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Faculty Next to Vote on Proposed Reinstatement of JV Sports

By Katarina Kieffer

In recent weeks, a motion to reinstate the JV sports programs was passed by the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics (CIA) and Student Life Council (SLC) and is now awaiting consideration by the faculty. The programs were cut two years ago.

The men's soccer and basketball programs will be reinstated first, with the women's programs following a year later; the hope is that the program will bring in at least eight new male students every year (three for basketball, five for soccer), but Athletic Director Skip Lord noted that "the lists of prospective students in those two sports indicate

that the numbers could be even higher this year."

The rationale for the reinstatement of the JV program comes primarily from the Admissions office. Peter Savage, a member of the CIA, confirmed that the committee "advised the SLC to reinstate the JV sports program largely due to the opinion that JV sports was a money-making endeavor for the college," drawing in students who otherwise might not come to Houghton. Vice President of Admissions Wayne MacBeth likewise asserted that he hopes to see "several additional students come to Houghton because of this program."

MacBeth and Lord believe that the

program will more than pay for itself. Lord cited a total price tag of \$15,000, which would cover "everything - coaching, operating budget, [and] travel." If the program does indeed draw eight students every year, this prediction will prove correct. That "if," however, is troubling for a growing number of faculty and students who are skeptical that the program worked effectively even in its previous incarnation.

Professor Carlton Fisher, who was serving in the administration when the JV programs were established, recalled that, while the program was terminated due to a "particularly hard budget crunch one year," the administration was never

able to "agree on whether [they were] working before." "It's very common around Houghton, and I suppose other places," Fisher commented, "to argue for new programs—whether academic or not—on the basis that they will attract additional students and that the revenue from additional students will more than offset the costs of the new program."

So the assumption that the JV program draws students who wouldn't otherwise attend Houghton is, in many eyes, likewise suspect. Fisher noted that part of his skepticism stemmed from the fact that Admissions painted the JV athletes decision to come to

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With Rights Still Missing, SGA Passes Judicial Policy Resolution

By Joel VanderWeele

Last Thursday, May 6, the Student Government Association (SGA) met and discussed a resolution regarding student rights in Houghton College's judicial policy. Joshua Nolen, a member of the Judicial Committee, presented the issue to the SGA Senate and explained the reasoning behind the current policy. "The reason why certain rights were removed wasn't content, but language... the college stresses that this is not a legal institution but private and religious institution and we are not tied to due process." The SGA is encouraging the Judicial Committee and the Office of Student Life to reinstate a number of student rights that were taken

away in 2004. "We expect this to be accepted without any objections from the administration," said Nolen.

At his first Judicial Committee meeting in the fall of 2007, Jason Fisher, who is both an SGA senator and a member of the Judicial Committee, noticed the conspicuous omissions. "Vice President Hynes had actually given us a copy of the old policy with strike-throughs, so it was fairly symbolic to see those rights with an actual strike through them," he noted. According to Fisher, the primary reason for getting rid of the rights was "the legal implications that the language had. The way it was worded [implied that] we were affording students the due process that is afforded them under the law as constitutional law, and that's

not... required and/or even expected for private institutions." But in Fisher's opinion, "The fix for that is not to strip students of those rights, it's to re-word the policy."

Currently, a student who is accused of a breach in Houghton's disciplinary code does not have the right "to remain silent when his/her response might be self-incriminating," to "call witnesses on his/her behalf and cross-examine other witnesses," or to "question his/her accusers." The SGA is recommending that these rights be rewritten and reinstated into judicial policy. As the resolution states, "It is the understanding of the Senate that these deletions occurred primarily because of the legal implications they carried, and not

because they were deemed inappropriate for students to possess."

The SGA was not in complete agreement about the importance of the right to question one's accusers. Not only is it uncomfortable to have to confront someone face-to-face about their wrong-doing, it is also conceivable that the accuser would feel threatened by the accused and refuse to come forward. The general consensus of the SGA is that if an accuser is willing to affect the future of the accused in such a major way, the accuser should also be willing to deal with the temporary awkwardness of answering their questions. For cases in which a danger is perceived, names will be kept confidential.

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WORLD OUT THERE

By Thomas Lerew

Presidential Campaign Update

A highly contentious battle for the Democratic nomination continued this week as Senator Obama claimed victories in both the Wyoming and Mississippi contests, as well as picking up delegates following the certification of the results of the Texas caucuses on March 4. Obama continues to hold on to the pledged delegate and overall delegate leads. Controversy continues to swirl over the exclusion of the Florida and Michigan delegations, as Clinton has vowed to fight to seat their delegates at the Democratic convention later this summer. Without their inclusion, neither candidate can win the nomination outright without relying on superdelegates. Congressional Democratic leaders are split over how best to remedy the situation created when both states violated party rules by scheduling their primaries too early in the election calendar. On the Republican side, McCain formally merged with the Republican National Committee and began tapping into party resources.

