

Byzantium:
The Lost Empire
Page 4

Track and Field
Begin Season Strong
Page 5



From the Editor's Desk:
Exposing Ourselves to the
Culture of Sin
Page 7

100
YEARS



THE HOUGHTON STAR

Volume 106, Issue 15

www.houghtonstar.com

February 5, 2010

Soulforce Equality Ride Visit



photo courtesy of www.soulforce.org

The Equality Ride, a sector of Soulforce, will be coming to Houghton, during a tour of 16 schools, on March 9 to discuss LGBTQ equality.

by Monica Sandreczki

On January 20, Houghton students received a campus wide e-mail informing them that the Equality Ride, a branch of Soulforce, a non-violent, interfaith organization, will visit campus on March 9. According to Caitlin MacIntyre, director of the 2010 Soulforce Q Equality Ride, the group is dedicated to seeking religious freedom for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning people (LGBTQ).

The Equality Ride is a bus trip of 21 Equality Riders who will be travelling across the north, south and midwestern United States, to 16 college campuses, including Bethel College, Baylor University, Malone University, and Houghton.

According to MacIntyre, the goal of the Ride is to "discuss and build relationships with people we might not normally get to," because many Christians don't interact with LGBTQ groups and "telling our stories is a good way to bring down

that wall and take away that mystery. We often make generalizations about the other side when we've never really met them."

According to MacIntyre, Soulforce sent out letters at the end of September 2009 to about 65 schools that they were considering visiting, and based on such circumstances as logistics and rider passion for the institution, planned their route. They asked the different school

Soulforce cont'd on page 3

Houghton Students Involved in Extreme Home Makeover

by Melissa Blosser

On January 24, an estimated ten million viewers watched ABC's two hour extended Extreme Makeover: Home Edition (EMHE) episode featuring an entire neighborhood on Buffalo's West Side. This time, Buffalo had the chance to stand out for something other than unemployment, crime, and lake effect snow.

EMHE's focus broadened from the individual story of the Powell family, whose home renovation was the original project of the show's crew, to the record breaking participation of over 6,000 volunteers and multiple Buffalo community organizations including David Homes, WNY AmeriCorps, Buffalo ReUse, and People for Urban Sustainable Housing (PUSH). WNY AmeriCorps records that this participation stretched into 109 distinct renovation projects in the Powells' Massachusetts Avenue neighborhood including the complete demolition and reconstruction of the Powell house, 7 full repainting projects, 3 roof and 5 porch renovations, 33 security light and 4 fence installations, and 2 community

Makeover cont'd on page 2

Secy. Kathleen Sebelius Holds Phone Conference with Student Reporters

by Johanna Hummelman

On January 26, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius held a conference call, along with the Center for Disease Control's Dr. Stephen Redd and 15-year old flu survivor Luke Duvall, to inform college reporters of H1N1 updates and to encourage vaccination. Sebelius started the conversation with a reminder of the importance of recognizing the uniqueness of H1N1, that "this is a young persons flu. People aged 24 and younger have been hit unusually hard by the H1N1 flu. And even those who don't have underlying health conditions, like asthma and diabetes, being younger puts folks at greater risk."

The main purpose of the conference call was to promote

the vaccine, as she stated, "getting vaccinated is by far the best way to protect yourself. It doesn't just keep you healthy, but protects those around you as well [...] Even if students only get a mild case of the flu, they can pass it on to others who are at serious risk of getting ill; kids with asthma or diabetes, or pregnant women - there's lots of vaccine available, so if someone hasn't gotten vaccinated yet, now is absolutely a great time."

Sebelius then passed the call to Duvall, a self-stated spokesperson for the H1N1 vaccine. Duvall was a young athlete in good health when he came down with a severe case of H1N1 last fall. Duvall recalled the rapidity and severity of the illness that led him to hospitalization. "I literally went to sleep and woke up, and lost 25% of my body weight."

Pneumonia developed in both of his lungs and he became dependent on a ventilator - all of this while in a medically-induced coma.

After 17 days in the hospital, Duvall was sent to a rehabilitation center. "I had to relearn how to eat and drink and walk and talk and all kinds of things," he said. "It was very frustrating because in such a short time all that had been taken from me. It was so hard to wrap my mind around how fast I lost it."

Duvall encouraged listeners to get the vaccine, as it had not been available to him at the time. "I've become a spokesperson to ensure that everybody gets the vaccine and understands that it isn't harmful, and that it can save your life, because I wouldn't want anybody

Sebelius cont'd on page 2

THE WORLD TO THERE

by Derek Schwabe

White House Hopes Family of Christmas Day Bomber Cooperates

White House officials revealed earlier this week that they have secured the cooperation of family members of Umar Farouk Abdul-Mutallab to help get the Christmas Day airline bomb suspect to start talking. The Obama administration has sought to tap these familial resources for two essential reasons. The first reason given was prevention of the possibility of further such attacks in the future. The second, critics claim, regards Obama's effort to combat a growing wave of negative public opinion which doubts the adequacy of his administration's response to the incident. After providing the U.S. some information in the early stages of the probe, Abdul-Mutallab stopped talking about his attempt to blow up an airliner with a bomb hidden in his underwear. It was only recently disclosed that on January 1, just days after the attempted terror attack, two FBI agents secretly flew to Lagos, Nigeria, to meet with officials of the CIA and the State Department. They began an extensive work with Abdul-Mutallab's family, and actually returned to the U.S. with two relatives in hopes of gaining further cooperation. Opponents of Obama call this investigation a waste of time, yet officials insist that it is the most effective way of gleaning information.

