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PERIODICALS DEPARTMENT

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No LONGER 24/7

Starting at the beginning of this semester, a new policy was put in place whereby the campus center would no longer be open twenty-four hours a day during the week. Instead, each Sunday through Thursday at 2:00 AM, all students left in the building are asked to clear up their stuff and leave until the campus center re-opens at 6 AM.

When asked why there has yet to be more publicity announcing the new policy and the rationale behind it, Wayne Macbeth, Vice-President of Student Life said, "I think we put it in the Scoop sheet. I think the issue was that we didn't think it was that big of a deal

because there were so few students affected."

While there have been numerous rumors reported on campus as to the official reasoning behind the closing of the campus center, the stated reasoning involves security concerns about the campus. According to Mr. Macbeth, "We have a limited number of security staff...and we are trying to spread them around in the best way that is possible."

Macbeth also told the *Star* that "with the minimal use of the building during the wee hours of the morning, one of the things we decided was it would be a pretty minimal inconvenience to most

students who never use it at night, or during those hours. If we could close it down at those hours," he says, "and not inconvenience many people, it would allow our staff to be freer to circulate to be checking on residence halls and facilities that were busier and probably more likely targets for security problems."

Interestingly enough, while the reported reasoning by Macbeth places emphasis on helping out the security guards, both of our main night-time security personnel stated that while they had no problem with the new policy, they had never encountered any problems effectively watching out for the campus and performing their rounds when the Campus Center was open all night every night. Ray Parlett, Director of Campus Safety and Security, however, has pointed out that the lack of student pres-

ence in the campus center allows the Security personnel to check on sites off campus, such as the Horse Barn "with more confidence the building is secure."

Denise Bakerink, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life, said, "They [Security] were monitoring it [the Campus Center] toward the end of the year to kind of get an assessment of how much is this building really being used, and it was very minimal numbers of students who were using it during those hours." This observation helped influence the decision to close the campus Center.

About ten years ago, it was decided that the basement would be open twenty-four hours in order to allow access to the computer lab and the print centers. This was before every student received a

(continued on page 6)

Elijah Wyman

- Show Review &

Interview

The Campus Center was transformed into an oversized living room with 37 couches, coffee, snacks, and mood-lighting. There was a small stage set up with six varied-colored bed sheets providing an ample backdrop. A lone microphone stood a bit to the left on the stage. 3 iridescent orbs hung overtop the stage like giant Christmas ornaments. In the back stood a small table, artfully decorated with a variety of goods for sale, including hand made objects d'art by Rhonda Wyman and Elijah's latest studio effort, Beautiful Like Words, stacked neatly in a vintage, rust-colored mini-suitcase.

We sat enchanted as Elijah's brand of indie folk began to slowly fill the room. The first song was, at first, alarmingly blunt, but soon refreshing and thought-provoking.

The rest followed like a series of clever snapshots, and were as enjoyable as the first. In between were tucked little witticisms and humorous dialogue, like neat little splices of Elijah, himself. From his mispronunciation of "Houghton" (like "Hoo-ton") and "Hot-un"); to bringing his wife, Rhonda, up to sing a duo, Elijah was decidedly witty and at the same time innocently disarming.

Before the show, I got a chance to sit down and chat with Elijah about his faith, signing with Blue Duck

Records, and how John Vander-slice feels about his kitten named Puppy.

James: So, who is Elijah Wyman?
Elijah: That's me. I got married last year. I'm 20. I go to school at Salem State College. I study English and have a minor in philosophy. My wife (Rhonda) and I opened a gallery recently (called Share An Umbrella).

So, my life is ridiculously busy between playing music, working on our shop, and then, going to school and taking as many classes as I can so I can graduate soon. That's

about my life right now. Oh, and we teach junior high youth group in our free time.

Where are you from?
We live in Danvers Massachusetts, which is about 20 minutes north of Boston.

Is music your full-time job?
Right now all we do is music and art. But, we need another job.