Violence Spikes in Gaza Strip

In recent weeks, exchanges between Palestinian rockets and Israeli missiles have intensified in Gaza. After a tenuous peace accord settled by President Bush at the Annapolis Naval Academy, talks between the two nations have been suspended. Over 100 people have died in the Gaza Strip in the last month. Both sides are accusing each other of changing the rules and have promised persistent attacks. International communities are once again seeking diplomatic intervention.

Grand Canyon Flooded

The Grand Canyon was flooded after a man-made dam was deliberately released to simulate the natural floods of long ago as experts sought to naturally drain the international landmark of built-up sediment.

Approximately 300,000 gallons per second were being released from Lake Powell, which is only expected to raise water levels a few feet over the three-day flood period. The canyon has been intentionally flooded before, in 1996 and again in 2004.

Spitzer Resigns Amidst Scandal

New York Governor Eliot Spitzer resigned on Wednesday of this week after it was revealed that he had been involved in a prostitution ring. The FBI had cited Spitzer as "Client No. 9" in a report. Over the last few months, it was reported that Spitzer had paid more than \$80,000 in prostitution service fees. State Republicans had threatened impeachment if Spitzer did not resign, and state Democrats hesitated to offer any substantive vocal support. Spitzer was known for his aggressive "bully tactics" as New York's Attorney General prior to being elected as Governor and ran for office on an ethics platform.

Putin's Successor Confirmed

Last December, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that he wanted Dimitry Medvedev to be his successor and that he planned to be named the nation's prime minister. Last week, 70% of voters agreed with him and elected Medvedev to the Russian presidency. While the elections appear to have been conducted fairly, multiple Western governments are displeased with the circumstances in which the election was carried out.

Bomb Set Off in Times Square

A single bomb was set off in an office building just off Times Square early last Thursday morning. Police said they have a description of a suspect and are searching him. The bomb was similar to an improvised explosive device (IED) such as those used by suicide bombers in Iraq though it is believed there is no terrorist connection. No one was injured in the blast.

Parshall Speaks on Muslim World

By Katherine Hamilton

On Wednesday evening, Dr. Phil Parshall delivered a lecture on "Muslim Anger and Christian Response" as part of this year's Chamberlain Missions Lecture Series. This lecture was part one of two (the second being a presentation in chapel today) under the heading "Christian Approaches to Islam." The Chamberlain Lectureship Series was first founded as a gift from the Ray W. and Marianne E. Chamberlain Missionary Memorial Fund and has been hosting guest speakers at Houghton every spring for nearly two decades. Recent speakers have included Philip Jenkins, the author of *The Next Christendom*, in 2005 and our own Jon Case in 2003 before he was on faculty.

This year's speaker, Dr. Parshall, has published nine books on Islam, including his most recent publication, *Bridges*

to Islam: A Christian Perspective to Folk Islam (2007). Parshall worked as a missionary to Indonesia and the Philippines for 44 years with SIM and International Christian fellowship. Currently, he is acting as a consultant with SIM and is a visiting professor at Columbia International Graduate School. In his introductory remarks, Professor Ben Hegeman, a missionary-in-residence and professor of Islamics at Houghton commented about Parshall, "[He is] a man who has impeccable, remarkable experiences."

In opening, Parshall explained that the focus of his lecture was to "engage us in a process of empathy and understanding." The lecture began with a brief overview of the demographic facts of the Muslim world and then focused predominantly on a historical timeline of the region, particularly on the impact of the

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When informed of the current judicial policy, freshman Stephanie Gallogly responded, "I feel that in the cases of minor offenses, these rights should be allowed to the students, but with more serious offenses, I don't think these restrictions should necessarily be allowed. I think it is important that guilt is not entirely assumed, but if the person is suspected, they should not have perfect freedom to maneuver the circumstances or commit any more offenses."

In sophomore Ellen Sortore's opinion, being overly protective of the rights of accused students is dangerous: "Most students will opt to defend their friends and uphold a twisted idea of protection without thinking of the big picture and who might get hurt in the future if the problem is not addressed directly."

Junior Shane Marcus, however, was not so convinced. "Assuming that a student is guilty creates an atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust that is a direct hindrance to community, not something that will enhance it."

"The strong universality of these

rights, I think, nullifies any claim that the Houghton Judicial Committee is somehow exempt from upholding them based on minority or specialty," agreed sophomore Micah Warf.

