

THE HOUGHTON STAR

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Happy Holidays from the Editors of the Star!

Star Lake and West Seneca Campuses Have Confirmed Buyers

by Clara Sanders

It was recently reported that buyers have been found for both the Star Lake and the West Seneca campuses.

On November 25, the Watertown Daily Times reported that William C. Stief, an emergency room doctor at Clifton-Fine Hospital, and his family plan to close on the approximately 40-acre Star Lake property around Christmas. According to Stief, the family plans to rent out the property for weddings, family reunions, business meetings or other purposes.

According to a December 8 article in Business First of Buffalo, the college has also agreed to sell the West Seneca Campus to Young Development Company. The agreement "stipulates that Houghton may continue to offer its Program for Accelerated College Education program, known as PACE, on the

campus for two years from the time of closing." The developer eventually wants to build a \$30 million senior housing complex on the site.

Both contracts will likely close next semester as Houghton divests itself of these properties in an effort to stay fiscally responsible.

Proceeds from the sale of West Seneca will feed directly back into the college. The money from the Star Lake, listed at \$799,000, will take a more complicated route, since the campus is owned by the Willard J. Houghton Foundation and leased by the college, but most will return back to Houghton. Although the college may rent an academic building on the West Seneca campus, it is unclear as to what opportunities there will be to use the purchased Star Lake property for Houghton programs.

"The question was 'is it necessary to own the properties to deliver the programs we have been deliv-

ering?'" said Vice-President for Finance Efrain Rivera. The P.A.C.E. and other education opportunities can continue without Houghton ownership of the West Seneca campus. It is less established, however, if programs like Houghton in Adirondack Park can be sustained without the 43 acres at Star Lake.

According to Dean of Academic Affairs Ron Mahurin, the decision to sell the property was partly made with "an understanding that the Highlander program and the Environmental Biology program need not be dependent on the location of Star Lake in order to operate successfully."

"Students who have interests in Environmental Biology, Environmental Policy, and Creation Care...could be served by greater collaborative efforts between departments on the main campus (Bi-

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College Considers Online Education

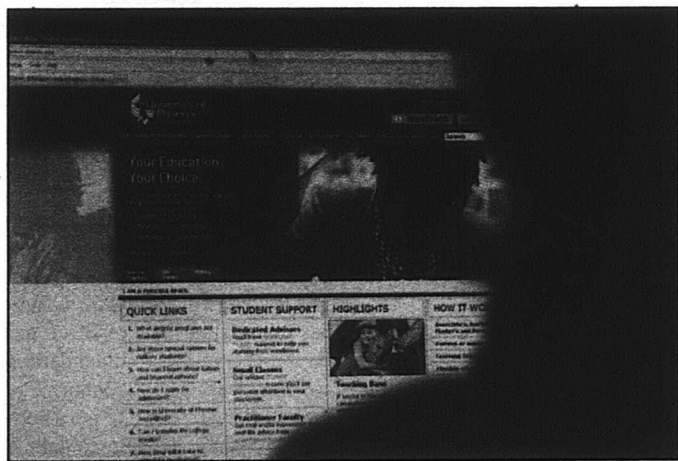


photo by Wesley Dean

The Online Taskforce is considering launching online course offerings

by Chris Clark

The Houghton community has been considering offering online courses, an area that, according to President Shirley Mullen, needs to be "bolstered."

These courses would most likely be offered primarily during a summer session, allowing students more freedom during the traditional semesters.

According to Zachary Adams, SGA president, the courses will be "internet based and rely on systems, like Synapse and e-mail, to facilitate the communication between students and the professor. Content is delivered through blog posts, chat rooms, and traditional readings that aid in the actual mastery of the content."

Online courses would cost less than traditional classroom based

courses, making them affordable to take outside of traditional semesters. Both two and four credit courses would be offered via online education, allowing students many different options. At this point in time it is not yet clear which academic departments would be offering online courses as this is still being discussed. Despite this, online courses have great potential to benefit much of the student body of Houghton.

Online courses would offer students the opportunity to be more flexible and adventurous in the courses they take during the traditional semester. By taking online courses in their major during the summer, students will be able to delve into areas of academic interest during the semesters, taking a variety of classes. Inversely, this can be helpful for those who wish primarily to focus on their major by taking required integrative studies classes through online education while completing the

Online Ed. cont'd on page 2

Operation Candy Cane a Great Success

by Colleen White

Operation Candy Cane, an outreach program through Fillmore Central School, has paired Houghton students with needy children from Fillmore schools, who, without the help of the students, would receive little for Christmas.

Operation Candy Cane is in its third year of existence at Houghton. This year, 20 names were given to the college to distribute via Christmas tree. You may have noticed the tree in the Campus Center before break, decorated with red and white paper cards. On one side was the story of the candy cane and on the other was a description of the child's interests and hobbies. The cards were assigned numbers rather than names to protect privacy, and were given to the college by the nurse at Fillmore Central.

The children ranged in age from 2-16, of both genders. The parents of the children request gifts for them, most often clothes and other necessary items, but also toys like Spiderman, Barbie, and, of course, "anything Hannah Montana."

Last year the college received a thank-you card from a parent of one of the children involved that expressed her gratitude for the snow pants, boots, and coat provided by a Houghton student and her mother. "Without the generosity of Houghton, my child would have had to go without," she wrote.

It's this kind of need being met that makes the program worthwhile says Kim Cockle, staff advisor for the event. Cockle and junior class vice president Audrey Gillette teamed up to organize the program this year. The Class of 2011 provided the funding for advertisements and SGA senators Ben Clark, Garrett Fitzsimons, and Ian Taylor also contributed their time.