House to take up Health Care Reform Incrementally

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced Tuesday that the chamber will take up one piece of its health care bill as a separate provision next week. Facing solid opposition from all Republican members and specific concerns among

Democrats, Pelosi and other House Democrats have adopted a strategy of fragmenting the original Health Care plan into smaller, more digestible measures that can be passed incrementally. This week, they have begun by introducing their first increment, a proposal to deny the health insurance industry of its anti-trust exemption involving practices such as market allocation and price-fixing. Democrats, who, only months ago, were prepared to disregard a minority Republican opposition, have been forced to alter their strategy since the unexpected election of Congressman Scott Brown, which cost them their necessary 60 seat majority.

Pirates Seize North Korean-flagged ship off Somalian Coast

According to an EU anti-piracy task force, pirates seized a North Korean-flagged cargo ship Wednesday in the Gulf of Aden. The ship, the MV Rim, was noticed to have changed course and is heading for the Somali Basin, claim EU naval forces. The hijacking was also confirmed by two U.S. Navy ships working with NATO. The 4800 ton ship, owned by Libya's White Sea Shipping carries an unknown number of crew members and cargo. This is the second pirate related development that has occurred in the past week. Pirates released a Greek-owned vessel, the MV Filitsa on Monday, after hijacking it off Somalia. Owners were pressured into paying an unknown ransom. The Greek coast guard also said no one had been killed or injured on the vessel. In recent years, the unpatrolled coast off the unstable state of Somalia has become known as a haven for pirates. According to the International Marine Bureau, three regional ships attacks have already been confirmed this year, with expected continued trends.

Sebelius cont'd from page 1

else to go through the same things I went through." Just as Sebelius commented, Duvall also pushed that the vaccine is "not just for yourself, it's for everybody else."

After Duvall's story, Dr. Redd from the CDC briefly spoke about the concern of H1N1 becoming more prevalent again. "Flu is very unpredictable," he said. "The disease was first recognized last April at a time of year when flu normally doesn't circulate, and it continued to be transmitted during the summer, again a time of year when it is normally not seen." He also promoted the vaccine, as it is now widely available, stating "we know that there is a great chance to get vaccinated now, and to prevent this disease from occurring in the future; it really is a life-saving intervention."

The overall emphasis of the conference call was to encourage and maintain awareness of H1N1. The website, www.flu.gov, was

promoted by Sebelius for its information about prevention, the safety of the H1N1 vaccine, and for featuring a locator tool to find the nearest available vaccine. "Flu season isn't over yet," she said, recalling the 1950s flu pandemic when public health officials did not encourage the vaccine after the first wave of illness, under the assumption that the worst was over. However, "flu illness shot up dramatically in February and March, and hospitalizations and deaths increased as well," she stated. "We don't want to repeat that history lesson."

As Redd commented, flu is unpredictable, and even more so, due to the number of susceptible people who remain unvaccinated. "This is really one of the characteristics of a pandemic, it is this widespread susceptibility," he said. "We know that not everyone has gotten vaccinated, so there's a real opportunity for prevention here." ★

not only partnering to renovate Massachusetts Avenue but also leading the Extreme Food Drive Challenge and the Community Blood Drive. The Red Cross initiated the blood drive and encouraged people to donate in honor of the Powell family, according to senior Rebekah Miller who spent the fall semester in Buffalo interning with the Red Cross. The Red Cross took the opportunity to educate those at the blood drive and construction site about its emergency services and collected a total of 388 units of blood. "They left out a lot," said Miller in reference to the episode's silence on the Community Blood Drive and other events. "They did emphasize that they re-did the neighborhood; that was accurate. (The show) didn't present anything incorrectly."

Aimee Kelly, a 2009 Houghton graduate, worked with Upward Bound as an AmeriCorps team leader to coordinate the Extreme Food Drive Challenge. "EMHE challenged Buffalo to beat the record for the food drive, which was 6 tractor trailers of food," stated Kelley. "We had 85 tons of food which is definitely more than 6 tractor trailers. So out of the 160 plus shows that EMHE has done, we were the biggest drive." The food was funneled through Buffalo City Mission, a homeless shelter and recovery center, which filled its pantry and distributed the food to its partners.

Makeover cont'd from page 1

garden projects.

Even a special extension of the show's normal one-hour time slot could not fit in all of the activity that surrounded EMHE's time in Buffalo. During the week of November 7 to 14, around Western New York to help 2009, EMHE and volunteers were

money," stated Kelly. "It was on the news every day." According to Miller, police cars blocked off the work site from the general public, but inside were crowds of AmeriCorps workers, security, caterers including Subway and Dunkin' Doughnuts, neighborhood members, construction workers, and other volunteers that created a festive atmosphere. Even the city's notorious weather put its best foot forward and provided sunny, 60 degree days all week.

"The real test of the success of this is what happens over the next 12 months," said Chuck Massey, a longtime Buffalo resident and coordinator of Houghton's Office for Urban Connections. According to Massey, PUSH is advocating for the city government's permission to pilot a project to improve housing stock and create more energy efficient houses in the West Side. This project could involve up to 200 houses and would be targeted to train and employ neighborhood young people, continuing in the spirit and momentum of Extreme Makeover with a more long-term application.

Not least among the EMHE's contributions to the Buffalo is the positive image and pride that the show conveyed to viewers across the country. "The general reputation is an old declining Rust Belt city where it snows all the time," said Massey. "More than anything, this whole episode pictures Buffalo as a place where in the midst of struggle there is a great deal of hope and goodwill."