The resolution made the following recommendations:

1. In the interest of providing a fair environment, students will be assumed innocent until shown to be guilty.
2. A student can choose to not respond to questions concerning the incident, and this will not be taken as an admission of guilt by those involved in the disciplinary or judicial process.
3. Students will be able to know the identities of those who reported the incident, and in the spirit of reconciliation, will be provided the opportunity to speak with them in a meeting set up by the Vice President for Student Life, or his/her appointee from Student Life Leadership Team. In cases where there is believed to be a danger to one of the parties if the name is revealed, it will be kept confidential.
4. A student's identity will remain confidential insofar as possible.



"Complete This Work:" College Choir Tours Midwest and Canada

By Margaret Boecker

The day before February break began, the Houghton College Choir had already embarked on their eleven-day tour of the Midwest. Characteristic of any given day of the tour, the choir met early in the morning and formed job crews: some packing luggage into the tour bus, some loading up choral risers and coffin-sized aluminum robe boxes, and even a student "nurse" handing out vitamin C drops. Throughout the tour, hours of traveling took place every day before the choir reached their concert site, and then they spent time rehearsing before the evening concert. Though the daily routine of touring appears far from restful, choir members believed it was worth it for the valuable learning experiences and

even life-changing events that take place. "My most visceral, emotionally moving, and spiritual experiences have come through choir," explained graduate student Adam Potter.

This year, the choir had the opportunity to share the first three days accompanied by President Mullen. A welcomed addition to the tour, President Mullen shares her experience: "It was truly a special privilege to be with the College Choir for the first three days of their tour. I was impressed by their disciplined excellence, by their love of the music, and by their commitment to each other. They have learned the secret of bringing together hard work with great joy! In addition to hearing the concerts—which I would be very happy to hear every night of the week—I enjoyed the informal discussions about everything from "how

to move from thinking about worship music only in terms of what we like" to the virtues of Canadian chocolate. I am deeply grateful to the College Choir for taking their February break to represent the college, and our Lord, and for doing both so well."

The College Choir had been preparing for their tour since the beginning of the academic year, spending the lunch hour of every day tackling concert repertoire, described by conductor Dr. Brandon Johnson as musically "colorful." Expounding on this concept, Johnson commented, "Each of the College Choir pieces has a musical color that is appropriate. The College Choir works to achieve a variety of colors in our concerts; our first piece requires an approach to singing that could be very different from the second." This diverse

arrangement of choral music comes from 12 composers, ranging from 16th century Italian composer Giovanni da Palestrina to the young American composer Eric Whitacre, who has "taken the choral world by storm," according to Johnson. Whitacre worked in collaboration with poet Charles Anthony Silvestri to produce one of the concert pieces, "Leonardo Dreams of his Flying Machine." Opera-like in its scenic arrangements of the text and its ability to create clear visual images through vocal and rhythmic methods, the piece portrays Leonardo devising a man-made flying machine and leaping, strapped to it, from a cliff.

The concert program, equipped with full translations of each piece, was meant to act as a listening guide for

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H.E.L.P. Day Boasts Fresh Food, Social Networking, and Prizes

By Rebekah Miller

This past Wednesday students and faculty were able to enjoy a break from the routine of classes by participating in H.E.L.P. Day. Houghton Evaluation and Life Planning (H.E.L.P.) Day is specifically intended to help students prepare for life outside of Houghton in a practical way. Students had the opportunity to learn about real life situations and how best to make decisions about the future through workshops organized by Career Services.

While many students appreciated the chance to catch up on much-needed sleep, some more motivated students attended the 9:00 a.m. chapel. Led by guest speaker Rev. Leith Anderson, senior pastor of Woodale Church in Minneapolis, the message focused around the beloved disciple, John, and his relationship with Jesus. Following chapel, four workshop sessions were provided for students. Each session period offered a variety of choices ranging from résumé construction to

making wise choices concerning food or entertainment. An attendance incentive was provided to the students by way of a raffle—for each session that a student attended, he or she received a raffle ticket. Participation in multiple sessions meant an increased chance of winning a prize at the conclusion of the day's events.

Small blue sheets of paper, however, were not the only source of motivation for students to attend the workshops. Many students were genuinely interested in the topics covered in and the speakers chosen for the lectures. For example, over 50 people attended Professor Jon Case's session entitled "Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll: Entertainment Choices." Other popular workshops included, "Investment: Should I buy an iPod or a share of Apple stock?" and "Losing Face on Facebook: Using online social networks wisely."

While some students found the information somewhat commonplace, or even, as one student remarked, "sensationalistic," others found it informative and useful. The mixed

reaction seemed to depend on the background of the student and which session the student attended. As an original member of the H.E.L.P. Day planning committee, Matt Hepler commented that the intent of the workshops was to help students "think about life after Houghton." He remarked that H.E.L.P. day "comes out of a desire of the Academic Dean's Office and Student Life Office to get students ready before graduation."

