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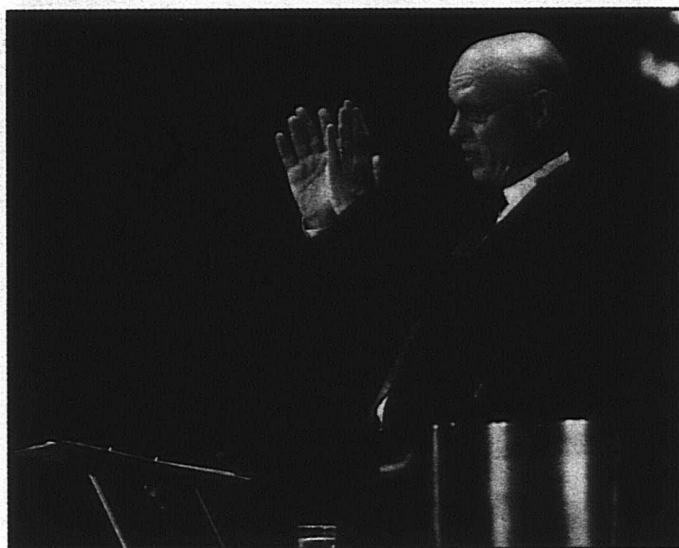
Begbie Lectures on Unity, Not Uniformity

by Micah Warf

This week, Houghton was graced with a series of timely messages from Dr. Jeremy Begbie, of Duke University, as part of the annual Woolsey lectureship. In a lecture on Tuesday evening, and another during Wednesday's chapel service, Begbie laid out his vision of theological education through artistic expression and its relevance to Houghton.

With an impressive background as a classically trained oboist and pianist, a composer, a theologian, an ordained minister of the Anglican church, and teacher, Begbie has spent many years exploring the interactions between theology and the fine arts. He presented an overview of his ideas and through a unique blend of teaching, visual imagery, and musical exposure.

Begbie began the lecture with a selection by Prokofiev and did not stray far from the instrument throughout the rest of the evening. He used this piece to illustrate several ideas. First, he used the concept of sounds being distinct, yet individually omnipresent and interpenetrating, to show how music could deepen our understanding of the Trinity. He then moved to an in-depth analysis of polyrhythmic composition (the



Dr. Jeremy Begbie, the latest lecturer in the Woolsey Lecture series, discussed the interplay between theology and the arts.

use of two or more distinct meters at the same time in one piece of music), and used further examples, both on the piano and from recordings, to explore how traditions and cultures can complement, rather than simply tolerate each other. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, he emphasized how Prokofiev's music, like that of many avant-garde composers, seeks to bring the future into the present, very similar to the way in which Christians bring the

hope of the future into the every day. This, Begbie stated, was a good example of the "great paradox" of Christianity.

Begbie closed the lecture by tying these ideas together with a discussion of how this type of thinking could apply to and be nurtured at Houghton, repeatedly posing the question, "could Houghton College be a place where this happens?" He challenged

Begbie cont'd on page 2

"Shaped by American Evangelicalism": The Link Between Houghton and the Wesleyan Church

by Naomi Woolsey

Although Houghton College is linked with the strongest of bonds with The Wesleyan Church, the fabric of the College has, from its foundations, been woven also from the threads of the broader worlds of North American Christianity and higher education. Influence from the Wesleyan Church as well as the American evangelical milieu has shaped the College's faith statements and mission.

President Mullen noted that Houghton's primary area of context has been the broader world of Christian and private higher education, as it functions within the Council of Christian Colleges (an association of Christ-centered institutions of higher education), the Consortium of Christian Colleges (a group devoted to high quality



Pres. Mullen said Wesleyan theology invites intellectual engagement.

Christian education), and the Annapolis group (an organization of liberal arts colleges). She also stated that historically, a majority of Houghton College's constituencies—students, faculty, staff, and donors—have hailed from within broader North American

Christianity.

Houghton College's first president, James Luckey, set Houghton College into the context of these broader constituencies by establishing it in the liberal arts

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SGA Discusses Concerns about Leadership

by Joel VanderWeele

This past Tuesday, SGA President Zach Adams pushed back the regularly scheduled orders of business in order to address concerns a small group of senators had expressed about his leadership and the effectiveness of SGA in general.

According to Adams, and two of the senators who raised specific concerns, the discussion that followed was fruitful and will ultimately improve the work of SGA.

Adams' opened his Presidential Address with prayer and a scripture reading from Matthew 18, then opened the discussion by providing some background for the special order of business.

Adams explained, "There [have] been some concerns brought up to me about my effectiveness as a leader and my effectiveness as a student advocate" and that he was "deeply saddened" by the secretive way the conversation was initiated, "inflammatory and threatening."

Adams encouraged all senators to communicate in ways that coincided both with the Matthew 18 scripture passage as well as the Houghton College Community Covenant's six specific expressions of love in our community: celebrating, building, caring, confronting, forgiving, and healing.

Senator Alex Vitale brought forward concerns that Adams was not as forthcoming as he should have been with information regarding the Organizational Sustainability [OS] Taskforce recommendations, asking, "If you can't relay information to us, how can we effectively serve in our roles?" He later said that Adams was "representing the administration to us, rather than representing us to the administration."

Senator Marc Williams agreed with Vitale, saying that he wanted stronger student representation in regard to issues like the OS

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THE WORLD TO THERE

by Derek Schwabe

Obama Announces Delay on Closing Guantanamo Bay Prison

President Obama announced this week that the US government will not meet his original 2010 deadline for closing the Guantanamo Bay prison. The announcement, well anticipated by US and prison officials, was addressed to a host of US TV networks during the president's tour of Asia. It further postponed the pressing political question of what is to be done with the 215 or so detainees still being held in the prison, many of whom cannot be freed or tried in the US court system. Obama said he was "not disappointed," stating, "It's hard not only because of the politics. People, I think understandably, are fearful after a lot of years where they were told that Guantanamo was critical to keep terrorists out." The order to close Guantanamo was one of Obama's first acts made in office, issued with a promise to have the prison closed by January of 2010.

