd like to start by talking about the years even before we knew what a college was.

One of the many wonderful memories of my childhood was shopping with my mom. She instilled in me an intuitive sense of where the produce section will be in any given grocery store, taught me to never shop while I was hungry, and, most importantly, made me probe the deep mysteries of bargain hunting. Being homeschooled, my world was a classroom, and my basic algebraic skills were sharpened by comparing prices by the fluid ounce on juice cartons and learning when Wal-Mart was actually giving me a deal and when they were simply pulling the proverbial wool over my eyes.

This prepared me for being able to live and work and function and talk in a society that, in large part,

has become saturated in capitalism. Buying and selling and making "the trade" has become a large part of how we think, and what makes up our world.

With the expense of a liberal arts education these days, we find money becoming more and more important in our decisions regarding schooling. The importance of these considerations makes choosing a college an act of purchase, and invites the language of capitalism to belabor the way we think and talk about higher education. It becomes a product, and we become the buyers, eyes peeled for a good deal, searching for the best bargain, comparing options and prices, and wanting to get the most out of what we buy.

It is impossible, I would argue, to think about higher education these days in the same way that Newton or Wesley did—as something that we are impassioned about, and see as the greatest privilege that could be bestowed on an individual. Thanks to our capitalist mentality, we accept an invitation to a college not as people to whom a gift and privilege is being given, but as buyers of what we're fairly sure is the best deal for us from the college aisle.

And as we all know, in a capitalist environment the customer is always right! Misunderstandings between administration and students, arguments over chapel attendance, and heated conversations about tuition prices all can be better understood (or even explained) by looking at it in this light. If we've "purchased" a college education, we're going to want to know that we've made the right choice. We're going to want to have a say in what happens with "our" education. We want our money's worth in all aspects. And so we find a campus full of students who are not taking everything Houghton is giving them with a grateful heart, just glad to be bettering their minds in such a gloriously academic community, but are rather sure that cafeteria food could be better, that Professor so-and-so really isn't doing his or her

job, and that the last thing we needed on this campus was a giant boulder.

College advertising doesn't help things, either. Houghton's most recent webpage and printed developments in their quest to draw new students to campus talk in the language of capitalism—"Why Houghton is the place for YOU"—and further this mindset. Much of the literature is devoted to the various scholarships and benefits Houghton offers, ensuring potential buyers that no punches are pulled in an effort to give the customer the best possible deal. There isn't language about what a privilege it would be to be accepted into Houghton College, but rather a fair bit of toadying, making sure that the potential student knows that they are first, and that it is important to us at this college to make sure their needs are met, and that we can cater to them with a fine buffet of educational options.

Unfortunately, I'm not writing this with some sort of comprehensive solution in mind. I don't think there is one, unless a full-scale cultural revolution fits into anyone's class schedule. The fault, for the most part, rests on the Western world and the socially formative power of its economy. But I do think Houghton can be doing more to keep its dignity. It is a fine institution, in all respects. I've known this from day one of my college years.

Houghton, don't try to sell yourself. Offer scholarships, by all means. Tout your intellectual wealth. Flaunt your alumni. But don't package yourself in the meretricious pizzazz of capitalism and put yourself on a bargain shelf. Don't play down to a society that is all about the deal. Do what you can to make us—sadly selfish children of a patently individualistic consumerism—into grateful and eager students, who simply can't wait for Wednesday's Bib Lit class.

Micah is a junior Philosophy and Music major, and serves as commentary editor for the Star.

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artist: OF THE WEEK:

KERRY BROGAN

Notes about the artist:

Kerry's always looking for a new bell to ring or whistle to blow in her video projects, but the beating heart of her work is CONTENT. Are there stories outside the mainstream begging to be told? Will the media of the future amplify voices traditionally shut out of the conversation? Can videography make the world a better place? Kerry's search for answers to these and other questions has taken her across the United States and Canada, to Europe, Africa, Australia, South America, and an upcoming project in Antarctica.

She has won award for her videos in the Houghton Film Festival two years in a row (Best in Show, Best Editing, Best Drama, Best Documentary) and the annual Student Juried Exhibit (1st Place).

These and other videos of Kerry's can be found at www.kbrogan.com

Kerry is a senior Communications major with a concentration in Media Studies and a minor in Theology.



Vlog Anarchy in After Effects, digital video



What I Saw, digital video

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Submit your
completed
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Sudoku book!

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