



# THE HOUGHTON STAR

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## Stack Fills New Position as Dean of Students

By Rebekah Miller

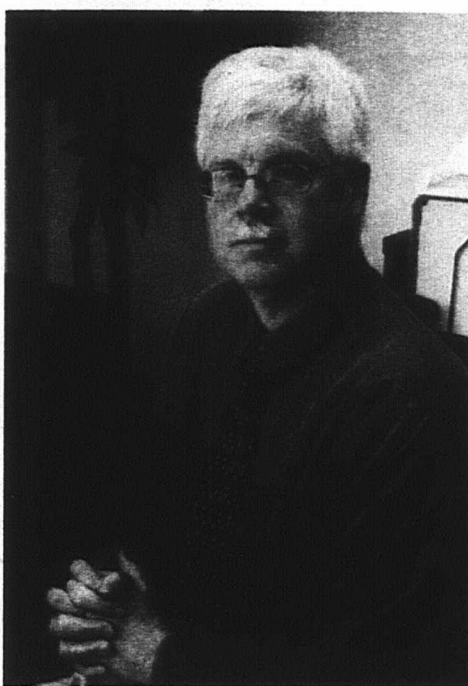
After a major reshaping of the office of Student Life, Dennis Stack was hired to fill the position of Dean of Students beginning June 1. While Stack's position as Dean of Students is still being defined, Stack will be the primary officer on campus dealing with student discipline. In addition, he will supervise various areas in Student Life and Residence Life, and will coordinate retention efforts from the Student Life area with the goal of keeping students from transferring or dropping out of school altogether.

Stack speculated on the purpose for this reshaping of Student Life saying, "There were times when there were not enough hours in the day for the Vice President [of Student Life] to do Dean of Students-type issues." Acknowledging that one of his primary duties on campus will be his role in student discipline, Stack advocates for a wider role than just a disciplinarian. "This job is not just about [discipline], it's not even half about that, we don't have enough discipline issues on campus to hire a full time person, but we want to do it right when we do it."

As Dean of Students, Stack will

be on the chain of appeals for judiciary action. The process for dealing with what Stack calls "certain issues" generally starts with the Residence Director (RD). From the RD, the issue can be appealed to the Dean of Students, and from the Dean of Students to Vice President for Student Life Sharra Hynes or the recently renamed Student Conduct Committee. Stack admits, "If there are questions that are going to be about discipline, I'm going to access [Vice President Hynes'] wisdom, believe me."

Stack is looking forward to his new administrative position. Even after an extensive hiring process that included a variety of interviews with faculty, the Student Life Leadership team, the President's staff and Dr. Mullen, as well as participation in student forums, Stack is looking forward to the "diversity of duties" his job will require. "What I do right now...as a housing per-



Dennis Stack, the new Dean of Students

son...is very cyclical from year to year...But I think that that's going to be different because as the challenges come up they change every year."

Stack is preparing for these challenges. Building off of his recently earned Masters degree in Higher Education, Stack is preparing for these challenges. Building off of his recently earned Masters degree in Higher Education, Stack is preparing for these challenges. Building off of his recently earned Masters degree in Higher Education, Stack is preparing for these challenges.

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## "Sacrifice": Lanthorn Releases Latest Collection

By Kyle Johnson

On an evening filled with rich poetry, coffee, and fellowship, a gathering of poets, writers, artists, and appreciators alike came together for the celebration of a Houghton tradition exceeding 90 years. The current staff of the Lanthorn, a regular publication of poetry, prose, and art by members of the Houghton community, hosted a coffeehouse this past Wednesday to celebrate the release of their latest publication.

Currently released every semester, the Lanthorn is the continuation of a tradition of student expression dating back to 1913. With contributors not limited to Writing or English majors, but showcasing students from virtually every academic discipline, the Lanthorn offers a rare view into the hearts and minds of all parts of the Houghton community. For writers, the Lanthorn is a great opportunity for publication. "It's fun," reflects contributor Benjamin Hammer. This semester's collection also features

cover art by Jessica Stoddard. A special treat in this edition is the inclusion of a work by Dr. Jack Leax, who is being honored at the upcoming Alumni Writing Festival for his 40 years at Houghton.

The Lanthorn has long stood as a form of expression for Houghton students outside of class. So, what does this semester's publication reveal about what our community is thinking about now? "Religion and love," according to Matt Whittemore, who is one of the current Lanthorn editors. Specifically, an increase in works considering spiritual reflection was a particular distinctive of this edition. Chloe Ackerman, the current editor-in-chief who is well versed in the history of the Lanthorn recalls that, "in our decade, there hasn't been a lot of religious, thematic undercurrents at all. This semester was the first time I've seen such a huge presence, just so much poetry about how we're interacting with God." Pieces reflecting these trends vary from pensive reflections

on the nature of God, to metaphors about the Biblical account of the fall. According to, "It was beautiful."