"They helped Buffalo look like a community that wanted to help others and help itself," stated Miller. "I think it did Buffalo justice." ★



Black-Eyed Susan
Acoustic Café
22 W. Main, Angelica

Feb 6:	Andrea Dodge	7:30
	<i>Folk / Blues Singer-Songwriter</i>	
Feb 13:	Retrofit	7:30
	<i>Country / Standards</i>	

Enjoy the mellow sounds of Jim Schwartz at 6pm
Lunch M-F 11-2 · Dinner Sat 4:30-11 · No Cover
585-466-3399 black-eyed-susan.com

Soulforce cont'd from page 1

administrations to let them know by November if the Ride could come or not.

When they received the original letter from Soulforce, the official response from Houghton was not to respond. Sharra Hynes, Vice President of Students Life and the Houghton liaison with Soulforce, said that Houghton found out in late December that the Equality Ride would be coming to Houghton and learned the exact date in January. Letters were then sent out to students, faculty, staff, parents of current students, and two of the Wesleyan districts with whom Houghton has close associations, informing them of the visit.

"We're excited to come to Houghton and have the conversations and form relationships with people and be a small part of what's already happening there," said MacIntyre.

According to MacIntyre, Houghton was selected because one of the Equality Riders is a former Houghton student and it is important for the riders to feel connected with the community that they are visiting.

Hynes said that Houghton did not ban the Equality Riders because given the nature of Houghton's campus, it can't be closed easily due to the county roads running through it, and also because, as an institution, we believe in Christian hospitality and demonstrating love and grace to those who come upon campus. Sharon Myers, Director of Public Relations, said that Houghton could have either banned them from the campus, which was not plausible, put together a huge event complete with presentations, which according to other CCCU schools who spent the time and money, was a bit overboard, or could meet in a middle approach—"preparing for that dialogue," said Myers. She added that colleges have banned the Riders in the past, but they have still visited.

According to Myers, once Houghton was notified that the Riders would be visiting, a planning committee, which she is part of, was put together to decide how best to respond to the visit. Though still very much in the decision-making process, one event that has been planned is a training session next Wednesday evening on the traditional Christian teaching of same sex relationships, said John Brittain, Dean of the Chapel and planning committee member. Different members of student groups, such as RAs, have been invited to this training, which will be led by Terry Paige, professor of New Testament Theology.

On the day of the visit, however, though a complete schedule has not been finalized, the Equality Riders will have a discussion time with campus administration, predominantly the

Student Life staff, a session with SGA leadership, and lunch in one of the dining rooms in the cafeteria with "campus constituencies," who are yet to be determined. The only public event will be a panel discussion in the chapel made up of Professor Rich Eckley, Kathy Elliot of Agape Christian Associates, and a Soulforce representative, and will be moderated by Dr. Mike Lastoria.

There is only one day of events scheduled, but, according to MacIntyre, the Equality Riders will remain in the Houghton community for a few more days to have community events and to try to build lasting relationships with members of the college and community.

While on campus, each rider will be accompanied by Houghton hosts. According to Hynes, this is a typical procedure for all visitors to the Houghton campus and the planning group for the visit modeled this schedule after other schools' preparations, such as Cedarville, Wheaton, Baylor, and Calvin, who have had successful visits with the Equality Ride. These hosts, who are yet to be decided, will escort the Riders, who will not be allowed to freely walk around the campus.

According to SGA President Zach Adams, hosts will go through an informational session to "equip [them] to be able to engage with the Equality Riders" on Houghton's policies and on individuals' beliefs based on Biblical training. Hynes said that the hosts, who will be students, faculty, and staff, will learn which components of the day they will be involved in and their responsibilities and obligations for the day. Thus far, the criterion for being a Houghton host has not been outlined and those who have been invited to next Wednesday's training session are not necessarily hosts.

According to MacIntyre, Riders have really valued having hosts because "it provides an opportunity to get to know someone one-on-one, taking it to that next step so that both will want to continue the relationship in the future."

The hosts, according to Adams, may have to "serve as a buffer between someone who comes up to a rider and wants to be hostile," and must also make sure that "the riders don't break any of the parameters" set up between Houghton and Soulforce in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). One parameter is that Equality Riders may not approach students, but students may initiate a conversation with a Rider.

According to Adams, each Rider will have two hosts and will not have open access to the campus. Hynes said that the reasoning for this is to enable to students to have a typical day at Houghton, if they so desire.

Adams said that there is a tension between it being a regular day for some students, but also creating a

**The most discriminating
Valentines prefer a gift of
hand-made chocolates from
the Angelica Sweet Shop.**

Sweet Shop Chocolate Crunch * Oreo Truffles
Peanut Butter Cups * Hand-filled Mints
Coconut Haystacks * or try new Borneo Truffle Bears



Open Sat-Thurs: 8-5, Fri: 8-8
VALENTINES DAY 8-5
Free Gift Wrapping!
We Deliver & Ship for You!
466-7070

TEXTBOOKS
BOUGHT & SOLD • NEW & USED
ONLINE BUYBACKS
BUY SELL RENT @
WWW.CHEAPBOOKS.COM
(800) 368-6111, ext. 101 (212) 368-1703,
urdu/hindi/portugol (718) 422-5661, see site for
other support lines.

ST. BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

GRAD SCHOOL IN YOUR FUTURE? EXTRAORDINARY!

Adolescence Education*

This program provides students who have a bachelor's in a content subject the opportunity to become initially certified to teach that subject in grades 7-12 in Pennsylvania and/or New York.

M.A. in English*

*Both offered only at St. Bonaventure's Olean campus

Information Session: March 25, 5:30-7 p.m.

www.sbu.edu/graduate • 800-462-5050 • gradsch@sbu.edu

"defining moment" for Houghton.