In between sessions two and three and falling right on the lunch hour, Pioneer Vendors hosted a "Taste-Testing Lunch" in which students could taste new products from Pioneer. Entering the line to the sounds of a woman asking, "Potato munchie?" students shuffled around the large assortment of mainly fried foods. The line-up featured potential new menu items such as fried macaroni and cheese, several varieties of potatoes, and a variety of dressings, dips and desserts. At the end of the meal, students were asked to fill out a survey to rank the bite-sized food from

least desirable to most desirable.

Throughout the day, the Campus Center was crowded with seniors participating in Senior Salute to organize details for graduation. While last year's graduates received a pen from the Alumni Association, this year's seniors each received a 1GB flash drive along with various other graduation necessities. For undergraduates, there was time during the day to meet with academic advisors and outline schedules for next semester.

While the faculty response was mixed—some professors, it seems, would prefer to have the extra class time—many students appreciated the day as a time in which to relax, catch up on homework, and become more informed about life after college. Tristan McCray, a senior, remarked that it was "nice to have a day off." A formal survey was conducted online at the end of the day to garner a more organized analysis of the helpfulness of H.E.L.P. Day.



Track Team Scores Six All-Americans At National Tournament

By Benjamin Tsujimoto

On March 6-8, Houghton College sent thirteen indoor track athletes to the 43rd Annual NAIA Indoor Track and Field Championships at the Memorial Center in Johnson City, Tennessee. Turning in the highest finish ever by a Houghton athlete, senior Rachel Rhodes completed the 3000M Race Walk in a time of 16:43.49, good for second place behind Tina Peters of Goshen. Although this time was not her personal best, Rhodes' performance was impressive enough to warrant All-American status.

Although her practice time has been reduced due to injury, Rhodes remained comfortable competing in the National Tournament, citing that she had already appeared in Nationals this year for cross-country.

In the same event, freshman Chelsea Adams was disqualified because both of her feet lost contact with the ground at the same time. Even so, Adams' best time prior to the National Tournament

(17:09.94) was good for fourth in the NAIA this regular season.

The most impressive men's finish was the All-American time set by the Distance Medley Relay (DMR) team of Johnny Kimani, Steve Scott, Josiah Snelgrove, and Dan Ballard. The race, split into distances of 1200, 400, 800 and 1600 meters. On Friday, the four finished fourth in their preliminary heat, shattering the Houghton record and solidifying a place in the National finals by finishing with a time of 10:14.79. Although they were unable to duplicate this time in the finals, the DMR team finished a respectable sixth. Coach Matthew Daugherty is excited for the outdoor season, stating, "It's a great feeling to know you have an All-American relay team heading into the outdoor season intact."

In the women's 600M run, Houghton senior Naomi Christensen qualified for the finals with a time of 1:35.97 on Friday. Undeterred, Christensen topped that time in the finals, placing fourth with a time of 1:35.45, a

Houghton college record. With this time, Christensen became the sixth 2008 Highlander to earn All-American honors.

Darby Emerson, another freshman, turned in a solid performance in the women's 800M. After placing fourth in her preliminary heat with a school record and personal best time of 2:17.10, Emerson finished seventh in the finals, which featured four freshmen of the eight qualifiers.

On her first Nationals appearance, Emerson stated, "I was...thankful to have the opportunity to compete and run for the Lord in another race. I was glad to end my indoor season on a good note with a personal best and school record."

In the men's Mile race, featuring defending champion Aron Rono of Azusa Pacific, Houghton junior Dan Ballard placed seventh in the first heat, falling short of qualification for the finals. His preliminary time fell just shy of his school record, 4:21.30, which was good for 20th out of all mile

times in NAIA prior to Nationals.

Like Rhodes, Houghton sophomore Kaitlin Fadden returned after competing in the NAIA Cross-Country National Tournament to run a 10:34.99 in the women's 3000M, short of qualifying for the finals. Also finishing strong yet missing the finals was the women's 4x400M relay team comprised of Emerson, Christensen, Kaitlin Smith, and Lydia Parsons. In the preliminary heat, the group narrowly missed breaking their own Houghton school record by finishing with a time of 4:05.02. Other Houghton participants included Zach Adams, who finished 11th in the 3000M Race Walk finals, and Sarah Whipple, who finished 6th in her preliminary heat with a race of 9.81 in the 60M hurdles.

As a team, the Houghton women finished sixteenth in team points out of 42 teams while the Houghton men finished tied for 44th. Wayland Baptist won for the women with 71 team points, while Azusa Pacific emerged victorious for the men with 64.75 points.

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Crusades and colonialism. He then spent time talking on more recent occurrences and controversies, including Palestine and the war in Iraq. Earlier in the lecture, he commented in reference to Muslims, "These are wonderful people, and it has been a privilege of my life to engage my life with them."