With the much-discussed international financial crisis, and its consequences here on campus, on the minds of everyone at Houghton it is no surprise that this had an effect on the form and function of the Lanthorn and its release. The official theme of this semester's publication was "sacrifice." Although not all the contributions chosen for publication reflect this theme, ideas surrounding sacrifice are still an important part of its spirit. In choosing this theme, the Lanthorn staff "wanted people to recognize sacrifice in our community and how so many people have done so much to make it as good as it can be in this time of economic crisis," says Ackerman.

Although the Lanthorn has normally only contained poetry and artistic prose, an aberration from this format was made to bring focus to the chosen theme. For the first time, the Lanthorn continued on page 2

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## Interview with Satirist Joe Garden

By Joel VanderWeele

Interview with Joe Garden, Features Editor for The Onion: America's Finest News Source.

STAR: First of all, what is The Onion?

Joe Garden: The answer I always give is that The Onion is like USA Today with fart jokes. I guess not fart jokes, but it's a satirical news weekly. We focus on current events, although not the most current events because we're a weekly. And we have, you know, a focus on the media as well. We make fun of the news; we make fun of the way the news is delivered; we even make fun of the people reading the news.

STAR: How does working at a satirical newspaper differ from working at a "normal" newspaper?

JG: Well, I have never worked at a regular newspaper, so I can't give a really good answer to that. We pitch stories, just like a normal newspaper. But we're not bogged down, you know, by anything like getting things right. We just do and say pretty much what we want and then we make sure everything is spelled right. That's how we do it. On top of that, like a normal newspaper, we pitch stories to our editors and we make sure that our stories are very much in an AP (Associated Press) news style. So as much as we try to make jokes, part of the joke is that everything is written so dry and so semi-professionally. And I think that's the best way to do it. I think it's important to always remember that it's always funnier in the long run if you look at the greater joke as a whole. You can't just jump from joke to joke, otherwise it will get really choppy and it's not going to read very well or be very funny. But if you look at it as a whole, and you manage to bolster it with a good structure, and get it to read like a real news story, that's the best way to do it. We try to keep a voice like that.

STAR: Do you ever run into trouble coming up with material?

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Margaret Boecker

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# THE WORLD out there

By Monica Sandreczki

## Columbian Drug Lord Caught

Colombian authorities arrested a most wanted drug lord, Daniel Rendon Herrera, or "Don Mario," on Wednesday. Authorities had been chasing Rendon for months. He was a member of a now demobilized body of parliament, and used his parliamentary networks to form a personal army of 1000 armed fighters. He is accused of smuggling hundreds of tons of cocaine out of the Caribbean coast. Colombia is the world's largest cocaine producer and much of that cocaine is smuggled through Mexico into the United States. The US has been the main source of funding of anti-drug programs in Colombia. At the beginning of the program, coca growing declined, but it grew by 27% in 2007.

## Four Point Anti-Piracy Plan

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has unveiled a plan to get rid of Somali piracy. She has said that improving situations in Somalia is key and that an expanded international effort is needed. Clinton has also said that freezing the pirates' assets is necessary too. As part of the Four Point Plan, the US will send an envoy to the Somali donors' conference on April 23 in order to make the Somali situation better. Clinton has made it clear that it is time to eliminate the pirates' financial assets. "We will also reiterate to all concerned the US policy of making no concessions or ransom payments to hostage takers," said Clinton. She also said that Somali political leaders must punish pirates operating from bases within the country's boundaries. Recently, the USS Liberty Sun was attacked by pirates, but was able to escape; this attack was, according to one Somali pirate, revenge for the recent killing of several pirates. The French navy has captured 11 pirates off the coast of Kenya.

## Cloned Camel

The world's first cloned camel was born last week in Dubai. Scientists took DNA from an ovary in an adult camel and implanted in an egg from a surrogate mother and named it Injaz, which means "achievement" in Arabic. Injaz is genetically identical to the camel from which the DNA was taken and weighs approximately 65lbs. In 1996, Dolly the sheep, the world's first cloned mammal was born, and since then,

scientists have cloned such animals as mice, dogs, and cows.

## Soldier Found Guilty

Master Sergeant John Hatley has been found guilty in the murder of four Iraqi soldiers in 2007. He was convicted at a court martial in southern Germany and faces up to life in prison. In addition, he was found guilty on a conspiracy to commit murder charge, but was acquitted on the charge of obstruction of justice. In early 2007, Hatley and his soldiers found four Iraqi men near a stronghold of sniper rifles. The men should have been released, but, instead, were bound, blindfolded, then killed. Supposedly, their bodies were thrown into a canal, but they have never been recovered. Hatley was convicted on eyewitness accounts, including two from soldiers already convicted in the murders. He was one of seven people involved, but only the third to be convicted of murder.