According to Gillette it's sometimes difficult at this time of year to organize Operation Candy Cane, since students are busy with final exams, but each name that was submitted from Fillmore was taken by a Houghton student. "Often students don't have a lot of extra money," said Cockle, "but every little bit helps,

Candy Cane cont'd on page 2

THE WORLD IS THERE

by Derek Schwabe

European Union Undecided On Climate Strategy

After a full business week of negotiations in Copenhagen, European Union officials and representatives have come to no conclusions as to their future policy for combating the pressing question of climate change. By the end of the year, the heads of state and EU governments will have met for their closing meeting in Brussels where they hope to negotiate disagreements and come to a consensus on climate policy. Central issues that will be debated include methods for curbing gas emissions and decisions about supplying financial aid to poorer nations as they prepare for environmental changes. In addition to climate change, officials will also debate future policies regarding Afghanistan.

Blizzard Blankets Midwest

For the first time in almost 50 years, administrators at The University of Wisconsin-Madison cancelled all classes on Wednesday. The decision came Tuesday night, and was made in anticipation of a blizzard expected to dump up to two feet of snow on the Midwest region Tuesday evening into Wednesday. The storm blanketed most of the Midwest and even Northeastern regions with up to 20 inches of snow, and drenching the southern regions with heavy rainfall. About 15,000 faculty and staff and nearly 40,000 students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison were advised to stay home. Snow showers are expected to continue across the country this weekend.

Poll Shows Majority Supports More Troops in Afghanistan

A recent New York Times/CBS poll has revealed that little more than half of the US population

approves of President Obama's intention to send 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan in 2010. The president's decision to increase American presence in the country was made with specific intentions to ensure Afghani stability and to lower the risk for future terrorist acts against the United States. National approval for Obama's approach to the War in Afghanistan showed a 10% increase in positive support since last month, placing the ratio of those in favor to those opposed at nearly 50/50. These starkly polarized statistics continued to reflect the ongoing struggle between the pro-war republicans and independents and the reluctant democrats. Public support for Obama's other major policies such as economic recovery and health care reform also reportedly dropped this month.

Facebook Offers New Privacy Settings for User Content

Wednesday was deemed "privacy day" for the 350 million members of Facebook—the leading national social networking website. Members were encouraged to review their privacy settings while exploring new options made recently available by the site. These new options promised to give site visitors more flexibility and freedom in deciding exactly who they allow to see what, offering them the opportunity to customize privacy settings for each content item posted on the server. Experts remark that this update was initiated by Facebook in an effort to gain more trust from current members and bolster its reputation among competitor social databases. The change also came in simple response to the swelling number of members joining the site—a trend not expected to reside in the near future. Human rights organizations such as the ACLU have already raised suspicions, suggesting that the new settings seem to encourage less privacy protection instead of more.

Candy Cane cont'd from page 1

even \$10 will give a child something he or she wouldn't have otherwise."

One of the most touching demonstrations of the "every little bit helps" phenomena was a three-year-old girl who saved her coins all year in order to donate them to Operation

Candy Cane. According to Cockle, who accepted the change from the girl and her family, she "was so excited to offer these gifts to kids who might not get a present otherwise." It's this kind of caring that Operation Candy Cane is meant to foster, and in that light this year's drive was a great success. ★

Star Lake cont'd from page 1

ology, Sociology, Political Science, Recreation and Leisure Studies) to offer courses and programs that draw upon a number of our faculty who have expertise in these areas," said Mahurin.

Mahurin also affirmed that the environmental studies minor can be sustained on-campus and locally and that administration is working with program staff and Coach Bob Smalley to incorporate elements of the Highlander Wilderness Program in places in and around Houghton.

Senior Shera Moyer, who was originally attracted to the unique non-city nature of the program and its emphasis on spiritual growth and simplicity, worries that this will not be enough to attract students to the environmental studies program.

Joshua Nolen, class of 2009, concurred, saying that the Star Lake program was the reason he did not transfer from Houghton. "No other college that I considered going to... has a program like Star Lake. Many liberal arts Christian colleges have an environmental program, but their students are either stuck on campus (and the program is simply another class) or outsourced to the Au Sable Institute," said Nolen.

"It's hard to see something that one has personally worked toward for years...go by the way-side," said Smalley. "I was excited to think that this facility could set Houghton apart in regards to Christian environmental stewardship and outdoor education. There is a huge vacuum in these areas of Christian

higher education that I think Star Lake could fill."

"In fact, if Houghton had properly marketed Star Lake at other colleges, I believe that Star Lake had the potential to not only pay for itself, but also to generate income for the college," Moyer agreed.

The college is looking into some other off-campus programs, some of which may be less expensive, although Rivera emphasized that cost is not the only contributing factor.

"We will redeploy assets into other programs that will benefit more students," Rivera said, "it's not dollar-for-dollar."

Sale of the Star Lake campus was a common result in the Open Box Survey in Spring 2008 that asked faculty, students, and staff what programs they felt Houghton could cut. But some community members do not feel this way.

"It is easy to let emotions take precedence over finances, especially when you are looking only at one small aspect of an entire institution," said Moyer, "but I believe that the Star Lake campus was well worth spending money on."

Sales of West Seneca and Star Lake were recommendations of the Organizational Sustainability Task Force. Ben King, member of the task force, was contacted regarding this story but declined to comment.

"I want to be as loyal as I can to the decisions that have been made," said Smalley. "I am relying on the faith that those who have wider institutional insights into the whole picture of Houghton College are using good judgment." ★

Online Ed. cont'd from page 1

classes within their major during more traditional semesters.

As with everything there is a downside to online education as well. With online courses there is a distinct lack of personal, face-to-face contact with the professor and fellow students. There is also the problem of the time it would take for interactions to happen online, with slow responses having the potential to put a damper on classroom discussion.

After all this, the question still remains, would students be interested in taking online courses? Many at Houghton are excited about the idea, but there is a large variety of opinions on whether or not students would be willing to take them. These are some responses from students asked if they would consider taking only courses.

According to sophomore Jackie Wise, "It depends what I would be doing in the summer, how busy I would end up being. But if it was something like a gen. ed., I definitely would be interested."