Professors will be allowed to invite Equality Riders to come to their classes if the day's lesson is applicable.

Both Hynes and Adams agreed that there would be a wide range of student response to the Equality Ride. Hynes said that she expects some students to not even interact with the Riders, but that the hosts, for example, will be able to "demonstrate Christ's love to them" and see this as a "chance to serve," and that to others, "just the presence of the riders on campus is disturbing because of the beliefs that [the Riders] hold, so for some students, it could be a difficult experience."

MacIntyre said that, in the past, at other schools, students have reacted in a variety of ways. Some have "welcomed them with open arms and really wanted us to be there" but others have gone as far as to completely forbid their students from speaking to the visiting Riders.

"We don't want [the visit] to be tense and have people feel

uncomfortable, but have a day that's...productive for everyone involved," said MacIntyre.

Hynes said that her hope is "that this equips our students with an ability to talk about a very sensitive topic" because they will, when they leave Houghton, "interface with people who claim a LGBTQ lifestyle and I want our students to feel that they are able to articulate their own beliefs and treat people with civility and respect even if they differ on their beliefs and values, and I think that will be the case of our students that the truth that they claim that is based in Scripture, will butt up against the truth that these people claim in terms of the lifestyle that they are living out."

"We don't expect that one visit will make the school change its policy [on homosexual behavior]," said MacIntyre. "We may not always agree. We might not change each others' minds...but we can continue growth on Houghton's campus."

★

Lars Brownworth's Byzantium: The Lost Empire

by Christopher Hartline

On Tuesday, February 2nd, the Houghton College Lecture Series presented "Byzantium: Rome's Lost Empire," playing host to Lars Brownworth, author of *Lost to the West: The Forgotten Byzantine Empire that Rescued Western Civilization* and creator of the "12 Byzantine Rulers" podcast.

Brownworth, in his podcasts as well as his lecture, chose to tell the story of the Byzantine Empire by focusing on a few of its rulers and showing the impact they had on the Byzantine culture and other cultures to follow. After

Constantine the Great, Justinian was the next great Byzantine emperor and is most renowned for his contributions to the modern legal system. He codified and published Roman law which has become the basis for all Western law.

The Byzantine Empire also influenced modern medicine in many ways. They invented the idea of a "modern hospital" with different wings separated by disease, and specialized surgeons. Brownworth even related the Byzantine health system to current events by stating that "the Byzantines experimented with subsidized health care. For you Conservatives, they failed."

Perhaps the most important gift the Byzantine Empire imparted to cultures to follow was their library, which was eventually threatened by the advancement of the Ottoman Empire. As the Ottoman Empire moved closer to Constantinople, Constantine XI moved the library, which contained writings by Plato, Aristotle and other classical writers, out of the city saving them for posterity.

Lars Brownworth, a 1997 graduate of Houghton College, has played a significant role in advancing historical studies into the technological age. After graduation, Brownworth began working at a small Christian school in Stony Brook, New York where he taught everything from history, his passion, to math, his least favorite subject. Eventually his love of history, and especially Roman history, led him to research the Byzantine Empire—the relatively unknown descendent of the Roman Empire. Brownworth's brother, Anders, who is an executive at a technology company, persuaded him to record a lecture on the basic history of the Byzantine Empire.

A year later, Anders Brownworth turned the lecture into a podcast and posted it on iTunes, without telling his brother. It was an instant success. His podcast "12 Byzantine

Rulers", which in its entirety has 17 episodes, was named one of the most influential podcasts by Apple and now has about 140,000 subscribers.

The great French philosopher Voltaire called the study of Byzantine history "a disgrace to the human mind." However, Brownworth emphasizes that any failure to appreciate the Byzantine Empire stems from a failure to understand its history. His lecture on Tuesday night was a brief overview of the Byzantine Empire from its rise to its fall. It rose in the year 324 when Constantine the Great moved the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire to Byzantium and renamed the city Constantinople while also allowing Christianity within the empire. Essentially, the Byzantine Empire was the extension of the remnant of the Roman Empire allowing the culture and traditions to remain relatively unchanged.

When Constantinople fell on May 29, 1453, the Ottoman Empire finally achieved what Brownworth called "the long cherished dream of Islam to take Constantinople." A Christian historian could easily be tempted to push his ideological perspective while presenting such a historically volatile event. However, Brownworth neither glorified the Christian Byzantines nor vilified the Islamic Ottomans, which demonstrates his efforts to "just tell a story and let the reader make conclusions."

★



Photo by Wesley Dean

Brownworth is author of *Lost to the West: The Forgotten Byzantine Empire that Rescued Western Civilization* and creator of "12 Byzantine Rulers."

Soc. and Psych. Clubs Present: *Money-Driven Medicine*

by Amy Buckingham

On Tuesday, February 2nd, the Sociology and Psychology clubs along with Evangelicals for Social Action provided a campus wide screening of the documentary "Money-Driven Medicine." The film is based on Maggie Mahar's book by the same name and directed by Academy Award Winning Filmmaker Alex Gibney.

The documentary tackled the state of the current healthcare system in the United States by attempting to answer big questions like "What is the cause of the troubles of the health care system?" "How are these problems changing the doctor patient relationship?" and "Where is all of the money dedicated to health care being spent?"

The documentary focused on the financial problems with the healthcare system and the negative effects that the system has on the American people, whether insured and uninsured. Many health problems go untreated despite the 2.6 trillion dollars that currently

goes into the healthcare system.