Iraq VP Vetoes Election Law

Parliamentary election preparations in Iraq were put off this week with the unexpected veto of a necessary new election law, made by Vice President Tariq Al-Hashemi. The Vice President, a Sunni Arab, threw out the proposed law, citing his dissatisfaction with a condition

in Article I which stated that a maximum of 5% of the parliament was to be represented by displaced citizens. Hashemi explained his veto, noting his concern for the voices of the 4 million Iraqis, mostly Sunni Muslims, who fled the country with the onset of the 2003 US invasion. The veto has delayed the process of determining a final date for the parliamentary elections, which are required by Iraq's constitution to be held no later than the end of January. The veto has worried both Iraqi and US officials who view it as prerequisite to the anticipated removal of all US troops from Iraq by August of 2010.

African Population Tops 1 Billion

The African population has reached one billion people, according to the United Nations Population Fund. The population has doubled in the past 27 years, in part due to, according to the UNPF executive director, women's lack of access to family planning. Currently the Ugandan and Nigerian populations are growing the fastest and a large percentage of the African population are young people. The world's population is now 6.8 billion people, meaning that, globally, population has increased by nearly a billion people since it hit 6 billion people ten years ago in September 1999. Africa's population is expected to reach 1.9 billion people by the year 2050.

Connection cont'd from page 1

tradition after the model of Harvard and Oberlin, rather than in the Bible college tradition. His concern was for a strong Christian college that could meet the standards of excellent education in America like that which he had received, Mullen observed.

All of this is reflected in the College's mission statement, which begins: "Houghton College provides an academically challenging, Christ-centered education in the liberal arts and sciences to students from diverse traditions and economic backgrounds...."

Mullen affirms that Wesleyan theology invites the intellectual engagement and difference of opinion in the context of loving unity that a Christian liberal arts college can foster. Wesley

emphasizes a "catholic spirit": a heart of love and loyalty between believers whose hearts are fervently committed to God and intentionally committed to neighbors. Ministry Professor J. Michael Walters called Wesleyan theology "inclusive," welcoming those whose hearts are warm towards God. Diversity of opinion is not suppressed within this fundamental unity; it is in this context of loving unity that doctrinal dialogues can build up believers as they "walk" together.

Houghton College's story, as well as that of The Wesleyan Church, has been shaped significantly by movements within the world of American evangelicalism. Kelvin Friebe, professor of Old Testament, noted that The Wesleyan Church began for the sake of social issues: the abolition of slavery,

Begbie cont'd from page 1

the community to engage with and explore the arts, not exclusively as evangelical tools or conduits of worship, but as facets of the created world through which unique and trenchant observations about theology could be made.

Wednesday's chapel service focused on the arts as an expression of the diversity that necessarily exists in the body of Christ, but, as Begbie argued, is not often embraced. He made the point that we are called to unity in Christ, but not uniformity in Christ. To illustrate this point, he again turned to polyrhythm, inviting a percussion ensemble, led by Professor Mark Hijleh, to take the stage. They each played one

lay representation in church governance, and the ordination of women. Later, with the influence of the holiness movement in the early 1900s, The Wesleyan Church's focus shifted primarily to "saving souls."

After World War II, Houghton College's President Stephen Paine was involved in taking Houghton into the larger evangelical consensus that was being fostered in the United States as a response to a theological controversy going on within the Presbyterian Church. One of the main issues of contention in this controversy was the authority of Scripture. Since the Wesleys had always held a high view of Scripture, Paine wanted to associate Houghton with the evangelicals who held a similar view, even though their language of "inerrancy" was not traditional Wesleyan language. The alternative was a liberalism intent on social action but which also veered away from Christian orthodoxy, discounting miracles and the Resurrection. Mullen commented, "In the context of the division in the world of twentieth-century American Christianity, choices were forced on Houghton that made it difficult to maintain the wholeness of the Wesleyan tradition which includes a deep commitment to Scripture and a deep commitment to social action."

Because Houghton College has, as Mullen put it, "functioned with one foot in the Wesleyan Church and one foot in the larger world of evangelical Christianity," the College is uniquely positioned to speak prophetically into both worlds, offering the riches of each to the other.

instrument in a specific and individual rhythmic pattern, and then played as an ensemble which brought out new aspects of each rhythm, and brought sense and order to the sounds. On top of this, Begbie led the congregation in the classic hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy" on piano, illustrating how instead of detracting from each other, the very different styles represented on the stage complemented and even enervated each other.

Begbie closed by admonishing his audience to "live the difference," not conforming to some unfounded model of what Christians are "supposed" to look like, but using their individual voices to add to the polyphonic voice of the world church. ★

Carl Schultz, Professor of Old Testament, expressed that a church's academic institutions should hold a prophetic role toward that church. "The college doesn't exist to establish that the church is always right," Schultz said; "the college is not an automatic stamp of approval." Neither is it to lead the church away from orthodoxy, for "the college is beholden to be supportive of the church," and Houghton College is no renegade in that respect.

With regards to the larger world, Mullen cited several aspects of the Wesleyan tradition that "deeply resonate with [the needs of] our time." These include a "deeply biblical faith that is also manifested in social action, and a deeply personal faith that is also manifested in communal life together and accountability." The Wesleyan tradition holds together aspects of the Christian life—such as academics, spirituality, and social action—that broader American evangelicalism has tended to separate in the recent past. Friebe noted that, indeed, the Wesleyan denomination and the broader evangelical culture are both moving in the direction of reuniting social action and Scriptural commitment, with the introduction of social justice-oriented programs.

Mullen affirmed that "the things that are the most relevant about Houghton are deeply rooted in our tradition." Houghton College does not need to be "reinvented" in order to be "contemporary;" rather, Houghton College needs to reclaim its deep roots in compelling, creative ways that are translatable into our culture and time. ★

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Health Care Bill Narrowly Passed By House

by Kyle Johnson

On November 7 the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 3962, a 200-page bill called the Affordable Healthcare for America Act. The bill's stated purpose is "To provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans and reduce the growth in health care spending, and for other purposes." The bill passed with a narrow vote of 220-215. All but one Republican voted against the bill, and all but 39 Democrats voted in favor.