While highlighting the positive qualities of what he labels the vast majority of the Muslim world, Parshall did not downplay the dangers of Muslim terrorism, stating that it presents "a very real threat." He went on to say that, while he "can identify the problems quite well," he "doesn't have the answers." He also critiqued the new influx of Christian literature on the subject of Islam, sharing, "My heart is deeply depressed when I see Christian reaction that is so retributive, and I don't see the love and forgiveness." In closing, Parshall commented that he mostly wanted to "impress upon [the audience]

that the Bible says to love Muslims."

In response to the evening's lecture, students gave mixed reactions. "Parshall bases his thoughts largely on biased experiential conjecture," charged Peter Savage, a sophomore. "His lecture widely ignores basic historical trends and events." Senior Heather Bennett commented that he "could have—perhaps even should have—given greater weight to the issues involved in interpreting the historical interactions." Bennett did go on to say, however, that "given the time allotted him, he facilitated a greater understanding of some of the problems involved in Muslim-Christian dialogue."

Other students focused on the importance of the topic. "I thought Dr. Parshall's overall message of understanding the Muslim areas of the world was very beneficial for a Christian audience," senior Christopher Krowka commented in response to the criticism. Acknowledging this

importance, some critiqued the depth of the material. Ryan Musser, a junior, felt that Parshall's "presentation was good, but I also thought it wasn't as detailed or complex as I would have liked it to be." Senior Jillian McCaffrey noted, "I don't know if a ton of it was all that new, as far as the content, but I would be interested in hearing him in another context."

Such critiques as McCaffrey's could be viewed as a good sign for Houghton College. According to Professor Paul Shea, who has been acting as the point person in organizing this lectureship series for the past 15 years, "We don't have to fan the flame; this lectureship just provides another opportunity to keep the dialogue alive." This lectureship serves, as noted by Shea, to provide one more venue for relevant topics in missions to be discussed on campus and is now co-hosted by the Global Christian Fellowship.

In an earlier conversation, Parshall

commented to the *Star* that, despite occasional ignorance on the topic of Islam within the Church, "there is starting to be an awareness at Christian schools that we should do more." He commented that although "[we] are isolated in Houghton," students ought to travel to nearby cities like Buffalo and Rochester and "go out to the mosques, interact, and get involved with social projects alongside Muslims."

Both Hegeman and Parshall agreed on the growing importance of educating Christians about the Muslim world. In commenting on the struggling nature of Islamics programs in Christian academia, however, Hegeman noted, "While the need is urgent, nothing happens unless the students want this in large numbers." Parshall was equally concerned and spoke to his own desire to facilitate further Islamic studies and continued dialogue on this topic, saying, "Islam is the subject of the day. For us to avoid it would be foolish."

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audiences. Five themes were found throughout the concert, "Transformation to Celebration," "Faith to Praise," "Imagination to Creation," "Hatred to Love," and "Darkness to Light" each relating to specific pieces of music. As a result the concert became an engaging and contemplative experience—for the choir as well as the audience. The theme "darkness to light" was first found in the performance piece "The Conversion of Saul" by Z. Randall Stroope and took on especially personal meaning to choir members. Junior Nate Lockhart states "This theme made me think about the darkness of humanity: that we all, as humans, have a dark side to us." Finding that this dark side is worth bringing to light, Lockhart continues "As a community of believers this darkness can be brought to light in a very positive way, not only helping us to deal with our own darkness, but also that of others."



Photo By Margaret Boecker

The ensemble spent eleven days travelling, rehearsing, and performing.

A community atmosphere is necessary for the ensemble as they spend 11 days together. Senior Nathan Schierer comments "You learn how to become closer through this time."

Though performing is the highlight of tour, the choir also had the opportunity to see new places and spend free time

in Chicago. Beginning in London, Ontario, the tour continued to Michigan and took the ensemble through Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. They sang in many beautiful venues including First Presbyterian Church of Chicago and Heinz Chapel in Pittsburgh.

The College Choir's homecoming

concert was performed last Friday, but Junior Hannah Duggins highlights that that was not the end of their musical excursion. "Dr. Johnson recently said 'We tend to think that this is the destination when really this is just the journey.' Even though we sing beautiful music, the people who make up the choir are just broken people. That is what makes it beautiful." This spirit of humility is found throughout choir members and important lessons are learned; not only through the touring process, but through the experience of participating in the ensemble. "We support each other," says Junior Dan Liggett. "Even when we get back to school, there are relationships that we would not have had the chance to develop were we not with each other 5 days a week and 11 days straight for tour."

The College Choir will continue their work together as they begin recording for the remaining duration of the semester.