The face of healthcare has changed drastically within the last 30 years, with a shift in focus from quality patient care to profit and the bottom line. According to Mahar, "health care went from being physician centered and controlled, to a large degree, by doctors to being controlled by the corporation and the CEOs of those corporations," changing the role of the doctor from one who takes each patient and helps them through every step of their visit to doctors serving "units" of care and focusing on expediency. This has lowered the quality of care and has even led to competition between care-providers, in some cases hoarding treatments for the sake of the financial edge.

The fear of malpractice suits leads doctors to order unnecessary tests that raise costs for patients and hospitals alike. Advertising for hospitals and pharmaceutical companies often exacerbates the problem, encouraging patients to request these unnecessary

tests, leading to more financial waste.

The U.S. dedicates a large amount of money to advances in medical technology and rescue care. This means that the U.S. is far ahead of other countries in terms of progressive treatments, but it also means that little money is spent on treating chronic and preventative illnesses.

Following the documentary, a panel of five professors discussed the film and answered questions from the audience. The panel included Professor of Business and Economics, Bobby Black; Professor of Psychology, Paul Young; Professor of Political Science, Peter Meilaender; Professor of Education, Connie Finney; and Dr. David Brubaker.

Young noted that the rhetoric and emotional appeals clouded the actual argument. Black also recognized that, while they talked to primary care physicians, the documentary did not address the American Medical Association, pharmacists, insurance agencies or specialty physicians – all

key players in the healthcare system. The panel discussed the leading role of money in the healthcare system, and while the documentary painted it in a negative light, Black disagreed, "Try doing healthcare without money. Try bartering... would they rather have barter driven-medicine?"

The purpose of health insurance was also discussed and the panelists talked about the shift from catastrophe insurance, in which an insurance company only covers large sums for important treatments, rather than a trip to the doctor for a sniffle, in much the same way that car insurance does not cover gas or tune-up expenses, but rather only car wrecks. While this is an interesting comparison, Brubaker pointed out that with health insurance, there is one main difference – lives are at stake.

Both the film and the panel discussion introduced the attendees to the crucial questions that American politicians are currently addressing as they attempt to reform the health care system.

★

Track and Field Team Runs to a Fast Start

by Aaron Martin

After just two meets, the Houghton College indoor track and field season has been marked by 12 individual records and two qualifications to the NAIA National Championships, to be held March 3-6 in Johnson City, Tennessee. With 28 underclassmen and only six seniors on the roster, many new faces have had to fill voids left by more experienced runners.

Junior mid-distance runner Darby Emerson has been in on much of the early season success, qualifying for the National Tournament in the 800-meter event and breaking the Houghton record in the 500-meter event. She established a new record with a time of 1:20.24 at this past weekend's Class of '32 Invitational, held at Colgate University. She is also a member of the women's distance relay team, which qualified for the National Tournament, along with sophomores Courtney Coiro and Danielle Brenon, and junior Heather Sayre.

On the men's side of the action, Davy Jones finished sixth in the 55-meter dash at the Orange and Maroon Classic at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania. In field events, junior Hannah Gardner and sophomore Brandice Draheim both finished in the top 10 in the weight throw at this same meet – fourth and seventh, respectively. Junior Trevor Pearsall also eclipsed his personal best.

The departure of coaches Matt Dougherty and Pete Wheatley has left the majority of coaching responsibilities on longtime

Houghton track and field coach Bob Smalley. Sophomore distance runner Megan Platt said that "he has the biggest heart for God, and this shows in his leadership and coaching. He challenges us not only as athletes, but also in our faith. I could not imagine where the track team would be without the dedication and strong coaching of Coach Smalley."

With essentially three teams to coach (distance runners, sprinters/jumpers, and throwers), Smalley has found much-needed assistance with the distance runners from former standout Dan Ballard, a Houghton record holder and member of the class of 2009. Jones acknowledges that Ballard has been "a big help given the large amount of knowledge that Dan has concerning the sport from all the years he has run. Coach Smalley does still have to split his time between sprinters and throwers, so the times that he can't be around, it's up to the athletes to motivate and coach each other."

As a team, the indoor track and field athletes aspire to build trusting relationships with one another that transcend the track season. Jones said, "We want the team to be close and supportive of each other, both on the track and around campus in everyday life." The team's goals are not only directed toward the Houghton campus, but beyond its boundaries as well. Platt points out, "One of our biggest team goals is to run, throw and jump for God's glory. The majority of schools we compete against are not Christian schools, so every Saturday we are presented with

the opportunity to be a light to a huge number of athletes who also love to do what we do."

As for all the individual records, Jones points to hard work and dedication as the key. "It goes beyond what most people call 'practice' and turns into a lifestyle of eating right, sleeping well, and training hard."

On February 13, the indoor track and field team will travel to the Kane Invitational at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. ★