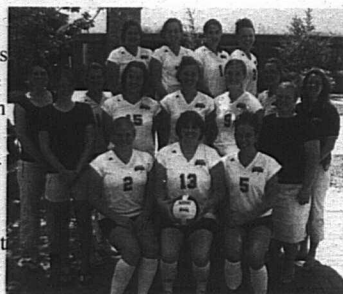
How did signing with Blue Duck come about?
I just got signed for this album that I just put out. I played for a few years before that. I had recorded a demo of this CD and sent it out to a bunch of labels and got very little interest. But, I mean that's usually how it happens. You send them out to a black hole-- the abyss. And I actually followed up to Blue Duck and wrote to them. I'm their first artist. They said that they had been listening to [the demo version

(continued on page 6)



The Vision for Volleyball

The volleyball season has begun and with it a renewed vision for the Women's Volleyball team, which is evident to all who participate in their games, whether from the stands or on the field. Like Houghton's women's sports as a whole, the volleyball team stresses drive and determination, as well as team unity. Although talent is an important element in the recruiting process, players who do not demonstrate a strong work ethic are not considered to join our sports community. All Houghton athletes are dedicated to their sports and know the importance of abandoning themselves to the game. Their seasons begin weeks before the first game, including individual conditioning prior to the start



of each practice. Each player is encouraged to cultivate drive, as each woman's stats figure into determining the starting lineup. In the midst of this tenacity, however, vibrant relationships, both with the Lord and each other, remain vital to the team and an essential focus of the season. In the words of Coach Nancy Cole, "We do have relationships with the Lord... our desire is to serve Him first, not ourselves." Every practice begins with devotions, and every game concludes with singing and prayer. The team is made up of women from every class, though the majority of them are juniors. Not all, however, have played their whole college career. As it is only the start of the season, the team

has a lot of work ahead of them. They have already finished three tournaments, coming out of the first two non-conference matches with a 2-5 record. Their first conference game was Saturday, September 10th, to be followed by the season's first home game against Roberts, with Seton Hill and Geneva, on the 17th. Team members expect these upcoming games to be tough, as they'll be played against strong teams. However, this kind of competition is welcome, as it gives the team an idea of where they stand and where their weak areas lie. These games help show the team what to work on next practice. Over the past two years, the team has reached the first round of playoffs, but they hope to go even farther this year. The team's long-term goal is to place first on their side of the AMC conference. As they continue to play and improve, the girls' drive, determination, and unity will, no doubt, continue to be an inspiration to others. ♦

-by Emily Furman



Appleumpkin Festival

Imagine this: Around you, endless rows of historical New England houses and gas-lit lanterns line the streets. The twangs of a blue-grass band and the aroma of smoky barbecued chicken mingle in the air. Dappling the sidewalks are colorful tents harboring home-spun treasures. And the crowning glory— old-fashioned apple dumplings, smothered in sticky-sweet syrup, enveloped in piping-hot dough, and set atop trophy vanilla ice-cream.

Sound good? Then make your way to the quaint town of Wyoming, NY and experience this year's "AppleUmpkin" Festival! The celebration takes place this Saturday and Sunday from 10 AM- 5 PM. Attractions include street performances, local artists and bands, country crafts and wares, baking contests, church-sponsored events, and much more. Parking and shuttle service is provided. For more information and directions, log to their website at <www.appleumpkin.com>.

Working Title: Reckless belief

What does Lori Huth do when she's not enlightening, guiding, and encouraging her pupils at Houghton College? Students may wonder if professors' rigorous schedules leave them much time to dabble in other arts. As it turns out, between teaching classes and devoting long afternoons to hashing out papers with her students, Huth is in the process of writing a novel.

Set during a canoe trip inside the Boundary Waters region of Canada, its plot centers around a family's reaction to a bizarre encounter with a UFO. Huth explains that the theme of her novel examines personal belief, and whether or not one's conviction can withstand scrutiny, "... and if not," she continues, "is it still truly what we believe, or do we need to modify our beliefs?"

Other topics explored include what one's responsibility to family is, and how to cope when a loved one has passed on.

The novel's main characters consist of a skeptical aunt, attempting to understand what it means to be a "good person," her 14-year-old niece whose passion is myths and legends, and a grandmother who is determined to live alone on her farm despite her battle with Parkinson's disease. Each of these three women struggle to find a way to relate to one another in light of their tragic past and the extraordinary phenomenon at hand. *Reckless Belief* is Huth's first novel. "I've mostly done short stories before," she reveals. When asked how she felt about composing a novel in comparison to her former works she muses, "I feel like I can explore more... I can elaborate." For Huth, each day she writes, she discovers something new in her work. Unlike some novelists, Huth isn't so concerned about how her

book will end, as she is in what the process of shaping her story will teach her.

When it comes to writer's block, Huth's solution is simple: focus on the moment. "Just keep writing," she urges. "You can at least write something." She also advises, "Sometimes you just have to break away and do something else. You have to let [your work] simmer on the backburner of your subconscious." Nonetheless, Huth is hesitant to pin her technique down. "I'm still new. I'm not sure I have a style yet," she grins. She suggests that perhaps she likes exploring important questions through fiction. She also later confesses her preference toward dialogue. "I love listening to the way people talk because it means much more than what they're actually saying... I want to capture that in words." When asked what Huth thinks of her book so far she laughs, "It's sort of a weird novel." She says

that this quality makes her both love it and worry about it, but, she concludes, "mostly, I like it."