NYDailyNews.com reports that the measure is intended to spend "\$1.055 trillion, largely paid for with a 5.4% surtax on the top 0.3% of earners." The stated goal is to insure 36 million currently uninsured Americans via the creation of a state-run insurance option, as well as a Health Insurance Exchange program. This Exchange program, according to the Congressional Budget Office is supposed to help "certain individuals and families [to] receive federal subsidies to substantially reduce the cost of purchasing... coverage" since, under this bill, every American is now required to have some form of health insurance. Among other changes the bill would make, insurance companies will no longer be allowed to consider preexisting conditions, there will be limits on out-of-pocket expenses, and there will be a ban on co-pays for

preventative care.

In response to the passage of the bill, the Republican National Committee, called the measure a "government-run health care experiment" created by President Obama and Nanci Pelosi "behind closed doors." The bill, Republicans have argued, will increase taxes "on small businesses and the middle class", raise premiums, expand medical fees, "cut Medicare," and "increase the deficit."

The so-called abortion mandate has been a key issue in deciding the outcome of H.R. 3962. The bill calls for either the installment of a panel of experts, or for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to define an "essential benefits package" that must be offered by either the public option or subsidized insurance plans. Both Democrats and Republicans have raised concerns that the bill's language will leave it open for abortions to be included in this list of benefits. As a result, tax payer dollars would pay for abortions. Many Democrats opposed to abortion threatened to oppose the bill without an amendment blocking this possibility, so many attempts were made to arrive at some sort of agreement. According to NYDailyNews.com, "The bill nearly failed when a deal with conservative Dems collapsed." Nanci Pelosi then allowed the inclusion of The Stupak-Pitts amendment, providing some

restrictions regarding the benefits provided. Pro-choice leaders have expressed worry that the amendment will limit access to abortion for women, especially of the lower classes. Pro-life leaders are worried that the amendment won't last the senate.

Gauging public response to the bill is difficult. According to a recent AP poll conducted before the bill was passed, 43% of Americans opposed the measures being discussed in congress, with 41% in support and 15% undecided or neutral. According to the same poll, 82% support a ban on denying coverage because of preexisting conditions; 67% supported a measure to require everyone to have some sort of health insurance, but nearly the same amount (64%) opposed a federal penalty for not having coverage, an element of the bill that many Republicans in Congress have argued is hidden in the fine print.

Reactions here on campus are also mixed. Cameron Airhart, professor of history, expressed his support of the bill. He argues that the current system "is too expensive for the goods it delivers" and that this bill will put great pressures to bring costs down. "Only in this country can someone... be constrained from moving [jobs] because of healthcare. One of the marks of a good capitalistic economy is people being able to move between jobs," Airhart

argued. Acknowledging that the bill has some flaws, he said, "you get what you get. This is a start." Calling the bill a continuation of the New Deal, Airhart maintained that "[t]his is a noble dream."

Next door, Meic Pearse, also a professor of history, was more skeptical saying that the bill, avoiding the real problems, is "mere obfuscation." Pearse agrees that the current system is too expensive, citing that Americans live "2 years less" than in wealthy countries that spend half as much. The problem with healthcare costs, according to Pearse, is that "it's the insurance principle that drives costs through the roof at every point — for the same reason that repairs to your car cost three times more if the garage learns "it's an insurance job. It delivers health professionals into the thrall of pharmaceutical companies, and leaves Americans vastly over-medicated and over-exposed to ruinous charges. And the bill will change none of that."

H.R. 3926 is far from being written into the law. The margin allowing the bill to pass was slim enough in the House, and passing it promises to be as much if not more of a challenge in the senate. According to Majority Leader Harry Reid, it is unlikely that the bill will be up for a vote in the senate before next year. ★

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Taskforce and the establishment of a Sustainability Center. He was also "bothered by the personal relationship [between Adams and] Vice President [of Student Life Sharra] Hynes," calling their relationship the beginnings of a "good old boys club... I'm concerned that people making decisions are not going to be getting our input."

In response to concerns about his leadership style, Adams explained his view that "there is a time and place when you need to play that role of adversary. I tend to fall into more of a collaborative role, especially in this time of challenge."

Several senators spoke up in Adams' defense, including Senator Ian Taylor, who said, "I think it's easy to sit here and criticize and throw our toys out of the pram, but I think we should recognize many things that Zach has done well."

Taylor relayed the opinion of a member of Student Life Council who, "was very impressed by how Zach represents our views, beyond just what he believes, and

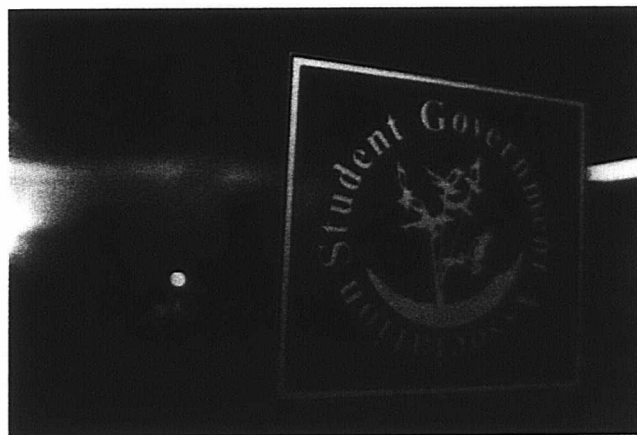


photo by Wesley Dean

At the Senate meeting on Tuesday, a number of senators expressed dissatisfaction with Zach Adams' performance as SGA president.

tries to express as many different points of view as possible... it disappoints me the way that this has been brought about. I think it's been petty and childish."

Senator Caitlin Cleland, who said she greatly appreciated Taylor's comments, was "fearful that the discussion would turn into a time of personal attack and anger but instead it was a fairly positive and honest conversation about some disappointments and some misconceptions regarding the

presidency and how we can better understand the role. I think that President Zach Adams displayed great humility, courage, and authority by prompting discussion through his presidential address. I certainly felt that I understood Zach's 'leadership philosophy' much better after the meeting."

Senators Clara Sanders and Lindsay Hansen expressed the desire to focus on the effectiveness of SGA as a whole, rather than simply on Adams' position as

President.