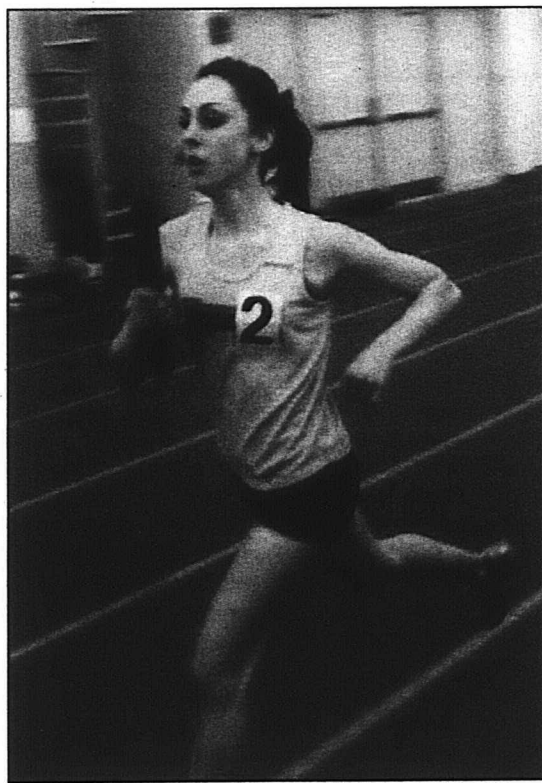
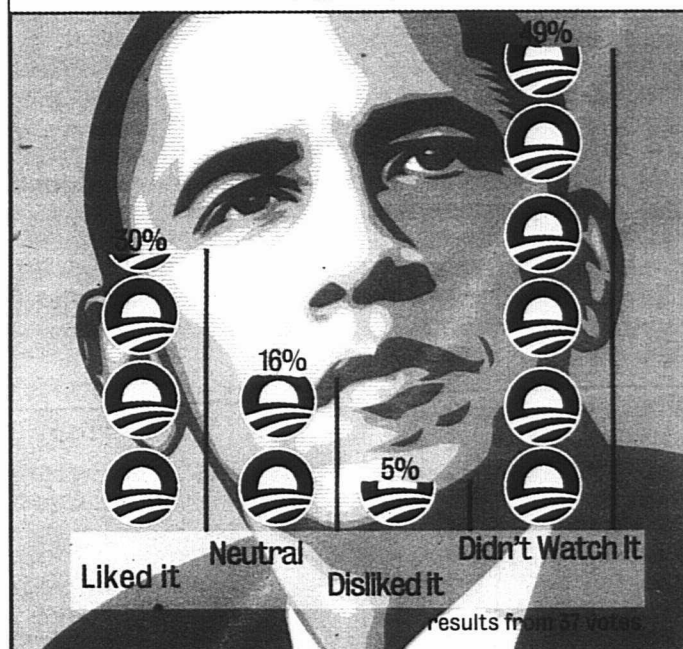


Photo by Ian Gates

Sophomore Danielle Brenon at the Class of '32 Invite.

Online Poll: What was your take on Obama's first

State of the Union address?



Visit www.houghtonstar.com for:

New Recipes from the Custom Caf
New Poll: What do YOU think of Soulforce?
New Correspondence from our readers
...and lots more...

Guest Executive Dinner

EARL JOHNSON

Strong National Museum of Play



Thursday, Feb. 11th

5:00 pm

South End Dining Room

OPEN TO ALL

RSVP to Molly.Spear@houghton.edu by 2/10

Rebuilding Haiti, Reforming International Aid

by Suzanne Derksen

There is nothing like a natural disaster to rally the generosity of the American people. Only a week after the devastating earthquake hit the Haitian capital, donations to the relief efforts totaled nearly \$220 million, in addition to the U.S. government pledge of \$100 million. In the past two weeks, advertisements for fundraising banquets, Facebook groups, and text-message campaigns have flooded my inbox to urge me to give to relief efforts in Haiti. My favorite was a "Cookies Without Borders" bake sale to support Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF).

Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. Like so many other people, I watched CNN on the morning of January 13 and asked myself, "How could this devastation happen to a country that can least afford it economically?"

Haiti is also one of the nations to receive the most foreign aid. Perhaps a better question to ask is, "Why have our donations failed to relieve poverty?" and "How has our history of foreign aid set the stage for the devastation of the Haitian earthquake?" The staggering death toll is perhaps not directly a result of the earth-shattering quake, but rather a result of poor infrastructure and chronic poverty.

In her book *Dead Aid*, Dambisa Moyo says that we have little to show for the trillions of U.S. dollars given

to developing countries. Regardless of our Christian motivations, aid has failed to generate economic growth and improve the quality of life for our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

So why has aid failed Haiti? There are many reasons, one of the most important being its system of governance. Since 1957, Haiti has endured several brutal dictatorships, a civil war, and a coup d'état. We may have given billions of dollars to Haiti's development, but we have done little to address the institutional capacity of Haiti's government. Moyo states that "political institutions are the backbone of a nation's development."

The Haitian president, along with thousands of other displaced citizens, is now living in the airport. Haiti, classified by political scientists as a "fragile state," could be more accurately described as a non-functional one. The chaos of a relief situation will naturally cater to lawbreakers and rabble-rousers, and desperate people will go to dangerous extremes to ensure security. The fall of the state penitentiary released hundreds of prisoners into the streets. In a nation that so badly needs political stability, the only thing that remains stable is the high rate of crime and

civil unrest.

While I am inspired by the generosity of the American people, and while I support giving money to disaster situations, I believe that we are now paying for some of the consequences of misdirected foreign aid to Haiti. Decades of dumping aid on the Haitian government has in fact exacerbated poverty and even caused economic regression. While the depth of Haiti's poverty cannot be explained by any single factor, I do wonder if the billions of dollars of American foreign aid have somehow contributed to the scope and scale of the earthquake's devastation.

To be fair, the urgency of a disaster situation does have a place for international donors. Americans give money from a variety of motivations, and often out of a deep sense of morality and compassion. In disaster situations, our giving affirms our common humanity and sends a message of support to our neighbors in the developing world. But even our most humanitarian intentions are lost in the bureaucracy of the modern world. Moyo states that only nine months after the 2004 tsunami, World Vision had spent less than a quarter of the \$100

million it had raised – travel costs, bureaucracy, and the inefficiency within the organization had eaten up the majority of donations.

So while we in the West shout "Give more!" "Do something!" we put a band-aid over the underlying issues of chronic poverty. If our commitment to Haiti is to be real and sustained, we must address systems of governance and the cultural ethos that keeps Haitians in a cycle of poverty.