When asked what advice she could give for Houghton writers she offers:

"Don't wait for inspiration to strike before writing something. Write. Write now."

"Keep some kind of journal. An image journal, sketch journal, little scraps of paper... whatever system works for you. Pay attention to what's happening around you... and find some way of recording it." Lastly, she insists, "Be patient with yourself and your writing."

Huth refuses to go into too much detail about the story of her novel, but says she hopes her book will hold together for future readers and that they will come away with something meaningful when they have finished. ♦

-by Tiara Leidy, Staff Writer

If I May, You've Missed the Point —

The debate surrounding the introduction of intelligent design theory into public school systems

V. Kempton

The President's endorsement of intelligent design to be taught alongside evolutionary theory in biology classrooms has elicited a wild media response. There has been a flurry of presidential media coverage as the Kansas Board of Education is considering whether or not to introduce intelligent design (ID) theory into its biology curriculum for high school students. For most, it seems like the same old creationism vs. darwinism debate.

Intelligent Design, however, is not merely "creationism in a cheap tuxedo", I as a frustrated professor in Kansas would like the public to believe. It proposes that the probability of certain natural structures arising on their own is quite small; it would be reasonable (and beneficial) to concede a Designer was involved in the process.

Through inferences based on an examination of probabilities, which is common in the fields of both science and mathematics, ID theorists rely on the specified complexity of the physical world (e.g. the seeming impossibility that some cellular structures developed by chance) to point to design. William A. Demski, the man responsible for articulating the theory, explains it: "The world contains events, objects,

and structures that exhaust the explanatory resources of natural causes and that can be adequately explained only by recourse to intelligent causes."²

ID theory is not opposed to applying the mechanisms of evolution as a way new species may be formed, though intelligent design theorists further suppose that a designer has directed this process and that there may be a purpose to the universe greater than anything human beings can determine. Even so, creationists should realize that ID theory may not justify removing apes from our ancestral tree.

The most relevant media-covered objection leveled against considering intelligent design a scientific theory is that it has nothing new to add to how we operate in scientific research. Since the traditional scientific method is adopted by ID theorists as standard procedure, the complaint entertained by academics focuses on this: ID theorists cannot reasonably operate under the scientific method since a designer might not follow natural laws, and, in order to operate in experimentation, scientists have to believe these rules - what comes up must come down.

I believe everyone, including the President, is mistaken about

what they ought to be arguing for with respect to school curricula. As Christians (or Muslims or Mormons or persons of other faiths) sending their children to school and even teaching in those schools, we must recognize that there is a difference between metaphysical and methodological naturalism.

naturalism; it is simply recognized as the formal way of operating in scientific investigation. If experimenters did not assume natural laws remain in effect at all times, then any results obtained would be meaningless to evaluate. This distinction should be taught in classrooms teaching evolutionary theory independently of intelligent design (or any other theory that may attract religious



Metaphysical naturalism commits us to the view that nothing exists outside of the material substances in the universe. Methodological naturalism, conversely, suggests that we must operate under the assumption of naturalism so that we can conduct controlled experiments and draw meaningful conclusions from the results. This distinction is part of the general philosophy of science, not any particular theory.

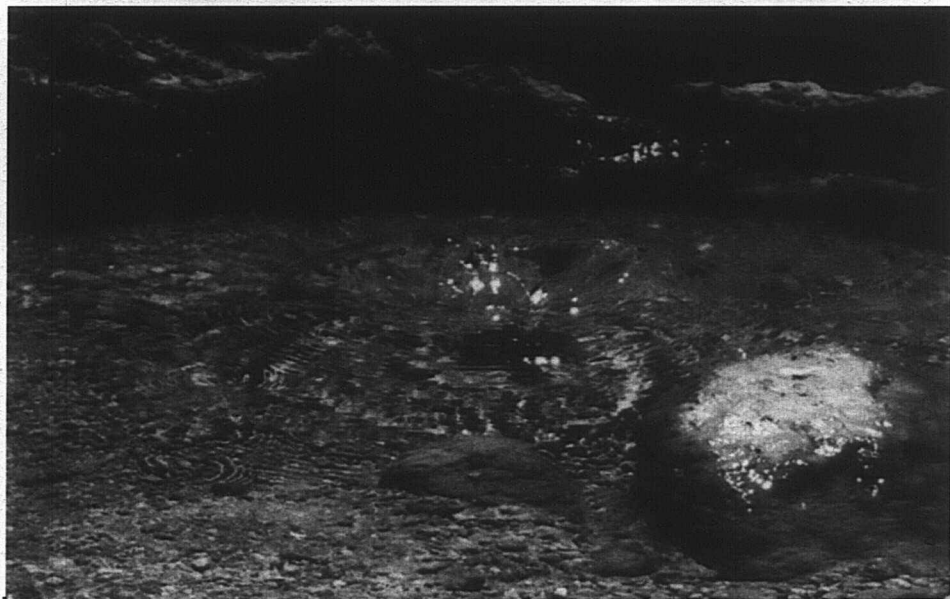
Methodological naturalism does not commit us to metaphysical