JV Sports continued from page 1

Houghton as based entirely on the existence of the JV program. Even harder to accept was the claim that those students provide the entirety of the funding for the program: "Net gain arguments are really hard to make clear," Fisher commented. "I was frustrated by the claim that there were students here who wouldn't be here otherwise. How do you know this? Well, the answer from Admissions was that the admissions counselors identified names of students for whom they thought the JV program was in some way significant in their decision process. I would ask, well, have you asked the students? And the answer was never yes."

When queried on the effectiveness of the previous JV program, MacBeth noted that he didn't "have any hard data." And while Fisher admitted that he didn't have "counter evidence," he continued to insist that he was "skeptical that we are going to attract students by adding to our lineup the lowest level of collegiate athletic competition in the country." The factors that go into

a student's decision to attend a specific college are "frequently multiple... [and] varied. It's even hard for the person herself to report accurately to what extent one consideration might have outweighed another."

There are, in fact, still many students at Houghton who were involved in JV sports before it was cut two years ago. Senior Ben Tsujimoto recalls, "I played JV soccer my freshman year, and it was a relatively fun experience." But he says he "was not devastated when they cut the program in my junior year," as JV soccer had only "a mild influence on my decision to attend Houghton... I hoped to use JV as a stepping-stone to varsity, but that never transpired due to injuries, apathy, and short, Asian legs." John Reilly, also a senior who played soccer and basketball, noted that "it was a good level of competition to have if you were unwilling to put in the time to play varsity," but that the JV program was not one of the primary reasons for his decision to come to Houghton; senior Jess Mullen, who played on the women's soccer team, likewise referred to her involvement in JV as "an added

bonus" to her Houghton experience.

This seemingly ambivalent student attitude toward the JV programs, however, did not prevent a general student outcry when the programs were cut. Fisher recalled being "puzzled" by the student response to the termination, but noted that the decision took place at the same time that other controversial campus issues were prompting student concern: "I wondered whether it was simply sort of a reflexive reaction; there were other things going on at the same time. Maybe it was just something else to add to the list: we don't like JV sports being cut either." After all, he noted, "It's not as though students flock out to the fields when there's a JV contest."

Some students did respond to the elimination of the JV programs, however, by forming club teams. Without the option of participation in a JV program, Tsujimoto organized a men's club soccer team for the fall 2007 semester. He found the administrative duties frustrating, and the team was only able to schedule three games. "I wasn't aware of the funding available,

and I had little sense of direction," he admitted. Facing an unexpected health insurance bill of \$3400, Tsujimoto was forced to turn to the SGA to cover the club's budget. He described the experience as "very frustrating."

Savage confirmed that the experienced of the men's club soccer team weighed into the CIA's decision earlier this year. "The frustrations of the men's club soccer as well as many of the other sports clubs in receiving funding were... considered," he noted, and the reason it was decided to reinstate both men's teams first rather than a men's and a women's "was the result of a discussion of gender equality and upholding Title IX... [and] the activity of the men's [club] soccer team in the last year." Lord offered that, in the meantime, the athletic department hopes to "carry slightly expanded varsity rosters in Women's [Basketball] and Soccer, at least for practices and home games, to accommodate some of the students who will eventually play, a year down the road, in the JV program."



Dear Editors:

I would like to publicly express my disappointment in the SGA in the recent doughnut day ("D-day") scandal. Last Tuesday, March 4th, I had forgotten that it was D-day, but thankfully remembered as I walked past the ATM and had just enough time to rush downstairs and grab my usual apple fritter. My heart sank when I reached the doors and they were locked and the office was dark; there wasn't even an empty doughnut box in the trash or a stray sprinkle on the ground. Leaving with a crushed spirit, I barely made it through my next class because my stomach was so upset after anticipating a doughnut.

Later that day, I learned the SGA had switched D-day due to the "elections" that were taking place on Wednesday. I guess this is fine, but it wasn't very publicized...and to make matters worse, I didn't get a doughnut on Wednesday either because I voted

from my own computer and wasn't on campus until after the doughnuts were gone. (Some would say this is my fault, but my point is I *would* have had a doughnut had D-day remained sacred.) Actually, worse than that is the fact that the "elections" didn't elect a president. Wait, wait, wait – worse than that is the SGA using doughnuts to lure people to vote...I seem to remember something in the news recently about Russia's election involving free toys being given away at polling stations...strikingly similar, no?

At any rate, I'm disappointed in you, SGA, and I, for one, am not "voting" again unless I get an apple fritter. Maybe this begs the question, which presidential candidate will secure a D-day every Tuesday? Is this too much to ask? I think not.