Lest I sound like a Scrooge, I would encourage the student body to continue to drop off their spare change and donate to the Hunger for Haiti fund. The immediate needs of food, water, and medical supplies will be critical in the coming months, and we give out of the compassion in our hearts and a deep solidarity with the Haitian community. Houghton is exploring the possibility of sending a team of students in partnership with World Hope, but perhaps we should also think about directing our money to support Haitian relief workers.

As you give, think about this: Haiti's earthquake must mark a turning point in humanitarian strategies. Rather than a steady deluge of foreign aid, we ought to seek out strategies that promote strong local capacity and empowerment.

Suzanne Derksen is a senior Intercultural Studies major

Interested in writing a Commentary Article for the Star?
Contact Mitchell.Edwards@houghton.edu

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In last week's edition of *The Houghton Star*, John-Mark Kane published an article called "Alumnus on Homosexuality: Determined or Free?" In it, he cited the article "What it is Like to be Gay at Houghton." He expressed the idea that the article exposed the complex nature of homosexuality. However, the author's notion of homosexuality as a complex nature was simplistic, because he did not give the opposing side any serious consideration. The only pro-homosexuality claim was that

it felt irresistibly good.

Kane described his position as "the Christian response," but it was an exclusively conservative viewpoint. His description of people of other religions or beliefs as "pagan" is prejudiced. The term pagan is a derogatory term for people who are not Christians; it implies that they are hedonistic and immoral. This Jim Crowism is equivalent to the rhetoric of the Islamic fundamentalists who condone terrorist attacks on people who do not share the same creed.

This kind of bigoted thinking from Houghton College students is not uncommon. When students express the idea that they do not like people, it is common for them to say "because they are not Christians," as though people who are not Christians are somehow innately immoral and do not have the capacity to think and act rationally. This is, essentially, a

form of superstition.

During an FYI meeting discussing the book *UnChristian*, FYI leaders were not even willing to entertain the viewpoint of those who opposed them on the issue of homosexuality. The first question to the freshmen during this FYI meeting was: "Do you think that homosexuality is overemphasized as sin?" This question does not allow for the possibility of bipartisan debate. With just one question, the idea of connecting to people of other persuasions was annihilated.

Kane tries to use science to defend his position. He claimed the existence of a connection between "sexual abuse and sexual deviancy from its created intent." The notion of the "created intent of sexuality" is questionable because this is a theological doctrine, not a

Letter Cont'd on pg 7

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 exchange
of ideas, and encourages community members 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 contributions
for reasons of length or decorum.

From the Editor's Desk...

Exposing Ourselves to the Culture of Sin

by Micah Warf

The aesthete has no place at Houghton. Hopefully, someday soon, he or she will. But in this particular moment, the honest exploration of culture takes a backseat to considerations of appropriateness and utility.

We have an outstanding art gallery, to be sure. But the works therein are carefully chosen so as not to offend or disrupt. In the event that the odd nude or two does slip in, unnoticed, we put up warning signs to discourage unnecessary arousal.

Our library houses quite the collection of literature and film, but anything with a tinge of the outside world is slapped with a sticker, cautioning the astute Christian about the seeds of Satan there contained. Some students even take it upon themselves to scratch up DVDs like *Boogie Nights* and *Pulp Fiction*. Even then, there are many genres of film and literature that are absent from our library.

We have a fairly good number of concerts in Wesley Chapel each year, and the artists showcased are often very talented. But it is an unspoken rule that these artists must either outspokenly attach themselves to a Christian worldview, or play strictly instrumental music, so that any aberrant messages won't have a verbal outlet.

So what's the matter with that? After all, we're a Christian

institution that focuses on whatever is noble, whatever is pure, and so forth. Naked people, dirty music, racy films, literature of the drug culture? These things don't fit the mold - they're extraneous, and unnecessary.

But are they, really? I would argue that what meets Houghton's standards in art, literature, film and music is less and less representative of the culture we're a part of, and the world with which we're supposed to be engaging. The insights, thoughts, and messages that are presented to us by the arts as defined by Houghton are diverging more and more from what our culture is telling itself, and what its prophets are shouting in the avenues of the mind.

This is one of my deepest concerns regarding Houghton: that acquiring the ability to situate oneself culturally, teleologically, and spiritually in the postmodern West is an uphill battle at best and a non-existent issue at worst. Not for lack of classroom education, mind you - rather, for lack of extracurricular education. There are certainly professors who present and discuss avant-garde artworks, controversial novels, and edgy films. But what about interaction with only our education and culture as context, rather than interaction

within the confines of a structured lecture, where the professor will keep you safe from the badness, and somehow make sure that

...what meets
Houghton's standards
in art, literature, film
and music is less and
less representative of...
the world with which
we're supposed to be
engaging...

you receive a Christian insight from the dark materials? This is an opportunity that Houghton students largely lack. On our labeled, censored, Web-sensed campus we don't have the chance to engage with the active cultural voices of our day.

This line of thought is not without its risks - after all, there are reasons that Houghton has chosen to distance itself from much of contemporary Western culture. There are depressing, harmful, hateful, frightening, and degenerate ideas out there that can have a powerful influence. I'm not saying that none of us could be negatively or even irreversibly affected by such things. But if we're not taking that chance, then what are we learning? What is our picture of postmodern, post-Christian society starting to look like?