"No, I don't have much faith in them," said Gordon Brown, a sophomore. "There are all these

things that can go wrong. It's just not as good as a classroom education."

"I think it would be very interesting because there are some classes that I am required to take that limit me. I like the option of being able to take care of stuff during the summer," said Stewart LaPan, a sophomore.

Online courses are still being deliberated, but there is a largely positive response to the possibility. The online education task force has completed their research and the reports and recommendations are now with Dean Mahurin, so look out for future updates. Soon you just may be able to take a class online. ★



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Wei Hu Publishes Summer Research

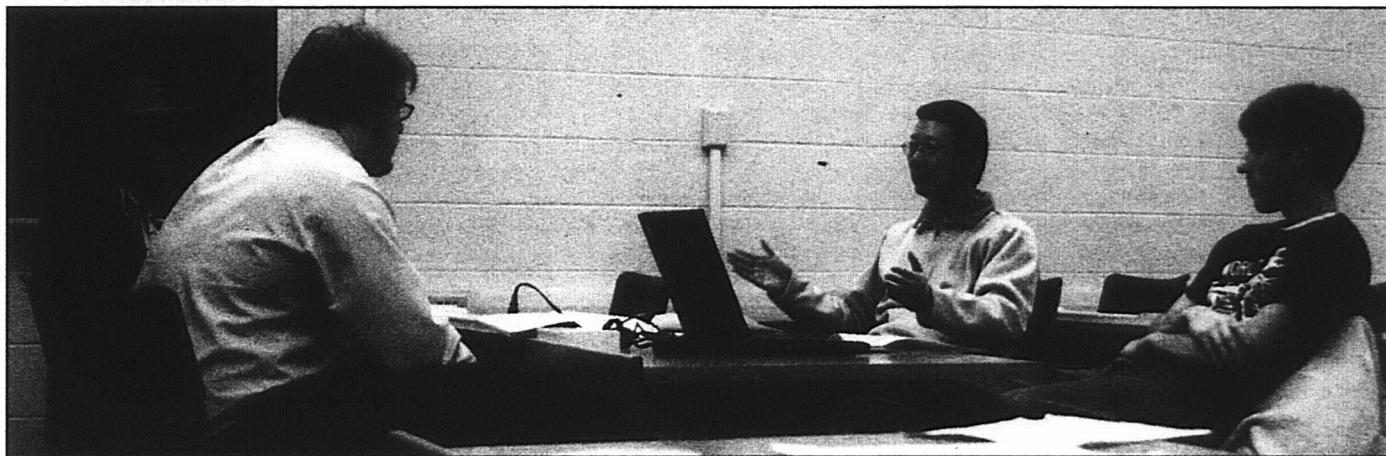


photo by Wesley Dean

Hu discusses different research methods to pursue in the 2010 Summer Research Institute. The proposal must be submitted by March 1.

by Joel VanderWeele

Math and Computer Science professor Wei Hu has enjoyed a considerable string of professional successes in the past few months. Hu will have three articles appearing in the *Journal of Biomedical Science and Engineering* as well as one in the *Journal of Software Engineering and Applications*.

Most recently, Hu found out that his research regarding the HIV virus, conducted with Roger Cherry and David King in the 2008 Summer Research Institute, will be published in the *Journal of Biomedical Science and Engineering* in March 2010. The paper, entitled "Covariation of Mutation Pairs Expressed in HIV-1 Protease and Reverse

Transcriptase Genes Subjected to Varying Treatments," examines HIV mutations associated with drug resistance.

According to Hu, "dealing with the HIV virus is like shooting a moving target because the virus mutates so quickly." Previous research has established that the virus mutates according to different treatments, but those studies, "did not address how mutations depend on specific treatments, and our study addressed that," said Hu, "so we did an in-depth analysis of mutation patterns specific to each drug type and found the important mutations associated with each."

Hu's research on chemosensitivity, which he performed with the help of David King and Thomas Keane this

past summer, will also be published in the *Journal of Biomedical Science and Engineering*.

A unique element to science research compared to classroom learning is that in research, you don't always know the next step of the process. For Hu, research gives students the valuable opportunity to experiment and struggle to fill the unknown. "I think students appreciate this experience... We need plans A, B, and C because we don't know what approach will work."

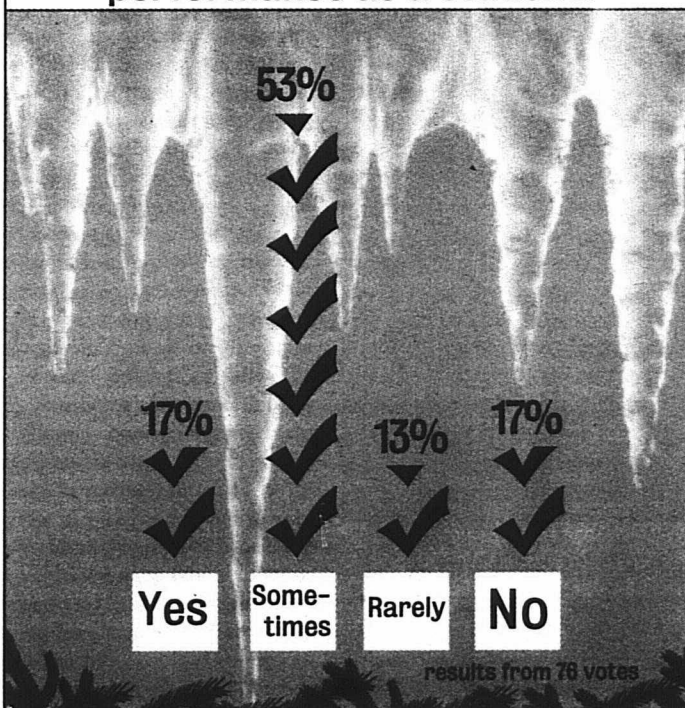
Although the recognition that comes with publication is certainly nice, Hu puts his primary focus on helping students learn through research. "I'm not focused on the results, but engaging the students in the learning process of the results. I

[try to] bring students along the way to understand the research rather than the results."