"We are all the SGA, not just one person," said Sanders, "we can all work together to be the SGA together, and not just rely on one person to represent us."

Hansen agreed, calling the conflict a symptom of the "lack of conversation we're having as a whole. Yes, sometimes [Adams hasn't] gotten back to us, but there hasn't been the follow-up from us either."

Ultimately, both Vitale and Williams expressed appreciation for the way Adams handled the discussion. Vitale also apologized "for not raising this issue sooner than I maybe should have... I do have a lot of confidence in Zach as our President."

At the conclusion of the discussion, Speaker of the Senate Josh Wallace recommended that the senators take advantage of the Senate Retreat to come up with "a laundry list" of "attainable and measurable goals" for both the cabinet and for the wider Senate. "I think that ultimately that will be the first step in opening communication." ★

Accused of Comedy Leaves Audience 'Rolling'

by Bryan Overland

The CFA Recital Hall is usually known as a venue for serious musical acts or perhaps a community meeting, but last week it was a venue for laughter as the student drama club, Encore, presented Carl William's one act play *Accused of Comedy*.

The play takes place in a future where comedy, hilarity, and any sort of general silliness has been outlawed. All jokes, comedians, and even comedic props, such as balloons, are illegal; there is even a penalty for laughter. Underground comedians Mr. Hooper and Mr. Dobbs, played by junior Noah Alessi and graduate student Deryk Schudy, have been arrested for telling a joke, along with Wilhamena, played by senior Constance Foster, who has an uncontrollable laugh and could not help but laugh at their joke. The three are interviewed by Madam Magistrate, played by freshman Kayla Powell, in order to determine the extent of their crime. The chemistry between Alessi and Schudy, Foster's overly contagious laugh, and Powell's hilarious use of seriousness in the face of comedy had the audience rolling throughout the performance.

Directed by seniors Luke Klingensmith and Danielle Fera, the 25 minute act provided an excellent



Photo by Luke Klingensmith

Shudy, Alessi and Foster bring *Accused of Comedy*, by Carl William's to life.

break for students dealing with the stresses and lack of motivation which naturally occur in Houghton this time of year. As Klingensmith puts it, "Sometimes it's nice to get away from the intensity of life and watch a short, silly play." The last thing Houghton students need right now is something time consuming or controversial; we have enough on our plates as it is. But having a play that was easily accessible to the audience was not the only thing going on in the directors' minds when selecting *Accused of Comedy*. One of the purposes outlined Encore's constitution is, to "[focus]

on developing the dramatic talents of Houghton's student body." There is plenty of talent present on Houghton's campus, but not many of us have the time to devote to the full-length productions offered by some of the other dramatic organizations available here. The brevity of the play allowed for people to get involved that would not have otherwise; for three of the four cast members this was their first production at Houghton.

The Houghton community certainly responded positively to an inexpensive, low time-commitment opportunity for entertainment last week. Wednesday night's

performance was viewed by over 80 people, and over 150 packed the recital hall for Saturday night's performance. Shenawana Resident Director Peter Hutchinson described the performance as "well-done" and particularly noted Powell's contributions to the show. Sophomore Chris Way was also in attendance Wednesday night and when asked about the play responded, "I laughed really, really hard."

Encore hopes that the success of last week's performance will get more people involved in drama at Houghton. The club hopes to continue the pattern of one- or two-act plays on campus next semester in addition to looking into the possibility of a regular skit/improv night in Java 101.

Accused of Comedy certainly will not be forcing anyone to reconsider their life or worldviews, nor is it likely to begin any life altering conversations; the costumes nor the set were extravagant, and the play will most likely not be one to be recalled by the audience years from now. But such was not the goal of the play. *Accused of Comedy* was intended to provide entertainment for the Houghton community and to increase the interest and participation of student's in dramatic arts. And in these areas, the play was quite the success. ★

Men's Soccer Says Goodbye to Eight Senior Players

by Nicholas Fredette

As the Houghton men's soccer season comes to an end, we look back on a great year. After a strong regular season, finishing with a conference record of 6-3-1, the Highlanders approached the final game of the regular season at the top of the American Midwest Conference standings. The final game of the season against Roberts Wesleyan College was held on Halloween, and would determine the winner of the conference, and thus the team that would host the post-season tournament. The Raiders came out of the locker room ready to play, and netted an early goal two minutes into the game. Houghton couldn't manage to fight back, and lost the game 1-0. The Highlanders dropped to the fourth seed in the post-conference tournament, falling to Notre Dame College in the conference semifinal match. Notre Dame College went on to win the American Midwest Conference tournament.

Despite being plagued by injury for much of the season, the Houghton men's soccer team put together a great season, finding performance from a variety of players, exhibiting

a terrific mentality of teamwork and perseverance. The Highlanders looked to the experience of many of their senior players to be a strong force in shaping the entire team this year, and received excellent work from all of their seniors. Seniors Steve Grudda, Steve Ross, Bryan Gerlach, and Jonathan Brooks held down the midfield, backed up by the strength of Justin Farnsworth in the backfield. Dan Brubaker fought injury, but was still a force for the team, and the Highlanders also looked to Luke Sanford and Jesse Woolsey, who performed strongly off the bench. Freshman Mike Dix responded, "Our seniors have been a great example for me, as a younger player, and their leadership is something all of us underclassmen can strive for."

Offensively, the majority of the team's goals were scored by Freshman striker Daniel Smith, followed closely by Grudda and Brooks. This is a great representation of the contributions made by every member of the team, showing that younger players have worked together with older, more experienced players to form a cohesive squad.

The Highlanders are saying goodbye to several of their seniors,

as well as senior manager Peter Carpenter. He has been an invaluable member of the squad, with a hard-working attitude, and a willingness to contribute to each and every aspect of Houghton's soccer community. When asked about Peter's contribution to the team, sophomore Devon Martin said, "If I were to compare Peter to anything, he would be the alpha wolf in our

wolf-pack." Many times the actions of the manager go unrecognized, but it is certain that his support will be missed.