To understand what the world has been and what it is becoming is not a job for everyone - in fact, it may not even be a job for many. It is sometimes a dirty, disturbing job, because it is sometimes a dirty, disturbing world. But if it is not up to us, the privileged, elite, and (comparatively) highly educated

Christians of the emerging generation, then on whose shoulders should this task fall? On the soon-to-retire professors because "they can handle it"? On the underprivileged and uneducated, because "that's how they grew up"? It's our job to look at the pictures our peers are painting, to listen to the songs they're writing, to watch the films they're making. Talk about "global engagement" is deceptive drivel if we can't even drive to Buffalo and resonate with the struggle of the everyman caught in the dizzying postmodern world.

I'm a dreamer, I know. Houghton will never be a place where Marlene Dumas hangs in the Ortlip Gallery, Charlie Kaufman films are shown in the chapel, and Animal Collective is stopping in on tour. But the best-kept secret about higher education is that the students are always right - it's up to the students of Houghton College to think about what I'm writing, and to reconsider what their education looks like, what it's not, and just maybe, what it could be. Only then is there a chance that Houghton will stop distancing its students from the "wrong" parts of culture, and actually let them eat with the sinners.

Micah Warf is a senior Philosophy and Guitar Performance major and is Associate/Web Editor

Letter Cont'd from pg 6

piece of scientific information.

Kane also mentioned Leanne Payne's book "The Broken Image," which he claimed shows an innate connection between homosexuality and trauma. However, this book was entirely theological; the subtitle was revealing: "Restoring Personal Wellness Through Healing and Prayer." The book had six stories about people who overcame unwanted homosexual attractions through their Christian faith.

Lastly, Kane cited the book *Homosexuality and The Politics of Truth* by Jeffrey Satinover, who is supposedly a renowned scholar. This book claims that sexual orientation is reversible; this notion is far from what is accepted in the scientific community, and this book is not widely accepted as a source for the science on homosexuality. The notion that homosexuality is innately

connected to trauma and depression is far from the conclusion of the scientific community.

While it may be true that certain people may act as homosexuals because of trauma or abuse, it does not follow that is a general trend. Homosexuals experience seclusion from much of society, and the prejudice against them is still strong.

Christians, regardless of denomination, should make the church a safe place where discussions on divisive issues can take place.

- William Evans, Class of 2013

Correction: An article in Issue 14, printed on January 29, 2010, was mistakenly titled "Buffalo Restaurant Review: Mother's." The correct title is "Newbrough Wows Audience with Outstanding Performance."

2009- 2010 STAR Staff

Joel VanderWeele
Editor-in-Chief

Micah Warf
Associate Editor

Amy Buckingham
Sports and Culture Editor

Monica Sandreczki
News Editor

Mitch Edwards
Commentary Editor

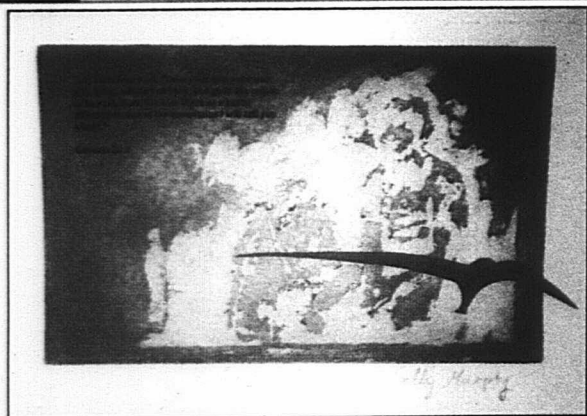
Sandy Stark
Business Manager

Prof. Ben Lipscomb
Advisor

Laura Jackson
Renee Roberts
Stewart LaPan
Emily Rinehart
Colleen White
Erika Bremer
Joella Eppehimer
Elisa Shearer
Lauren Kososki
Re-write Staff

Kristen Palmer
Re-write Manager

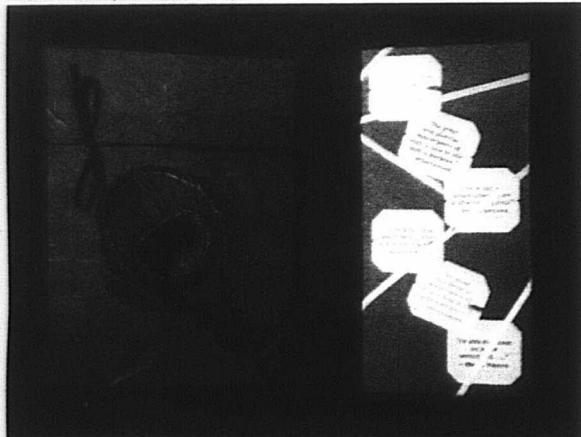
Wesley Dean
Staff Photographer



Father and Son, Lye Etching with Shincole



Gently (inside), illustrated with cutout and watercolor



Sunset Boulevard and Mit Freundin, Books: mixed media

OF THE artist WEEK

Notes from the artist:

I guess my artist statement would have to have something to do with a quote from one of my favorite movies, *All About Eve*. Margo Channing, the protagonist, is a fading movie star with a tendency to lash out in her frustration. She exclaims, "So many people know me. I wish I did. I wish someone would tell me about me." The reply comes from her good friend Karen who simply says, "You're Margo, just Margo."

A person is made of so many experiences and thoughts and influences we can never figure it all out entirely. Often I wish someone would tell me about me. And all the time I want to tell others about them. And the only way I know how to do that is through art.



Homeschooled, Solar Plate with Shincole

SALLY MURPHY



Gently, and Lil' Baby Birds, Books: mixed media and watercolor

sudoku CHALLENGE

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

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

Congratulations, Hannah Carter, last week's sudoku winner!

THIS SUDOKU IS
EASY

Prize: Leroy Townes and the Lone Stars' album!

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

THIS SUDOKU IS
HARD