"Students learn best when they are involved in a project that involves multiple disciplines," and many research opportunities provide this sort of interdisciplinary work. "The purpose of the study of computer science is to find the wider applications of computer science to other areas like biology, chemistry, and physics."

Hu is currently working with David King, Keli Fancher, and Zachary Miller on swine flu research and hopes to choose a topic and some methods of research for the 2010 Summer Research Institute. *

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"To the World-Joy!": A Showcase of World Music

by Monica Sandreczki

As tinsel and wreaths were hung and Christmas trees lit, Houghton ushered in the third annual Christmas Prism performance, "To the World—Joy!" performed by Houghton's Philharmonia, Symphonic Winds, and Men's and Women's and College Choirs.

Instead of traditional carols and familiar Christmas hymns, this year's performance was comprised entirely of world music, fitting with Houghton's desire to be a part of the global community. This was even underscored by the audience inclusive singing of "This is My Father's World." Throughout the concert, there was a slideshow with changing images from typical paintings of the nativity to impressionist pieces of dancing children, to Latin-inspired works of the holy Virgin Mary, and even triumphant pictures of Jesus as Savior.

After an exultant prelude of "Joy to the World," the concert, which was divided into four parts, flowed into the first section, "Let Every Heart Prepare..." This time was marked with numbers from countries like Bolivia, Thailand, Korea, and Thailand. In the American song, "Children's Dance," you could just imagine small children bouncing about as the performers plucked the strings of their instruments with their fingers.

In Part II, "The Rocks Themselves Cry Out..." Dr. Ben King, who narrated the show, said that "the created natural world seems to notice the coming of the Creator" and Sustainer of its being. Traditional Latvian, English, and Georgian songs rang out verifying King's words. "Sheng-ye qing" a Chinese carol, echoed his sentiments with lines reminding us that "Christ has come down, dwells with us/Sacrifice, love, peace, and justice shine upon us like the morning sun."

One of the Latvian songs, "Balts sniedzins snieg," performed by the Women's choir, stirred the audience in a mystical moment, resounding throughout the chapel the words, "tonight my spirit flies to heaven high."

Part III reminded the audience that the Lord has come "...To Make His Blessings Flow" far as the curse is found, for Jesus came, according to Dr. King's narration, "not just to bring joy, but blessing." Traditional Malawian, Brazilian, Sri Lankan, and Mexican songs filled the rest of the third segment of the concert. In the African song, "Singalagala," senior Kevin Dibble welcomed the audience into the song with a call that summoned the rest of the College Choir to march onto the stage from the aisles surrounding the audience. In the "Hunger Carol," from New Zealand, the audience was reminded that Jesus came to earth to be with the poor, with King's narration

saying that "some children are able to praise," while others cannot because they are starving and dying.

In the fourth and final section, "The Glory and the Wonder," several Chinese and Argentinean and American songs filled the air before the performance culminated with an arrangement of "Joy to the World" by Dr. Mark Hingle for all of the orchestras and choirs.

The audience also joined in the song. The song began in silent darkness until a recorder started playing and candles were lit around the chapel until the final verse when the



photo by Ian Galloway

"To the World-Joy!" performed a variety of world music cultures including Malawian, Sri Lankan, and Mexican.

choir raised their candles proclaiming that "He rules the world with truth and grace," a truly joyous way to enter into the Christmas season. ★

Women's Basketball Begins Season with 5-0 Record

by Aaron Martin

With the help of eleven returning college-level players and five returning starters, the women's basketball team has started their season with a 5-0 record. "When you are 5-0 there is reason to be excited, but the experienced players on the team know that conference play will present more challenging opponents", Daugherty explains. Regardless of the opponent, the first five games of the season should not be minimized. The Lady Highlanders have beaten opponents by an average of 19.2 points per game, and are only allowing 42.6 points per contest.

Much of this early season success can be attributed to the inside play of dominant one-two punch junior Ashley Dupler and sophomore Alicia Marhefka. Combined, the duo averages an even 20 points per game, complimented by 14.2 rebounds per game.

The emotional leaders of this team are captains Shannon Daugherty, Lisa Skrypnik, and Leah French. Besides averaging 22.2 points and 12 assists per game collectively, these three

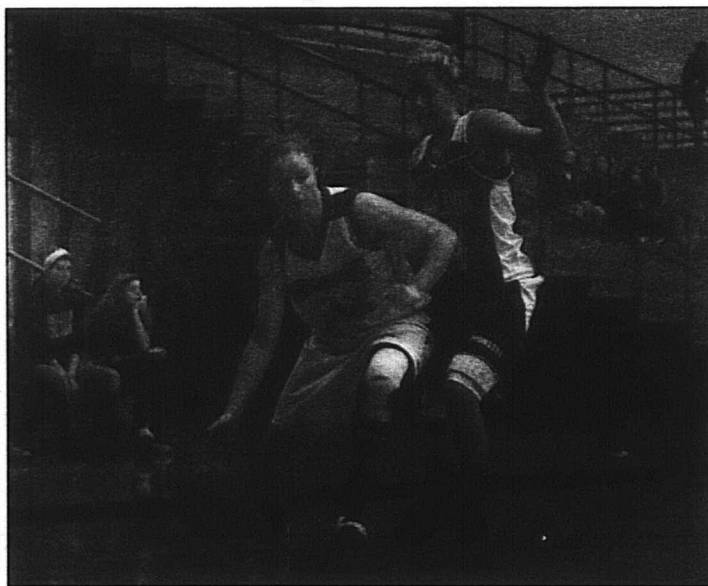


photo by Wesley Dean

Junior Stephanie Hudson dribbles around Point Park University.

upperclassmen exemplify what it means to wear the purple and gold as a member of the women's basketball team. Coach Harold "Skip" Lord says, "Our captains—Shannon, Lisa, and Leah—do an awesome job of setting the example. Whether it is in faithfulness to the program,

setting the example for the younger players, leading our missions trips or demonstrating what it means to be Christian student-athletes, they are some of the best."