attention).

It is not an outright attack on religion to operate in the laboratory without factoring God into every equation. As Christians, we have the responsibility of remembering our creator when we decide what types of research we pursue. For example, some developments that seem reasonable for metaphysical naturalists to explore may not be acceptable for a Christian scientist to participate in - even operating under methodological naturalism. Still, these are issues in the fields of academic and research science, not of the high school biology classroom.

The attempt to have our faith justified by sneaking it into a school science curriculum is unnecessary. Do we really need a specifically scientific defense for our faith? We should realize there is room for God in the places where our human certainty ends.

1 Recorded by Jonathan Alter, Newsweek article "Monkey See Monkey Do", found at the link <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/8853604/site/newsweek/>
2 William Dembski, Intelligent Design: The Bridge Between Science & Theology. ♦



Tom Noyes: Visiting Poet

Writer Dr. Tom Noyes recently returned to Houghton after over a decade's absence. The last time he was here, he was a recent graduate and still rather familiar with his role as a student. It was a time when the college was changing and being challenged by a revolutionary few, who dared to challenge accepted norms. They featured the first nude figures in an art show and protested the seemingly unjust termination of a professor. It was also a time when the changing chapel attendance policy and the aroma coming from Shen were typical complaints throughout the Houghton community. I guess some things never change. However in 2005, Noyes returns as a visiting author to share a story from his nearly finished book, *Spooky Action from a Distance and Other Stories*. Since leaving Houghton, Tom has earned his Masters of Fine Arts

and his Doctorate at Wichita State University and Ohio University, respectively. He is currently a professor of writing at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, and a consulting editor for the literary journal *Lake Effect*. Coming back to his alma mater as a visiting fiction writer posed a few issues for Noyes, the biggest one being how he should address his former professors? Should he keep the respectful tone of a student and call them Professor Leax and Dr. Zoller? Or should he recognize his new peer status and call them Jack and Jim? Though I don't know which route he chose, whichever designation he decided upon must have been the right one, because there was a hearty cheering section composed of his former professors in the audience at his reading on Wednesday, September 14th. They sat beaming at their former student with pride, as well they should. Tom has been very successful, with his fiction appearing in such literary

journals as *Ascent*, *Image*, the *American Literary Review*, and many more. His first collection of short stories, *Behold Faith and Other Stories*, received much praise and attention from critics, including those of the *New York Times Book Review*. Also present for the reading were wide-eyed writing majors, desperate for a glimpse at their possible futures. Hoping to find a clue of what's ahead of them, these eager, aspiring writers came to see where one of their own has made a path. Those in attendance were treated to a reading of "Straightened Arrow," a selection from Noyes' most recent collection of stories. In this story, he writer took his listeners on a road trip across the United States with a man struggling through faith and marriage, his companion, and a huge set of tablets inscribed with the Ten Commandments, recently removed from a courtroom. Mixing politics, theology, and current events with uncommon (but realistic) characters, witty

observations, and humorous situations, Noyes creates a thought-provoking story to leave listeners wishing he would read more of his work. Right now, you may be kicking yourself for missing the opportunity to meet Tom Noyes at his reading, but before you put on your cleats and continue the self-maiming, run down to the Campus Store or over to the library and pick up a copy of Tom's book. You may not get to hear the author himself read it, but it will still be worth it. ♦

-by Rachel Varughese
Staff Writer



Organ Recital: Elizabeth Claar

The organ is quite possibly the most ignored instrument in the U.S. today. It is little understood, largely underappreciated and is often played by people who have never been taught to play it well. This past week at Houghton some of these negative views were altered because of a recital given by Elizabeth Claar.

Ms. Claar graduated from Houghton in 1991. She speaks very fondly of her time spent at this college, although she initially chose Houghton because it was the farthest school from home. She came to love it for the caring atmosphere all over campus, and she misses having such a wealth of close friends. She also looks back with fondness on the supportive environment in the music department, especially compared to her time in more vicious musical circles.