At the end of the men's soccer season here at Houghton, we look back on another great year from the Highlanders, and we support our women's team as they head to Nationals this weekend. ★

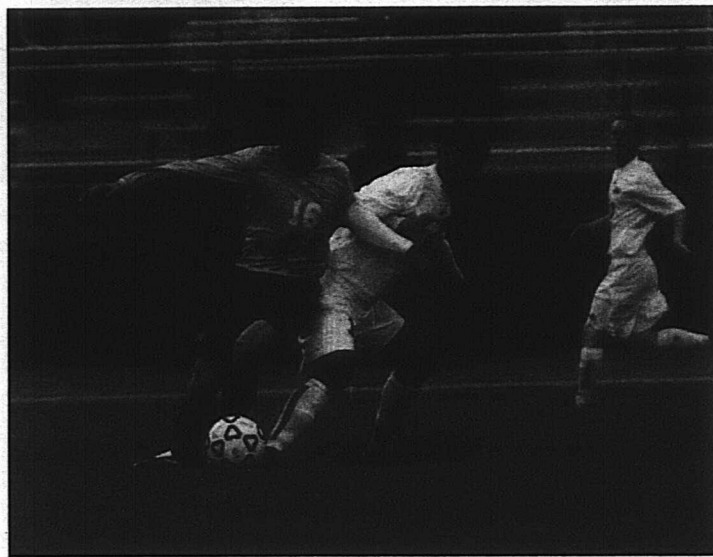


Photo by Mike Wise

Senior Jon Brooks fights for the ball against Rio Grande University.

The Men Who Stare at Goats: Is it One Big Joke?

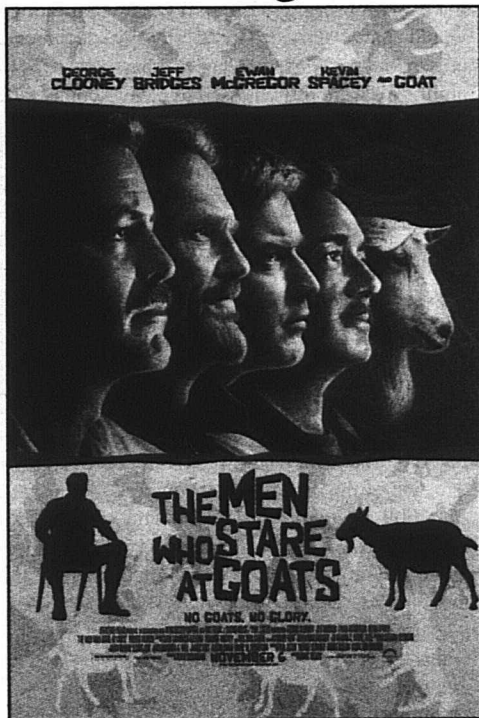
by Josiah Armstrong

More of this is true than you would believe." This is how Grant Heslov's much talked about war film, *The Men Who Stare at Goats*, opens to its audiences. It is a satire concerning different American attitudes toward the Iraq War, or, at least I think it is. It is an off-beat blockbuster dark comedy in the spirit of the Coen Brothers, starring big names such as George Clooney, Jeff Bridges, Ewan MacGregor, and Kevin Spacey, or, at least I think it is. Let me just be frank and tell you, dear reader, that there is much that *The Men Who Stare*

at Goats is not. There is one thing it certainly is, however. It's one big joke and, dear reader, the joke is on you.

Apparently, if my facts are straight, in Fort Bragg, N.C., something big happened. In Vietnam, acid-head soldier Bill Django (Jeff Bridges) fell out of a plane and landed on his face. Then he was shot in the chest. He survived, and became a psychic super-soldier aka Jedi warrior. Right. Django, in all of his lovable *Big Lebowski*-ness, somehow convinces the army that he is psychic. Then, he convinces them he can train soldiers to take part in the New Earth Army, a team of peace-making and keeping super-soldier psychic spies, and the ultimate product of Project Jedi. By the way, the U.S. Army is completely cool with this experiment. Right. Lyn Cassady (George Clooney) is Django's top-student and the most masterful of the "Jedi warriors." Larry Hooper (Kevin Spacey) is a close second to Cassady and is quite pissed off about that fact.

Enter Bob Wilton (Ewan MacGregor). He is a journalist in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 2003. His wife leaves him for a one-armed man. How sad? Wilton flips his lid and desires to win his wife back. In an effort to prove his manhood, Wilton joins the army. Listen up you all-American boys who wish to do the same thing, Bob Wilton has a message for you: there's no point. It doesn't actually work. Wilton sets off for Kuwait as a journalist in the armed forces. His desire is to paint "an accurate picture" of the Iraq War, and surprisingly, if I have my facts straight (as I am always unaware



while watching this film), he does. The point lies behind the focused and wacky eyes of Lyn Cassady, all mustachioed and quite sincere as he claims that drinking booze and listening to classic rock, particularly Boston, aid him in his psychic duties as a Jedi warrior. The running joke of the film (as if there was just one) is, of course, that Ewan MacGregor played the young Obi-Wan Kenobi in the quite atrocious *Star Wars* prequel trilogy and his character of Bob Wilton has absolutely no clue what it means to be a true Jedi warrior. Cassady believes that Django, his former Jedi master, has appeared to him in a vision soaked in LSD and told him to complete "the mission." So, he sets off for Iraq, with Wilton following like an eager puppy.

So, what is the point? There is none. What's the joke? The film is the joke. The film is about the Iraq War, thus, it must be a joke. As the film appears to indicate, a very "spiritual" former president of ours once had a "psychic" vision of the future. He would bring peace to the world by bringing war to Iraq. What was the point, Bush? What's "the mission" Bill Django? We don't know. That's the joke. Thank you Bush and Django. Everyone is laughing. Right?

The film is brilliant in its delivery of the joke, but, should you see it? I'm not sure. Why am I not sure? I'm not sure. ★

Men Who Stare at Goats:
Starring George Clooney, Jeff Bridges,
Ewan MacGregor, Kevin Spacey, and Goat
Directed by Grant Heslov
Inspired by the book by Jon Ronson
93 min.
Rated R for language, drug content, and
brief nudity

Houghton Welcomes Oppens

by Megan Specksgoor

Renowned pianist Ursula Oppens delivered a masterful performance the night of Saturday, November 14 in the Wesley Chapel to an enthusiastic audience.