This attitude seems to have filtered down and impacted the rest of the team. Coach Lord continues,

"It's all about 'us' and not about 'me' or the individual. This group is committed to working even harder than normal and to encouraging one another to maximize the gifts that God has given them athletically."

As is the case with every season, there will be unlucky bounces, inconsistent shooting, injuries, and dubious officiating. What separate the average teams from the truly great are responses to inevitable adversity. What can remain constant, however, is a gritty mindset and goals that transcend any win-loss statistic. When asked about team goals, Coach Lord replied, "We desire to honor Christ on and off the court. We desire to be effective in our ministry to those we play with, against, and in front of. We desire to demonstrate excellence in attitude and quality of play. We desire to provide an experience that enhances the educational mission of the institution." An undefeated record thus far is a testament to the work ethic, talent, and composure of the women's basketball team, and the institution of these Christ-focused goals is a testimony to their character. ★

What are your Christmas traditions?

compiled by Renee Roberts

Every Christmas season, my church visits our local hospital to go Christmas caroling and share the love of Jesus. We sing mainly to the elderly in the nursing facility, but also to others in the hospital. It is always a memorable experience and a great way to bless others.

-Joel Ernst, freshman

My family celebrates Christmas at church. A play is held there on Christmas Eve and we watch it into Christmas.

-Stan Gabriel, freshman

My family serves a traditional Slovakian soup and we are allowed to eat one bowl of it with fresh rye bread, then we go to a candle-lit Christmas Service. When we come home, we light about fifty or sixty candles and have another bowl of soup while reading the Christmas story and singing Christmas carols.

-Laura Bosela, freshman

We always watch George C. Scott's *Christmas Carole* on Christmas Eve and everyone is allowed to open one present.

-Kendra Andrews, freshman

My family follows the German tradition of the pickle gift. A pickle ornament is hid by the parents in the tree and the kids have to find it. Whoever finds it, gets an extra gift.

-Chelsey Hammond, freshman

A Christmas tradition we have (which my mother continues to insist on) is that we sleep under the Christmas tree. Not literally underneath it- just next to it. The lights are on and it's very festive; even though there isn't any snow.

Just our family of six on pillows and the couch and whatever we can fit in the tiny space we call a living room.

We wake up the next morning and open presents.

-Evan Yeong, sophomore

My family is of Jamaican descent: which means we cook a lot of Caribbean foods on the holidays.

For Christmas breakfast we have Ackee and Saltfish, fried dumplings, and chocolate tea. Whenever I think of the best time of the year I think of my grandmother's chocolate tea.

-Nathanael Smith, sophomore

We eat *pain au chocolate* on Christmas morning and open presents after breakfast. We eat our Christmas dinner with neighbors.

-Peter Kroening, sophomore

We watch *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and the clay Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer movie.

-Joseph Chinn, sophomore

Usually, I stay up on Christmas Eve until three AM wrapping presents.

-Elizabeth Zahorsky, sophomore

We eat baked pineapple and watch *The Grinch* on Christmas morning.

-Sarah Freeman, sophomore

My family and I celebrate the twelve days of Christmas and get to open a present everyday.

-Elisabeth Wenger, senior

In Germany, Santa comes on December 6th, but he brings chocolates, walnuts, oranges, and candies which he puts in stockings.

-Jens Hieber, senior

We do fireworks. All of Guatemala City goes up in smoke from the fireworks.

-Eric Carey, senior

My dad is always Santa on Christmas - he hands out the gifts. No one else can be Santa.

-Josiah Armstrong, senior

When I was younger, we would drive to Washington D.C. where my grandparents lived and my grandmother was Japanese so she would prepare sushi and that was our big Christmas meal.

-Luke Sanford, December graduate

Fadden Places 28th at Cross-Country Nationals

by Colleen Jennings

While most of us were counting down and packing for Thanksgiving Break on November 21, Senior Kaitlin Fadden was running a 5k at Nationals in Vancouver, Washington. As the rain held off just long enough for the race, Fadden ran 3.1 miles in 18 minutes and 53 seconds to finish 28th out of 350 competitors from across the nation.

Kaitlin Fadden began running competitively in seventh grade influenced by her older brother. "He started running when he was in middle school and I wanted to be like him," Fadden recalled. Although she continued to run track and cross-country in high school, she never made it to state finals. "I improved drastically at college," Fadden said. This is apparent in her participation in nationals in the past three years, winning a marathon her sophomore year. In this, her final trip to nationals she finished in the Top 30, achieving her goal of being an All-American.

Although her first response was that her time at nationals was a little slower than she hoped, Fadden said she was happy with her performance, since it was a good improvement from last year. "I know it can be really frustrating for runners to be stuck at the same times, but I've improved every year."

As captain of the team, Fadden enjoyed her final running season at Houghton. She noted that the girls on the team were talented, both those returning and the incoming freshmen. She loved running and training with them and said that "made a big difference. I'm really happy to be able to go out on a good note."

In order to make nationals for track, one must reach a certain time in a race at any meet throughout the season. However, when it comes to cross-country nationals, it's a little more complicated. At the AMC Regional Meet, the second of three Regional Meets, the runner must finish in the top seven in order to qualify. Fadden qualified with

ease, finishing third.

Although Fadden graduates this December, she doesn't plan on stopping any time soon. She wants to run a marathon, but she also plans on getting into triathlons. After an enjoyable experience in a triathlon, she anticipates future participation. When asked what she would miss about running at Houghton she replied, "My teammates and coaches, really just the people. That's what's great about running, you can always do it."