Feeling confined by the Bachelor of Music curriculum

her first year, Ms. Claar put aside her major and took a wide variety of classes, while maintaining her piano skills in her private lessons. In the middle of her college years her piano teacher died, leaving her stricken and without a teacher. She didn't feel very connected to the other piano faculty, so Ms. Claar began organ lessons to try something new and financially promising. Once she started playing she fell for the instrument's power and magnitude, and in her words "it would not let me go."

The organ is often accused of being an inexpressive instrument, but no one at Ms. Claar's concert on Wednesday held to that belief. She started with J. S. Bach's "Tocatta in C major," which includes large passages of music for the feet alone, which she played with her arms spread and hands gripping the edges of the keyboard. The whole piece comes to a climax with the fugue, where Ms. Claar filled the Chapel with all of the vivacity of Bach, and his complicated, intriguing sound.

Next was "Lied" from 24 Pieces in Free Style by Louis Vierne, though a "lied" typically refers to a French art song with a solo voice and keyboard, this piece was written for organ alone. Nevertheless it was a true art song; the melody was coaxed, singing and sighing from the organ, backed up by a rich, evocative accompaniment.

Ms. Claar completely cleared the air with Noel Gemanne's "Partita on Simple Gifts." The variations on the Shaker tune ranged from lightly skipping, to spooky, to large scale harmonies coming to bittersweet cadences.

Last on the program was Charles Marie Widor's Organ symphony #8. Ms. Claar speaks of Widor's music as her own and finds that his music relates powerfully to her own feel, and the audience could hear her uncurl through the piece. As she played, the music grew into a living breathing creature and every one was caught up in the growing passion. She sat at the

organ whipping her hands from keyboard to keyboard, sound pouring through her hands and the instrument, full of drama and beauty.

Ms. Claar is now working as a church organist at a Lutheran church in Michigan, teaches piano and organ, and is an accompanist at Hope College, while pursuing her doctorate at the University of Michigan.

Her advice to Houghton students is to work hard, but not to sacrifice your social life for perfection. She also says students work better if they go to bed and get up an hour earlier. If you are a music major, don't criticize your fellow musicians, and perform as much as you possibly can. ♦

-Clara Giebel
Staff Writer



Featured Art

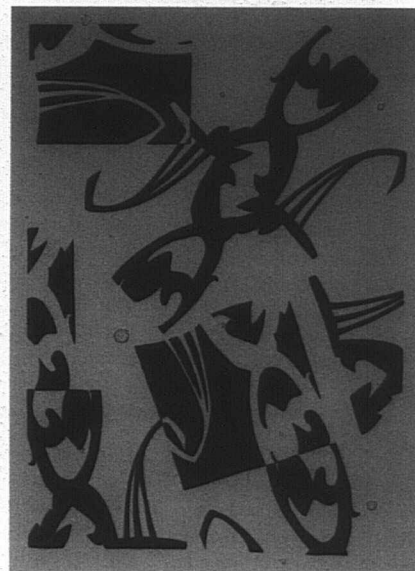
by Kelsey Harro

Introductory foundation exercises by freshmen Elizabeth Jancewicz and Melody Niphakis, pen and ink on paper. Students picked sections to draw from an elaborately constructed still life which included everything from bicycle tires to Italian espresso makers, and filled an entire corner of the drawing studio. The assignment required students to fill the negative spaces with ink and then arrange repeating motifs into a new composition.

"It's a study in asymmetrical balance," says Professor Ted Murphy. "It requires an elegant sense of space. These two examples have a particularly beautiful resolution." ♦



Elizabeth Jancewicz



Melody Niphakis

The Star

is looking for essays, poetry, and stories written by students to feature in the Arts section. Please e-mail your submissions to christine_difonzo@houghton.edu, or mail them to CPO box 608.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Raise the Red Lantern

by Beave Sorenson



In *Hollywood Ending*, Woody Allen's neurotic director Val Waxman keeps demanding that the film studio hire him a Chinese cinematographer. He pontificates, in the noxious ramble that is Woody's trademark, about the superior qualities of their ability to capture color, composition, and mood. I didn't give this much thought after watching the movie, not until I watched the gorgeous film, *Raise the Red Lantern*, from Director Yimou Zhang. Not since the first half of Coppola's *The Black Stallion* have I seen such compelling camera work, such attention given to shot composition, and such amazing exploitation of locale. (The entire film takes place in one location, the country palace of a Chinese lord.)