Satisfied attendant Joia Otto praised the musician for her lively "energy" and "vigor." "You could tell she was having fun," said Otto. Bill Clunn, a fellow freshman on campus, noted Oppens' "upbeat music" and claimed, "When she messed up, she just laughed at herself. It makes her out to be a human being."

Oppens grew up in a musical family and began her journey with the piano at an early age. After receiving her master's degree from the Juilliard School of Music, she proceeded to win the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in 1968 and made her New York City debut at Carnegie Hall the following year. In 1971 she co-founded Speculum Musicae, and has continued performing internationally in Tel Aviv, Israel, Beijing, Toronto, and Amsterdam.

Her unique style of mixing traditional compositions with contemporary pieces has been widely celebrated, and her exceptional musicality has earned her acclaim in the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker Magazine*, and the *Chicago Tribune*. Oppens has also received two Grammy nominations for her work, and has held a distinguished teaching position at Northwestern University, Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music, and CUNY Graduate Center.

After witnessing Oppens' stunning concert Saturday night, I must agree with her critics and remark on her genuine talent and ability. Her range of movements from gentle resounding lullabies to blazingly fast-paced pieces in which I am surprised the friction from her fingers did not ignite her instrument and leave the dalmatian keys smoking in defeat, left me torn between being mesmerized into a melodious sleep or picking my jaw up off the floor and applauding.

Also varying in style, Oppens' broad scope of selections from 19th century composers such as Beethoven and Mendelssohn to such contemporary artists as Corigliano and Carter, accommodated diverse musical tastes.

All together the concert seemed to me to be a performance that could be appreciated by the professional instrumentalist, the aspiring music major, and the average listener alike. Robert Galloway, professor of piano and music history, claims, "Every musician approaches music somewhat differently," but that Oppens played with "vitality" and clearly evidenced "what someone who has dedicated their whole life to music can achieve." Freshman musician Robert Martin offered a tip to enhance the experience from an analytical point of view, stating that the front row of the balcony is an ideal spot to perceive such a performance. From his aerial view he was able to watch the movement of the pianist's fingers more clearly, and could thus exclaim that her "technique [was] fantastic!" ★

Online Poll: Do you think homosexuality is appropriately addressed at Houghton?

Results from 95 votes

YES 17%

Indifferent 9%

NO 74%

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed with the article about the 33 Miles concert. It is apparent that Micah Warf doesn't have a clue about 33 Miles, their music or genre. It was also apparent that his taste in music is not the style that 33 Miles plays. Did Micah even look into the stories behind the songs? No. Did he even bother talking with the band? No (though he had a chance to do so). What I read was an article written out of ignorance and prejudice. For the people who attended, there were no complaints. However, there was a lot of singing, dancing, and clapping going on.

In the review, Micah "bashes" the "20 minute spot in the middle of the concert". Well Micah, you are right that Jason (the lead singer) did take 20 minutes to talk about, not the third world, but Food for the Hungry which is an amazing organization that is doing wonders for people in the third world. In the span of a weekend, I saw 140 kids get sponsored through Food for the Hungry. 140 kids who need clean water, who can now have a meal and not go to bed hungry, who need to know a loving savior and can now get an education and dream of a better life (Yes Micah, can you actually believe that there are people who want and need those things? Who knew? Sarcasm intended.) If a band has the ability to use the platform (stage) to help out 140 kids, then what is the matter with that? In most eyes, that is being the hands and feet of Christ. I have a question for you, Micah. When was the last time you were able to get 140 kids sponsored? 33 Miles plays roughly 200 shows per year; if you took the average of the above (140 divided by 2) multiplied by 200, that would equal 14,000 kids per year who now have sponsors. I believe your review was harsh in this matter.

Just because it's not "your thing" doesn't mean it isn't relevant to a lot of other people. It is closed minded opinions like the one that was stated in the review that has created the musical divide on this campus and in the Christian music scene (which can be left for another article). What I was reading in your review was a prejudice to a genre and not a truthful review of the actual concert or music. Maybe in the future, check the prejudice out at the baggage counter, and give us a truthful review. Maybe the Star could allow two reviews; one from your perspective, and another

from a "macaroni and cheese" lover.

I believe that this is a first, songs about the creator of the universe being called shallow. I guess we can group Chris Tomlin and David Crowder in the pool of shallowness as well. Maybe we can all swim there and you can join us as well, Micah (sarcasm noted).

- Kevin Jackson, Director of Sound and Recording at Houghton College

Dear Editor,

The Houghton Star's coverage of the recent 33 Miles concert left me, to put it mildly, in a state of shock, anger, and disbelief. The level of close-mindedness that exists within the Houghton College community is deeply troubling, and perhaps Micah Warf should examine the thoughts and attitudes of his own heart with greater care before dubbing his brothers in Christ "musically shallow" and "[lacking] actual musicality."

As an employee of Houghton's sound and recording department and an avid musician, music fan, and follower of Christ, I take issue with Mr. Warf's harsh and unwarranted criticism of one of the most humble, gracious, and kind groups of musicians I have ever had the pleasure of working with. Musical preferences and opinions have their place, and I can respect those who feel that 33 Miles is a little too country for their tastes, but to refer to a group of young men who write worshipful lyrics and seek to honor God with every aspect of their lives as "musically shallow" is nothing short of ignorance. Mr. Warf's article seems to imply that he, not 33 Miles, is the shallow one.

I want to make it clear that my support of 33 Miles is not based on musical preference. In fact, I am a huge fan of bands like Switchfoot, Mae, and Leeland, all of whom Mr. Warf would likely consider more "relevant" and less "musically shallow" than 33 Miles. Having said that, I try to be open-minded when it comes to music, and despite the fact that 33 Miles' brand of pop/country is generally not my favorite style, they truly gave one of the best and most God-honoring performances I have ever witnessed, lyrically and instrumentally. I have to wonder if anyone who considers 33 Miles "shallow" actually attended the concert, as it seems to me that even

those so "open-minded" that they consider "real" Christian music to come only from Jon Foreman, Leeland Mooring, and Elijah Wyman would have sensed God's strong presence in Wesley Chapel that night. We were truly blessed to have 33 Miles grace our stage.