Running, whether cross-country or track, is a great source of adrenaline, especially at nationals, surrounded by some of the fastest college athletes in the country and tons of screaming fans. But for Fadden, it's also a great time to get away and think clearly and spend time alone with God. As she said herself, "I couldn't stop running if I wanted to." ★

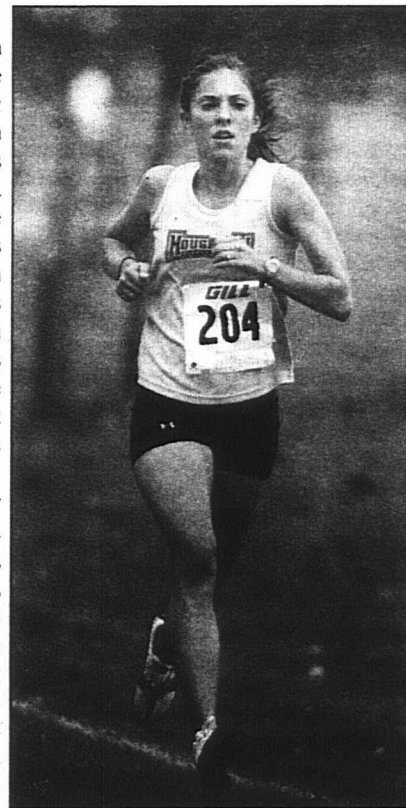


photo by James McCoy

Fadden finished 28th of 350 competitors.

A Word of Caution: Looking at Homosexuality from Another Perspective

by Marc Williams

Elisabeth Wenger's December fourth article: "What it's like to be Gay at Houghton," introduced some important points to the discussion on homosexuality here at Houghton. I found the article to be insightful on many levels, and it gave a needed voice to many students who previously lacked one. While I am encouraged by the desire to really grapple with the issue of homosexuality here on campus, I am afraid that other viewpoints were overlooked.

Josiah Armstrong stated that "many [people] want to admit the truth about themselves [and] feel they cannot completely, except within closed circles, for fear of being demonized even further, or worse, getting 'in trouble' with Student Life." While Armstrong's point is a valid one inasmuch as it confirms the need for more transparency when dealing with difficult issues, I question his use of the word 'truth.' As a Christian and Wesleyan institution, Houghton College finds its foundation in the truth of the Bible. Accounts in the Old and New Testament explicitly

point to action on homosexual attraction as sinful behavior.

However, we must not stop there. The Bible explicitly prohibits all types of sexual immorality including adultery and premarital sex. Mark 10:6-9 clearly defines marriage as being the union of one man and one woman, and sexual intercourse as only being acceptable in this context. It is important to remember that this issue is one of Christian purity, and should be taken in a larger context which includes the debate on sexual orientation.

While we often embrace many of the misguided attractions that occur in each of our lives, we must seek to understand these attractions in the context of healthy romantic relationships which are Christ-honoring and biblically founded. Jesus himself was tempted for forty days in the desert, and yet remained pure. While we may experience a myriad of attractions, acting on them is not

always biblical or prudent. Jesus did not offer tolerance to each of his hurting and lost followers; rather, he offered them hope for a transformed life. This hope can still be found today, in places like Houghton, where each of us can contribute to the kind of loving and gracious attitudes displayed by our savior-attitudes which point us to the biblical truth about romance, sex, and marriage. Romans 12:2 helps us to better understand the context of these discussions:

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you

into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." (NLT)

As a Christian body, we at Houghton College are called to be different from the culture in which we live. Whimsical popular morality must not guide our thinking; rather, we should seek in

all things to emulate the truth, love, and grace propagated by Christ.

We must remember Romans 3:23-24, and that *all* have sinned and fall far short of Christ. But by his grace we are reconciled to him, and by his wounds we are healed. Cheap grace will allow us to move quietly through this debate in silent acquiescence to immoral behavior. Costly grace, however, will help us to admit and wrestle with each of our struggles, and ultimately be transformed by the power of Jesus Christ. Approaching each other with the truth should follow a loving, gracious, and merciful approach.

"Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ." - Ephesians 4:15 NIV

Let's be a people and a college who are willing to really wrestle with the temptations encountered throughout our Christian walk, and to confront each other in humility and love, knowing full well that each of us is not without sin.

- Marc is a senior Business and Spanish major

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In response to the poorly written article, "What it's Like to be Gay at Houghton," I am in one word, disappointed. Not because there are gay people here. Not because they perform homosexual acts. Not because I have an ounce of hatred toward homosexual people, or people who have had or currently struggle with homosexuality, but because people at Houghton College are ignorant! While reading the article I'm initially struck by what seems to be a recurring theme among people who seem to have to justify why they want to change the rules that Houghton has set in place.

The Wesleyan Church has always been against homosexuality. Being a member since I was a baby in NY City, I know the issues that have been constantly discussed among the members and boards. This is not a new topic. The fact of the matter is that Houghton will not, at least I think, change its stand on

homosexuality. This does not mean in any way that it turns away or looks down on homosexuals.

Yes there are ignorant people who whisper about homosexuals on campus and say nasty things about them behind their back. That angers me. I guess it's because I grew up in a city that the idea of homosexuality doesn't faze me. I still disagree with them, but I have never looked down on them. They are just like any other human. I think homosexuality is a sin but God knows I sin. I am no better than any homosexual on this campus, not because they are homosexuals, but because I am human, and so are they. The ignorance at Houghton astounds me and I am always taken a back whenever I read these silly articles. Melanie Lippert was exactly right in her response to the editor, "there seems to be a desire to create a squeaky clean, ivy-league image instead of the humble school of broken humans I saw as a prospective."