It's pretty amazing when cinematographers (in this case, Lun Yang and Fie Zhao) can cause you, by their treatment of the film, to recognize that

conscious decisions are being made about each individual shot and to expect each change to bring something amazing. Yang and Zhao respect that a cinematographer decides what we are allowed to see, and they take that charge very gracefully.

The camera work is so good that if the story weren't razor sharp, you might forget it was there. Yet, there's something about the characterization in this film that is like a car accident: it is ugly and awful, yet you can't take your eyes off it. There is something so basic in the extremity of emotion, played against the backdrop of ceremony and style. Set in 1920's China, it is a story of relationships between the four wives of a rich master. One interesting decision made by Zhang is that we never see the master's face, we only see him as a shadow or a shape. This is another example of how conscious decisions made as to what viewers are allowed to see affects the outcome of the story. The women and their relationships are given priority here, and the film remains their story.

Other films worth checking out for their value in cinematography would be Lawrence

of Arabia, *The 400 Blows*, or Yimou Zhang's most recent film, *Hero*.

Theremin: An Electronic Odyssey

By Adam Sukhia



In the world of electronic music, long before the synthesizer and the keyboard, there was the theremin. The Russian inventor Leon Theremin created his instrument in 1919 and, after extensive touring of Europe, came to America to demonstrate it at a number of venues. After setting up a shop and creating numerous other electronic instruments and gadgets, Theremin played for a packed house at Carnegie Hall.

The film documents the journey of Leon Theremin. We experience the ups and downs in his bizarre life from his controversial marriage, to his kidnapping and disappearance, to forced work with the KGB inventing Russian spy technology. In one of the high points of the film, the story of his involvement with the legendary thereminist Clara Rockmore culminates when the 94-year-old Leon Theremin is brought back to the United States

and reunited with Clara after decades apart.

The theremin is used in numerous movies, and bands from the Beach Boys to The Polyphonic Spree have used the distinctive sound in their music. Meeting and playing with Albert Einstein and Josef Stalin, Leon Theremin truly had a unique life. *Theremin: An Electronic Odyssey* won the Sundance Film Festival's filmmakers trophy in 1994 and includes interviews with Brian Wilson, and Robert Moog the inventor of the Moog synthesizer.

While a little slow at times, the film is ultimately very interesting and dynamic. It is worth sitting through the theremin background music and strange, seemingly gratuitous, shots of a floating theremin to get to the heart of the story: the interaction between Leon Theremin himself and a completely different New York than the one he left in 1938. This documentary is worth 84 minutes of your time, especially if you love music and want to know more about the unique instrument's origins and the bizarre life and story of its inventor. ♦

Branching Out: Belfast United Methodist

"We seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ."

In these simple words, Belfast United Methodist, located in the town of Belfast, about ten minutes from Houghton, states its mission statement. This purpose is readily seen in the variety of ministries offered at the church, to both the surrounding community and members of the congregation. Of a moderate size, the congregation includes about 100 people who regularly attend. 25 to 30 of these are Houghton Col-

lege students.

Belfast has recently added a contemporary service at 9:30am, which is followed by the usual service starting at 10:50am.

Youth Pastor Adam Kline leads the worship band for the contemporary service, while the 10:50 service has more of a traditional worship style. Different Sunday school classes are held during each of the services, and between them, Belfast United Methodist holds a time of fellowship with coffee and refreshments in the church.

Opportunities to serve here are never in short supply, and help

is always welcome, particularly with youth group, children's Sunday school, and musical ministries. Belfast United Methodist also provides various outreach ministries to the people of their town. A few weeks prior to the start of school, the church collected book-bags and school supplies to distribute among needy students at Belfast Central School. It also runs an after school program every Wednesday, free car washes from time to time, and an annual Thanksgiving feast. At the moment, Belfast United is collecting clothes in a relief effort for the victims of

hurricane Katrina.

To get to Belfast Methodist, go south on route 19 for 7 miles then take a left onto Merton Ave. Then, turn right onto Chapel Street. You can find more information on Belfast United Methodist on their website, www.BelfastUnitedMethodist.org. ♦

-by Staff Writer,
Nick DiFonzo

Too many of us are showing up to lunch on Sundays in our pajamas. "Branching Out" is a profile of a church in the area, which will be run weekly. The purpose of "Branching Out" is to give students a better idea about the many churches that are near Houghton.

(No: continued from page 1)

laptop and a printer. According to Bakerink, "...there is no longer that need (for 24 access to the print center) because everyone has printers." Some additional problems contributing to the closing were the ongoing issue of overnight "campers" in Big Al's, people sleeping in the Campus Center, and the use of the space late at night by non-students.