- Dan Austin, Class of 2013

Dear Editor,

A peculiar trait of Houghton College is that it's too liberal for the conservatives and too conservative for the liberals. When I saw the question of the day in the November 12, 2009 *Houghton Star*: "Do you think homosexuality is appropriately addressed at Houghton?" my first thought was, "Here we go again!" This question was debated at Houghton when I was there in the early 1980s and there was no resolution. I doubt there will be resolution this time either.

Students at Houghton need to know that the bottom line for the Wesleyan Church is that "the practice of homosexuality is a sin, and even the propensity toward homosexuality is out of step with both the order of creation and the will of God." This is in a pamphlet called "Standing Firm" available at: <http://www.wesleyan.org/bgs/faith-public-life>. The pamphlet includes suggestions on how to minister to homosexuals (memorizing scripture as a way to avoid temptation!) and instructs parents to "carefully warn [their children] that homosexuals may attempt to take advantage of them."

It's devastating to be a gay youth and hear these statements from your church. The church asserts that *who you are* is wrong. Even *thinking* about being gay is wrong! Never mind that you've felt this way since you were seven. You may as well pray for God to change your eye color, or make you taller. Perhaps you'll try a homosexual conversion group like the Exodus Project. They are far more effective for the people sending you (Thank God! Joey's getting help!) than they will be for you. All you'll get is enough guilt to start your own religion.

Instead, if you happen to be gay and 'struggling' at Houghton - stop struggling and embrace God's creation. Being gay is a small part of who you are - you're also a poet or a scientist or a basketball player or a musician. Find a church that is inclusive rather than exclusive (there are lots of them out there). Focus on the other parts of your life now and address your sexuality later. Start a campaign to rid the Houghton campus of mixed fiber clothing.

I'll close with one last observation. Another article I read in the *Star* mentioned the reaction of students (mocking and derision) to the documentary "For the Bible Tells Me So...." I hoped that Houghton had come farther in twenty five years. Finding out that it hasn't, while not surprising, makes me profoundly sad to be an alumnus.

- Jeff Kushkowski, Class of 1985

Dear Editor,

I am intrigued by the attention Amanda Benton's piece of artwork has received on our campus, though I would guess this is what an artist would want...for people to notice the piece, look at it, ponder it, debate it, tell someone else about it, and perhaps even write letters to the *Star* to keep the discussion going!

During New Vision Week, I was one of the people that met with Professor Sokso to discuss the piece, and its placement beside the prayer chapel. I went as an advisor to GCF, a supporter of NVW, and an acquaintance of the guest missionaries who expressed concern about the magazine. It is important to note that this situation involved some members of the NVW cabinet, which was made up of some members of the GCF cabinet and some members of the Class of 2012, but not the GCF cabinet itself. In fact, until today, the GCF cabinet had never discussed the magazine or its location.

I really appreciate Kyle Johnson's article (*Houghton Star*, November 13, 2009). He accurately reported that no one wanted to ban or censor the art. We were merely asking if the magazine could be relocated to a spot more conducive to it being studied, discussed, and appreciated. Contrary to some rumors, it was a calm yet heartfelt discussion--the kind of discussion that artwork should produce more often! Although the magazine did remain in the chapel basement, a sign was added to the display, encouraging observers to examine the magazine, not just quickly judge it by its cover! And I am glad that so many have now seen it!

By the way, for those of you wondering what really is discussed at Global Christian Fellowship (GCF), you are all welcome to join us on Wednesdays at 6:30 in ChC 123!

-Cindy Austin, Houghton College Staff

From the Editor's Desk...

Built-in Prejudices: the Psychological Effect of Our Built Surroundings

by Joel Vanderweele

One of my favorite t-shirts reads: "Stereotypes Are a Real Time-Saver." Irreverent and insensitive, this novelty t-shirt gets at what so many people are afraid to admit: it's burdensome and time-consuming to judge people as individuals, rather than in the groups to which they belong.

I don't have the time or energy to find the one or two music majors on campus who can go 15 minutes without talking about the amount of time they have spent in the practice rooms. I would rather just sit in my den of heathen rabble-rousers (the Star office) and think of all music majors as a single, many-faced creature.

To be sure, stereotypes are dangerous and often undeserved. But there are legitimate reasons why many of us believe that Intercultural Studies majors just want an excuse to travel, or that obsessing over tea and watercolor landscapes is a pre-requisite for majoring in English, or that FYHP Londoners are condescending know-it-alls (perhaps no one is more keenly aware of this last one than the socially conscious EMWers, who, by the way, are smarter than their FYHP counterparts).

Maybe the most common brand of Houghton stereotyping has to do with where people live on campus. The accuracy of these stereotypes is often confirmed (and refuted) by the inhabitants of a given dormitory, but there is another reason why these stereotypes seem

so pervasive; they are built right into the campus.

We are all, to a certain degree, products of our culture. This is obvious. Less obvious, perhaps, is the ways we are shaped by the built environment we inhabit. More than just determining how far we must walk from one class to the next, the placement of Houghton's buildings has a subtle psychological effect on how we view different parts of campus.

For example, Lambein will never be considered the "fun" girls' dorm. This is not meant as an affront to either the past or present inhabitants of the tallest building in Allegany County, it is merely an observation about the built environment of the campus.

Flanked by the Paine Science Center, the Library, and the Chamberlain Center, Lambein is in academic quarantine. You cannot get in or out without being reminded of the homework you haven't completed or the book you haven't returned. Lambein's one social asset, the creek side, is burdened by a loading dock entrance and a backyard atmosphere that feels welcome only to those who already call Lambein home. For non-residents, walking along the creek behind Lambein feels like trespassing.

If you do manage to get beyond the imposing walls of academia and over the gorge that quite literally separates

Lambein from the rest of Houghton, you must remember that the windows of every academic building on campus are facing you at all times.

Similarly separated from the rest of campus is Shenawana Hall; but Shen's isolation is of a completely different sort, in part because no one can see them. Lambein's isolation breeds calm and quiet; Shenawana's has created a spirit of rebellion. After all, where else can you take a naked run around the track without anyone noticing?