Tristan McCray, Class of 2008

Dear Editors:

Katarina Kieffer wrote last week about the prospects the song "I Can Only Imagine" suggests to her about heaven. I was disappointed that no mention was made on what Mark Twain had Huck Finn say on the subject:

"Now she had got a start, and she went on and told me all about the good place. She said all a body would have to do there was to go around all day long with a harp and sing, forever and ever. So I didn't think much of it."

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn was published in 1885, long before "I Can Only Imagine" was even written, but I reckon Huck would have hated the song.

Andrew Davis, Class of 2009

CORRECTION

Last week, we neglected to mention that Joshua Wallace was successful in his bid for Vice President of the SGA. We regret the error.

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Letter

To The Editor

Dear Editors:

In recent years, I have been fully indoctrinated by the phrase, "Eat Well, Live Well." This motto describes a healthy eating program enacted by my employer, Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. I was very excited to hear that this year's H.E.L.P. Day would feature a seminar led by Don Woods, the Wegmans Executive Chef for the Greater Buffalo Region. This seminar discussed the varying ways for a college student to find simple ways to eat quickly and healthily. By contrast, I was very surprised to discover that Pioneer's food sampling at lunch consisted of almost exclusively fried foods.

Let me be completely honest: I am very disappointed by the food made available to us everyday. While we have 'Lite and Healthy' options, these are too often scarce and repetitive. The rest of our daily food selection often includes over-cooked and leftover meal choices for which, I might add, we pay full price. The purpose of this letter is not, however, to comment on Pioneer's current service. In fact, I am very discouraged by the contradicting H.E.L.P. Day messages.

There were four steps Don advocated we all take in our daily lives: strive for five cups of fruits and vegetables a day, get moving (exercise!), count your calories, and measure your progress. These are great messages for both Wegmans and Houghton College to give our students. Unfortunately, the other message that the college and Pioneer gave students today was the importance of fried foods to our future menu. These fried foods are high in calories, trans fats, and a number of other nasty toxins that shouldn't be anywhere near your body.

I am tired of the message, "Eat healthy, just not in our cafeteria." When we say eat healthy, let's mean it.

Peter Savage, Class of 2010

From the Editors' Desk...

For The SGA Presidency... It's Obama vs. Clinton!

Number-crunching last week's elections reveals a number of unanticipated - and perhaps, unwanted - comparisons.

By William Airhart

Who would have thought that Peter Savage, a self-styled "Reagan conservative" in the mold of Mitt Romney, would end up emulating Barack Obama in the SGA presidential election?

Certainly not Peter, that's for sure. Take a glance at the surrounding rhetoric and exit poll data from last week's SGA elections, however, and the similarities between his first-place finish and Obama's victory in the Iowa caucuses are astonishing. Instead of a Reaganite, Peter has inadvertently become an Obamaniac.

In the lead-up to the vote, Peter took care to mention both "change" and "hope" in an audacious debate performance last Tuesday, and by my count, he continued to harp on the word "change" more than the other two candidates combined. He invoked William Wilberforce in an op-ed in this newspaper, casting himself as an outsider willing to fight for unpopular positions and "take calculated risks." (This, despite his relative insider status as the current SGA Vice President.)

On Wednesday's vote, Peter's strongest demographics mimicked Obama's. In fact, if you divide the vote by class year (Class of 2008, Class of 2009, etc.), and assign each class year a corresponding Iowa age demographic (freshman, 18-29 years old; sophomores, 30-44 years old; juniors, 45-59 years old; and seniors, 60+), it becomes apparent that Peter should think about changing his middle name to Hussein.

Among which group of voters was Peter strongest? Freshman women (read: young Iowa college students). Where did he struggle most? His support was disproportionately low among upperclassmen (read: elderly Iowans). Similarly, in the Iowa caucuses on January 3, Obama took home 57% of the "youth" vote, while claiming

fewer than 20% of those voters 60 or older. In Iowa, 57% of Democrats were first-time caucus-goers, and they voted overwhelming for Obama. By comparison, in the Houghton SGA election, the previous voter turnout record was more than doubled, meaning that at least half of Houghton students were first-time voters. More voters meant good news for Obama, and it did for Peter, too.

And of course, it's worth emphasizing that Peter did particularly well among Houghton women in general, taking home 40% of the female vote, including a sensational 57% of freshmen women living in Gillette Hall. (Surely he's not *that* cute?)

If Peter best embodies the spirit of Barack Obama, then it's easy to compare Joshua Nolen to Hillary Clinton. They certainly enjoy a common set of strengths: like Hillary's assertion that she's "ready to lead on Day One" - we'll let that dubious assertion slide by for now - Joshua has frequently emphasized his experience and track record in his campaign for SGA president. "I am the most experienced and qualified candidate running for President," he told us.