While the decision was made over the summer, some student input was elicited in the form of an email to Jason Shambach, the SGA President, asking for his opinion on the matter. Jason replied with his overall acceptance of the policy, although he did request that they wait to close it until two and not one in the morning, that it be open on the weekends, and that more hours be given during finals week to accommodate a larger number of students who might wish to work there at crunch time. Shambach's first two suggestions were accepted, while the last awaits definitive decision.

At this time, neither Student Life nor the Office of Safety and Security have reported any major complaints about this new policy, though students do report concern. Sophomore Julie Becker said, "I think it is insane, closing the Campus Center, because where else are people going to go? It is much safer in here than in a lean-to or somewhere else off campus." At this point in time there is no longer anywhere on campus that is open twenty-four hours during the week where guys and girls can hang out together.

A matter for student concern is

the fact that there is no longer any place for late-night studying during the week outside of the dormitories. "If someone wants to study, and their roommate wants to go to sleep where else are they going to go? I mean, the library is closed, and it is difficult to study late at night in the dorms," remarked junior Becca Hazard.

In response to the claims that this only impacts a small number of students and so should not be viewed as a problem, senior Rachel Brask commented, "There is also a small community of those who consistently stay up late in the Campus Center or Big Al's, who have formed a certain camaraderie out of the shared dedication of those willing and able to give up sleep to pursue their academics and still have a balanced life...And although it may be small, it still exists; and it should still be allowed to continue."

While the policy has been carried out since the beginning of the year, all parties involved have stated that they are willing to work with the student body if a significant number of students complain about this issue. Wayne Macbeth assured the student body, "We could revisit it anytime. Anytime you get a lot of student input, you take a hard look at whatever the issue is. This way, we are hoping we are serving students better because we are able to create a bit more of a security presence on the parts of campus where we have greater concerns." ♦

By Kate Hamilton



(Wyman: continued from page 1)

of Beautiful Like Words] and had been meaning to give me a call. So that was great. They've been wonderful. They've given me everything I've asked for and more.

How many CD's do you have out? The first one that very few people have is called "Give and Take," and that one (pointing to the merchandise table) is called Beautiful Like Words. And then the new one is coming out.

Do you play solo most of the time or do you ever have a band play with you? Depends on the show. Any time I'm playing in New England, pretty close, I generally have at least one other person who plays. Her name is Sam. She plays piano, clarinet, or saxophone depending on the song. And often times I have with me another girl named Jen, who plays trumpet. And then we've added another girl who plays flute. And then, every once in a while, I have this guy named Craig, who plays with me, and he plays hammer dulcimer which is a big trapezoid with 88 strings. It's crazy, and it sounds really awesome.

If you could label your music what would you call it? It's not really folk. I always feel like I'm not folk enough to fit in with folk crowds and I'm not indie rock enough to fit in with the indie crowd. I'd assume I'm closer to indie rock. When I have more people playing with me, definitely indie rock; I've been called indie folk. I've been called neo-folk,

too, but I don't know what that means. I like the word "folk" though. It makes me think that it's music for people. Music for folk. Call it indie folk.

Are you religious?
Yeah. I'm a Christian

Do you have any other beliefs besides your Christian faith, like vegan, vegetarian, straight edge, etc.?

My wife and I are both getting more into environmental issues. Rhonda's starting a recycling initiative trying to get recycling bins in the churches. We're becoming very much more environmentally conscious. I think that's something so important in the Bible that often times Christianity just kind of brushes over. I think a lot of it probably has to do with—most Christians are Republicans and most Republicans don't seem to care as much about environmental issues as most liberals. I'm very anti religion and politics together, too. Keep them separated.

Well, we're just about out of time. Any last thoughts, quotes, witticisms?

We have a cat named, "Puppy." She has no tail. She's grey. She's this big (indicating with hands), very small. Meow. She gets caught in trees when she gets out because she's not supposed to go out because she scares the crap out of herself. Do you know who John Vanderslice is at all? He came over, and he said that our cat was the best cat. He took some pictures of it. He loved it. John Vanderslice loves our cat. ♦

Houghton's Response:

"I thought it was amazing. He has a very poetic soul, and it came through his music."

-Rachel Varughese

"It was good. I liked it a lot. When [Elijah] and his wife sang, oh that was so much fun. I loved them. She was so great."

-Joseph Hall

"I really enjoyed it. I thought he was very real and honest. There was emotion not only in his words but in the way he sang. I liked that."

-Cheryl Johnson

"Massachusetts!?!? Can anything good come out of Massachusetts?"