Even the gym (mostly filled with Shen guys), turns a blind eye to the dorm with a large, mostly windowless wall. If anything truly scandalous were ever to happen in a Houghton dormitory, I don't think anyone would doubt that it would happen in Shen.

Gillette, the undeniable home of Houghton's socialites, is centrally located in the middle of the most socially interesting buildings on campus: the Campus Center, the Wesley Chapel, and the Center for the Arts. I would estimate that at least ninety percent of all non-athletic campus events happen next door to Gillette. This is significant because Gillette has become the de facto meeting place for friends before and (more importantly) after any event on campus. People attract more people, so a couple friends loitering in the Gillette Lounge quickly turns into a large (and loud) game of Catchphrase.

Gillette also benefits from the

mini-quad that forms in front of it. Where Lambein has a narrow bridge and Shen has a poorly defined yard, Gillette has trees, benches, and a pristine front lawn; the perfect place to lay on those all-too-few sunny Houghton days.

Down the hill, Rothenbuhler suffers from two awkward entrances. The most logical place to enter Roth, the third floor bridge entrance connected to the well-used Roth path, is out of bounds for females. The main entrance, on the other hand, seems hidden away beneath and between the imposing East and West side wings of the building. I have a feeling that if these two entrances were flipped, and the main entrance was right off the path, Roth would have to work less hard to combat its status as the more socially awkward of the two men's dorms.

I am not arguing that the built environment is the only factor that determines how we live and what we value. Strict environmental determinism gives too little credit to the ability of humans to overcome their circumstances; the right group of students could change the reputation of any one of Houghton's dorms. But it is certainly true that the buildings we inhabit and the sidewalks we walk on do influence us in many, mostly unseen ways. Being attentive to these subtle influences will remind us how impressionable the human psyche is.

Joel Vanderweele is a senior Philosophy and Mathematics major and is Editor-in-Chief

Dear Editor,

Today, I got an email from my boss encouraging me and my coworkers to join the Houghton online community where current students and alumni can have discussions and reconnect. I was browsing the topics and came across a post entitled "Houghton Star." The person who started the thread wrote to advertise the online edition, but the latest reply has me thinking. Michelle Hillman mentioned how everything in the publication seems to be contentious, but I have noticed that everything at Houghton becomes a huge controversy. It's as if everyone wants their fifteen minutes of fame but has forgotten that, hey, it's Houghton; everybody knows everybody and fifteen minutes here turns into weeks of debate. I think we might shrivel up if we don't have some scandal to gossip about.

My friends might question why I'm writing this, as I have become more and more cynical as I have been here

longer, but this simple question raised by an alumna got me thinking. Even last week's article by Kyle Johnson was a response to a forum as well as to Marc LeMaire's article, which were responses to two articles the week before about Bazaar. I am honestly glad that we feel comfortable enough to discuss issues together, but is it necessary to see our names published in the university newspaper to engage in such dialogue? (I understand that even this is hypocritical, as I am mentioning the past in a negative way to get my idea across.) I would love to see more articles and letters written about the good things happening on campus, such as the overwhelming response to help provide Thanksgiving dinners to families in the area or the great start to the season our basketball teams have. There are fantastic things going on here and I think it's time we realize how blessed we are to be at such an institution.

- Shannon Marriam, Class of 2010

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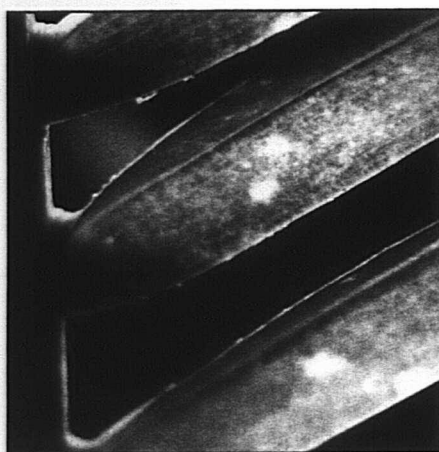
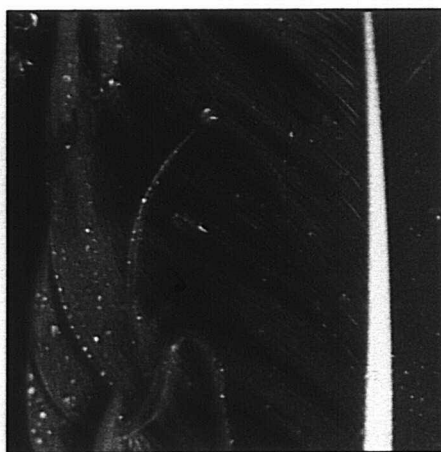


Photo-synthesis, Digital Photography

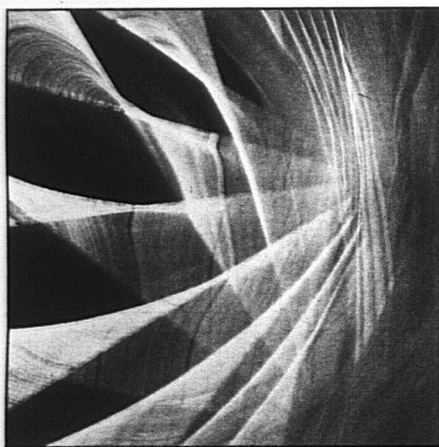


Lost and Found at the Zoo, Digital Photography



Fireworks, Digital Photography

artist WEEK



Ferris Wheel, Digital Photography



My Technicolor Phase, Digital Photography

Note from the artist:

Take time out of your busy schedule.
Don't think about school. Or work.

Stop.
Relax.
Breathe.
Sit in silence.
Stare at the clouds.
Try to hear your heartbeat.
Notice all the things you're missing.

Just. Exist.

JESSICA CAMP

Congratulations to Yoon-Kook Kim,
Last week's Sudoku Challenge
Winner!
Stop by the Star office to retrieve your
prize

sudoku CHALLENGE

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

THIS SUDOKU IS
EASY

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

The Star will only accept ONE puzzle per semester from each student.

Prize: Leroy Townes and the Lone Stars' album!

THIS SUDOKU IS
HARD

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