His strongest demographics, too, seem to emulate those of Clinton. While Joshua Nolen enjoyed almost 60% of his support from upperclassmen - Peter could barely manage 45% - Hillary's strongest support has come from voters 45 years and older. Of course, Joshua didn't resort to crying at last Tuesday's debate in order to drum up support, à la Hillary in New Hampshire, but this dissimilarity with Hillary should be seen as a *strength*, not a weakness.

Fortunately for Joshua, however, the similarities end there. Since Iowa, Hillary has polled very strongly among white women of at least age 30. Nolen, however, consistently lost these votes to Savage in the election. In fact, his strongest support came from male

upperclassmen, where he garnered close to 50% of the vote. Since Iowa, Hillary has fallen further behind Barack, recent momentum notwithstanding; can Joshua avoid the same pitfall, and finally demonstrate that he is not, after all, like Hillary?

What will be interesting to watch is how these candidates square off against each other in the final tally of votes. A big voter turnout favors Obama, er, Peter, but can he expect another 500 students to vote again? Will the freshmen women, notorious for their flippancy, once again faint over the chance to vote for Peter? Like Hillary in Ohio, can the Dunkin' Donuts Democrats deliver the election to Joshua? With no more of his close friends on the ballot, will Peter lose a crucial swing demographic of support? And where will Matthias' votes end up, anyway?

Speaking of Matthias, the obvious comparison for the former SGA presidential candidate is John McCain - but this is a misleading association. Despite turning down a chance to endorse either Peter or Josh, Matthias can still play kingmaker. He received more than 22% of last week's vote, and won the most votes from Rothenbueler Hall. This next Tuesday, if just half of his supporters refuse to choose either Peter or Joshua, and instead check the "Abstain" portion of their ballot, chaos could ensue. Assuming similar turnout, Peter or Joshua would need to receive at least 56% of the remaining vote to win an outright majority - an almost impossible margin, given the demographic breakdown of the last election.

We may be headed for yet another round of politicking, grandstanding and balloting. Matthias as John McCain? A poor comparison. As presidential spoiler, Matthias has a new political icon: Ralph Nader.

William is a senior Political Science major and serves as editor-in-chief.



featured artwork

KAYLAN REYNOLDS



Landscape, digital image

NOTE from the artist:

"The last time someone called me an artist was when my watercolor painting of lilies won an award at my school's fifth grade art show. Since then, my perception of myself as an artist has faded in the light of other interests. However, fulfilling a liberal arts credit has never been so rewarding for me than taking Digital Imaging as my fine

arts requirement. My mind had easily limited my abilities to those of a "non-artistic" person. This class has caused me to push my thoughts and opinions through what had been to me, foreign media. I've found new ways of expressing myself and developing my creativity beyond what I had anticipated. Now, instead of being surprised by my inabilities, I am encouraged to seek out new artistic experiences and continually develop my interest in digital art.

Kaylan is a junior Communications major with a minor in Education.



Self-portrait, digital image

Women's Poetry Night Highlights Influential Female Authors

By Laura Jackson

Despite a small turnout, Monday's Women's Art and Poetry Night proved edifying for those who attended. In a cozy gathering around the Campus Center fireplace, a half dozen Houghton students met to read works by famous female authors. A few students shared original pieces as well, and all partook of the free brownies, popcorn, and coffee. Brian Webb, who orchestrated the event, encouraged the inclusion of all any and all art forms, including poetry, prose, and visual art.

To open the event, Professor Laurie Dashnau read a selection from Joy Harjo's "Remember," which exhorts

readers to "remember the dance that language is, that life is." The central theme of the event was remembering past and present female authors who have impacted their social and literary societies. Women such as Emily Dickinson, Christina Rossetti, and Anne Bradstreet were commemorated for their work in both these areas.

Deanna Hoffmann, a sophomore, said she enjoys attending these literary circles "because you're exposed to new authors and poets that you otherwise wouldn't come across because of your own tastes and biases." A person interested in Romantic poetry might not be familiar with modern essayists or Victorian novels, but all three

preferences were represented Monday night.

The group briefly discussed whether there are more opportunities for writing women publishing today than there were fifty years ago, although the focus was on the development of feminine paradigms in literature rather than feminism or female empowerment. Writing published in the United States conveys a radically different image of women from the ones emerging from male-dominated Africa and India.

Monday night's attendees also discussed their own development as readers of poetry, since most of the pieces brought forward fell into that category. Abigail Kinem, a junior, said

she had grown gradually in this area with help from her professors. "With poetry, you have to be shown what's meaningful," she said. Although reading and appreciating does not always come easily in the beginning, perseverance can enable anyone to become a better reader and critic. Hoffmann developed an ear for the form over time, and her love for poetry was "increased by exposure" to more and more authors and ideas.

They say that poetry is the language of the soul. Whether or not this is true, better advertising may bring a larger crowd to the next Art and Poetry night.