-Alexander Scott
(born in Beverly, Ma)

-by James Owens III,
Staff Writer

Opinion

One Nation, Divisible

As of September 14th, 2005, it is once again unconstitutional to recite the American Pledge of Allegiance in public schools. In the latest development in the three-year legal struggle to remove the pledge from schools on account of the "under God" phrase, US District Judge Lawrence Karlton ruled that schoolchildren have the right to be "free from a coercive requirement to affirm God." Previously, atheist parent Michael Newdow (who, along with several other families, is the current plaintiff) took this challenge all the way to the Supreme Court, which rejected his claim in 2004 on the grounds that he did not have exclusive custody of his daughter and thus lacked standing to sue on her behalf. Newdow's new lawsuit has patched this legal loophole, and aims to force the Court to issue a ruling on the constitutionality of "under God" once and for all.

The original pledge was penned in 1892 by socialist author and Baptist minister (pause

for double-take) Francis Bellamy to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Columbus' landing in the Western Hemisphere and read, "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Over the years, it underwent minor grammatical and procedural modifications (including the post-WWII abandonment of the Nazi-like salute children were to give while reciting the pledge). It wasn't until 1954, near the height of the Cold War "Red Scare", that "under God" was added by a bill sponsored by Republican Senator Homer Ferguson. Despite the obvious questions about separation of church and state raised by this new addition, it wasn't until 2002 that Newdow brought his first formal challenge.


At the very least, including the phrase "under God" in a nationalist patriotic pledge that schoolchildren are at least strongly encouraged, if not required, to recite constitutes a government endorsement of a monotheistic deity to which at least some measure of allegiance is owed. As it plays out in the average American classroom, everybody knows that it refers to the Christian God. It is quite frankly hard to see how this could be read as anything but a violation of the First Amendment Establishment Clause, which forbids the government from establishing a state religion or favoring any particular faith. Of course, whether the Supreme Court will actually rule this way remains to be seen; Justice Scalia, the Court's most prominent conservative voice, will have to recuse himself from the case (as he did previously) due to past attacks he's made on the secularization of public schools. However, by the time the Court actually hears this case, it will most likely contain two new Bush-appointed Justices who will most certainly lean toward the conservative.

Not surprisingly, the push to see "under God" removed from the pledge has garnered strong opposition from the Christian Right. This segment of society has increasingly come to see "separation of church and


state" as a tool used by everyone to the left of them as a means to keep religion out of government. This is quite true; the doctrine also works to keep government out of religion, protecting it from the political exploitation faith has endured at the hands of everyone from the Crusaders to the Fascists to Osama bin Laden and George W. Bush. The conception of America as a "Christian nation" has in fact done Christianity a grave disservice; by attempting to give ourselves "God's most-favored nation" status, it has become far too easy for American Christians to go along with favoring our nation at the horrible expense of others, a practice which our faith of grace and mercy admonishes us to stand against. Moreover, so long as the general public conceives of America as a Christian nation,

they'll conceive of themselves as Christian, while of course having little to no understanding of what the faith is about or the compassionate lifestyle it demands of them. Rather than fighting to maintain its long-held privileged status as the de facto state religion, American Christianity would do well to embrace separation of church and state as a means of disentangling itself from its current role as a cultural enabler and to start making a stand for love, compassion and grace in a society desperately devoid of such things. ♦

-by Dan Perrine



Coming to Houghton College
Friday, October 14 8:00 p.m. Wesley Chapel
Advance Tickets: \$12 Door Tickets: \$15



Also coming -- BRAD STINE!
Thursday, Nov 10 8:30 p.m. Wesley Chapel
Advance Tickets: \$12 Door Tickets: \$15

Special Ticket Pricing -- Both Concerts: \$20!
Tickets are available at the Houghton College Campus Store!
Check for special Houghton College student pre-release ticket prices!

Comics

The Camp Wrath Songbook



Stroke of Thursday

by Andrew Davis



Joe and Ducko

by Joseph Freeman



HOMECOMING SPOT AUDITIONS MONDAY

SEPT. 26 = THURSDAY, SEPT. 29

15 MINUTE SLOTS (7-10 p.m.)

SPOT WILL BE HELD HOMECOMING WEEKEND -- SATURDAY, OCT 8th
E-MAIL JESSE CRICELAIR OR BENJAMIN LOOS FOR A SLOT
PLEASE COME PREPARED WITH ENTIRE PERFORMANCE TO EXHIBIT
INCLUDING ANY FILMS

"BE GREAT IN ACT, AS YOU HAVE BEEN IN THOUGHT"
KING JOHN ACT 5, SCENE 1

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