So let me get back to my point about homosexuality at Houghton; it happens. That doesn't, in my opinion, make it right. The second thing I want to address is this rigmarole that I keep hearing from people who address this issue. If you are struggling with homosexuality

you cannot live a homosexual life style. The two ideas are different. Christians struggle with sin but do not live a sinful life. There is no lukewarm/grey area! There are places for people who are struggling with homosexuality, but if you consciously know, in my opinion, that you are living that life style then you are sinning and there is no way around that. To then say that you want rights... The whole gay rights issue is a touchy one, but at Houghton homosexuality is not condoned. So what if people hold hands? Anything can be assumed from that, but kissing and making out is not condoned. Sex with anyone, male or female or animal, is not condoned whether you're homosexual or not. So I don't understand what rights you're looking for. As a Christian college, we the community should already know that people struggle with problems and not look down on them for it. We should be caring and understanding. These are already in the covenant. These things should be common sense for us. There is nothing to change, remove or amend. People at Houghton just need to be more understanding and less judgmental.

- Kenroy Teague, Class of 2010

Disgusted? Delighted? Just confused?

We want you to be part of the conversation.

Letters to the editor
(signed) should be 350
words or fewer and be
submitted by Tuesday at 7
p.m. to star@houghton.edu

The Houghton Star is
dedicated to the free ex-
change of ideas, and en-
courages community mem-
bers to participate in the
discussion. Ideas expressed
in these pages reflect solely
the opinion of the writer.
The editorial staff reserves
the right to edit any con-
tributions for reasons of
length or decorum.

From the Editor's Desk...

No Reason to Fear: Science is Not the Enemy of Religion

by Monica Sandreczki

The scene: Monica and a fellow church member having a relaxing time after a hearty lunch at our church's Memorial Day 2006 potluck until Nancy Nazarene brings up her theory on creation.

Nancy Nazarene: "Monica, I was reading an article and it said that the universe is billions of years old. Who even believes that stuff, right?"

Monica: "Well, I don't know. There's a lot of evidence that says that it is that old."

Nancy Nazarene: "The Bible says that God created the world in six days only a few thousand years ago. Those scientists are just out to make Christians look bad. We have to defend the truth of the Bible!"

Growing up in a home where Mom and Dad told me that God created the world 14 billion years ago and that we evolved from apes over millions of years, this conversation caught me off guard.

Was Nancy Nazarene crazy? Why was she so scared to think that science and the Bible might not line up exactly? Everyone knows that we descended from monkeys a

billion years ago while enjoying a wild time on Pangaea. She was living her life in fear of science, afraid that her fragile beliefs would crumble under the weight of irrefutable evidence. Since then, though, I've read a bit, listened a bit, and learned about creationist theory and I've realized that there's validity to it, but over and over I've run into Christians that are adamant that "most scientists" are out to make Christians look bad.

We've gotten to the point where there is an entire movement of fear mongers, practically begging to be afraid of anything scientific that goes against the Bible, and clinging to a few knee-jerk "Christian" scientists that still seem to think the Bible is a textbook. It's not as if scientists sit in their labs and offices all day laughing maniacally while they flip through the Bible saying, "Heh heh! What can I disprove today?!" No. They just look at and analyze data and arrive at the most logical and supported conclusion. Despite popular belief, they are not out to get Christians.

Now, there is definitely support for evolution as well as creation and either view can be completely valid. We should not and do not have like minds on these issues, but we must be thoughtful about our views, and not strictly hold fast to the Bible as fact if science proves otherwise. God is not outside of science and reason.

Heck, He's the one that invented them. Ergo, if we discover a new truth that goes against something in the Bible (i.e. we've evolved from apes and it's taken 10 billion years to get here), we don't have to be afraid of it because all truth is God's truth and what we think about God does not change who God is.

Also, we should not hesitate to question God. God is not afraid of our questions about Him. Our questions aren't new. He's heard them before and the longer humans are on earth, the more we learn, and the more questions like this will come up. It's not like God's being backed into a corner every time a new scientific theory comes out that is non-biblical.

Furthermore, no matter what side of the evolutionary (or any other science-related debate) aisle you fall on, being needlessly opinionated and enraged about people thinking differently from you, will not further any sort of productive discussion. We cluck our tongues that seethe with the piercing words of condemnation, pulling shallow, one-line offenses out of our arsenal in order to shut down our opponent. Then, we just stare at that shell of a person, while we revel in the thought that we've won the argument because he hasn't responded. But, just because you silence someone does not mean that you've convinced them of anything.

We live our lives in fear of science, afraid that some biologist will pop out of the woodwork declaring the news that he's found the end-all evidence proving that the earth is billions of years old or that we've descended from apes. Such fear is a waste of time, and more importantly, unfounded.

- Monica is a sophomore French and Intercultural Studies major and is the News Editor

God is not outside of science and reason. Heck, he's the one that invented them.

100 Years: Richard L. Stevens

2009 marks the 100th year of *The Houghton Star*. To celebrate this occasion, we have invited previous editors to contribute editorials which will be printed throughout the year. This editorial is from Richard L. Stevens, class of 1956.

Trying to edit the *Star* for the 1955-56 year at Houghton made me acutely aware of the limitations of mid-twentieth-century communications in America, and in Houghton in particular. Most students felt isolated from the real world in that small town in southwestern New York, but publications editors felt the reality in actual terms because we were dependent on outside agencies.

Consider that, like most Houghton students, I had no car. There was no train service, and the bus service from Rochester (my home town) was slow and required a transfer midway. There were no personal computers, the internet was a gleam in no one's eye, and the only communication out, besides snail mail, was the telephone. That required trudging over to Luckey Memorial to use a pay phone hanging on the first floor wall, and that required turning a crank in order to speak to an operator. (Really!) I learned a lot from the experience of trying to put together the *Boulder* the previous year. Dr. Bert Hall, philosophy and theology professor, went more than

an extra mile as our sponsor, driving me to Rochester one day to pick up student photos, then west to Buffalo to drop off a completed section at our publishing house, then south to Houghton and to his house for dinner with his family because the dining room had already closed. So when I assumed the editorship of the *Star* the following year, I already knew the challenges facing us.

The *Star* had its own office in the basement of the Science Building, across the hall from the print shop run by Al Smith. We had typewriters and easy access to the linotype machine, flatbed press, type setters, and pressmen. What could we lack? What we lacked was the capability of printing pictures. In order to have a picture press-ready, we had to send it out of town to have it made into a metal inkable "negative" mounted on a wood block, and then returned to Houghton. This was an expensive, time-consuming process which eliminated any "breaking news" stories (not that we had any anyway). The disadvantage was that our newspaper was gray—almost all printed material with few pictures or illustrations to liven it up. As a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, *The Houghton Star* always received anemic ratings.

So we started planning ahead. We prepared special issues with extra pages featuring one aspect of student life. Our

November 11, 1955 issue focused on WJSL. An extra page insert had several photos and a full broadcast schedule so that students could know what to listen for. For February 24, 1956, we featured the *Lantern* replete with pictures, staff interviews, and history. (Does Houghton still publish that literary gem?) We also added book reviews by students and a Town Meeting feature, in which students commented on current politics, thus connecting us to the wider

world.

Did it matter? We crowed a little in the May 11 issue: "I am amazed at the improvement shown in your paper. You are to be commended for producing a really worthwhile newspaper which is certainly an impressive asset to your school." This from R. Helgeson, assistant city editor of the *Minneapolis Tribune*. The *Star* had received a first class rating, 1675 points of a possible 1700 for All-American rating.

2009- 2010 STAR Staff

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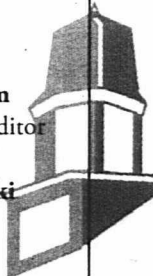
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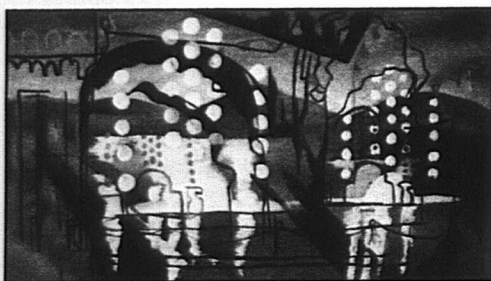
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Re-write Manager

Wesley Dean
Staff Photographer



JAADIN VANAMBURG

Note from the artist: I want the viewer to get lost within the largeness of the canvas, finding different moments to linger upon as they view it - To have an instant that can give them a rest and be a quiet place for a moment within the craziness of their lives.



artist
OF THE
WEEK



HINT: You'll leave 5 squares blank—or "white"—to represent a seasonal word.

- Across**
- 1 Tribute in poetic form
 - 4 Book with a legend on each page?
 - 9 Black-and-white sea hunter
 - 13 Rx writers
 - 14 Lecture without much inflection
 - 15 Go quickly from bad to worse
 - 16 Dupe with fancy words
 - 18 Action figure since 1964
 - 19 Tater
 - 20 Calligraphy tool
 - 21 Kilt features
 - 22 Jacuzzi enterer's reaction
 - 24 Same: prefix
 - 25 Turkey neighbor
 - 27 Lively
 - 32 Suitable
 - 34 Sport with bamboo swords
 - 36 Causing goosebumps
 - 37 Virginia Woolf's "A of One's Own"
 - 39 Angry bull's sound
 - 41 Flaky mineral
 - 42 White House Press Secretary: 2006-2007
 - 44 Mom's retort of affectionate exasperation
 - 46 Fish without pectoral fins
 - 47 Avoid a confrontation, maybe
 - 49 Stir fry ingredients
 - 51 Long balls, for short
 - 52 Thesaurus abbr.
 - 53 Inlaid design
 - 57 Trojans' sch.
 - 59 Friar in Sherwood Forest
 - 63 Precise
 - 64 Basic ice-skating maneuver
 - 66 Brawl
 - 67 "Do ___ to eat a peach?": T.S. Eliot
 - 68 Abbreviation between handles?
 - 69 Having no width or depth, for short
 - 70 Illustrious
 - 71 Put a curse on
 - Down**
 - 1 They're laid at the racetrack?
 - 2 Part of a roller-coaster ride
 - 3 Biblical birthright seller
 - 4 Wild or woolly: abbr.
 - 5 Certain sports memorabilia
 - 6 Earring site
 - 7 Auth. unknown
 - 8 Capitol Hill VIP
 - 9 Off-Broadway theatre award
 - 10 Indian prince
 - 11 Form lumps, as cream
 - 12 Pub orders
 - 15 Toy meant to be shaken
 - 17 Popular radio announcement, maybe
 - 21 Omega preceder
 - 23 Genesis building
 - 24 "99 and 44/100 per cent pure" detergent
 - 25 Poker-faced
 - 26 Pestors
 - 28 "Everybody Hurts" band
 - 29 April Fool's Day birth, e.g.
 - 30 French Riviera city
 - 31 Blue-green shade
 - 32 The "A" in B.A.
 - 33 Friend of Eeyore
 - 35 Homer Simpson trademark outburst
 - 38 "Dancing With the Stars" runner-up, Nov. 2009
 - 40 Video arcade whiz's achievement
 - 43 Grumpy's companion
 - 45 Motorist's change of direction, slangily
 - 48 Rainbow shape
 - 50 Tiny colonists
 - 53 It circulates at the office
 - 54 Farm team?
 - 55 Black Friday event
 - 56 Passed with flying colors
 - 57 Red-carpet hairstyle
 - 58 Venetian blind part
 - 60 Bryce Canyon state
 - 61 Super Bowl advertiser, maybe
 - 62 2001 Kevin-Spacey-as-mental-patient film
 - 64 Leave stranded at the ski lodge
 - 65 Hitched

Congratulations to last week's Sudoku Challenge winner, Derek Mastin! Stop by the Star office to receive your prize.

CLUES
Winter Wonderland Edition

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

Bring your finished crosswords to the STAR office to claim the Leroy Townes and the Lone Stars CD!

Puzzle constructor Brad Wilber ('91) is a member of the library faculty. His crosswords regularly appear in the New York Times and Los Angeles Times.