## Singapore Falls

In the first quarter of 2009, Singapore's economy shrank by almost 20%, the largest recorded decrease in the country. Singapore's government now expects the GDP to fall by 6%-9% this year compared with previous estimates of 2%-5%. Its manufacturing output fell by nearly 30% in the first three months of the year and it is not expected to recover quickly. Since most of Singapore's trading partners are still in the midst of recession, it is likely that Singapore will not come out of their economic downturn within the year. Earlier this year, the country announced a \$13 billion stimulus package.

## Channel Blockade Continues

Trawler blockades along the northern coast of France have sent the fishing industry to a grinding halt and slowed business from all over the world, as the ports at Calais, Boulogne and Dunkirk are some of the busiest freight terminals worldwide. French fishermen are protesting the rising EU fishing quotas and demanding the French government take a stand on their behalf or offer more financial assistance. There has even been pressure by one French union to extend the blockade to the Eurotunnel. On Wednesday, French ministers refused protesters' demands for increased cod quotas.

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Education, Stack is taking inspiration from influential administrators in his life, including Vice President Hynes and former Vice President for Student Life Dr. Robert Danner. In addition to reading books on philosophy and theory, he plans to attend seminars over the summer concerning diversity and higher education law. He eagerly plans on pursuing his Doctorate within the next year. "You can tell I've been out of school for a little while," he laughed.

Despite his preparation for the role, Stack anticipates a learning curve. "There are times when it can just be overwhelming because there's so much to learn."

However, when he looks back at the end of each week, he feels "pretty good about the week." For Stack, this has been a process that calls for his reliance on Christ for wisdom. "It keeps you on your knees," he testified. This reliance on Christ is, for Stack, a critical part of his position. "I don't think you want a person in any of these types of positions who is not seeking wisdom from above."

Proactively seeking improvement with student-administration communication, Stack intends to create what he calls "Dinners with the Dean." In an effort to expand public perception of the Dean of

Students as more than a disciplinarian, Stack plans on organizing weekly dinners (or lunches) with various groups of students on campus in an effort "to know what people are thinking" and give students the opportunity to ask Student Life questions as well. This idea was the result of one aspect of Stack's interview process where he was asked to eat dinner with students and listen to their conversation as Greg Bish,

Director of Student Programs, facilitated the conversation. "They were asked questions and I just ate and listened. It was interesting to hear the things the students were thinking that I didn't know. I've been here 11 years and there were things I

**"Student life is for the students. There's a reason it's called student life; it's not called administrative life."**

didn't know."

As far as relations between Students, SGA in particular, and Administration are concerned, Stack speculates on improvement. "I think it's been really good [with this past student government] because it's just easier to be collaborative with people who want to be collaborative," he said. Stack added, "Student life is for [the students]. There's a reason why it's called student life, it's not called administrative life. Things sometimes take a little bit of time to find their right level, but I'm really excited for what I see at Houghton and I'm looking forward to being a part of the future here."

## • Lanthorn continued from page 1

publication featured a short scholarly essay, entitled "A Rational Appeal to Fiscal Responsibility," written by Mark Satta. The essay includes an admonition for all of Houghton College to remember to value "fiscal responsibility. . .[and] acts of self-sacrifice."

This piece formed the foundation of what the Lanthorn staff wanted to express, and served to shape the publication and the release party itself.

Partly out of necessity, being one of many student organizations dealing with reductions in their budget, the Lanthorn staff wanted to reflect principles of self-sacrifice and financial responsibility in the release party. "Minimalist" was the word used by Ackerman to describe the event. With little more than some plastic chairs, a table full of poetry books, some light snacks from Pioneer Food Services, coffee from Java, and a microphone for readings, the gathering in the south side of the dining hall was a simple gathering purely for the mutual enjoyment of words and thought. At the party, there was also offered an opportunity for those attending to

practice sacrifice through a donation to Wellspring ministries. Wellspring is a charity in Wellsville that has a long connection with Houghton College, and serves as a local pantry for food and other needs.

Despite the economic situation, the Lanthorn is in a period of expansion from just a student publication into a larger student organization as a part of the staff's overall vision. "We want it to be an organization on campus," says editor Kyle Vitale. The staff has hopes of enlarging poetry's role in the continuous

**Poetry certainly does continue to be a valued part of our Houghton Community.**

"conversation" of the campus and guaranteeing that the Lanthorn will maintain a presence in the future. Ideas for enlarging this presence include plans for more writing contests and sponsored poetry readings. For Vitale, the ultimate goal is "Keeping poetry alive. That's really why I'm here." If an intimate and devoted gathering of lovers of words, taking turns at a microphone this past Wednesday is any indication, poetry certainly does continue to be a valued part of our Houghton community.





Joe Garden, Features Editor for The Onion

• *Onion continued from page 1*

JG: Yes, all the time. It comes in fits and starts. Sometimes it's really easy and you're feeling inspired to write stories that are a little bit more contemporary, and other times it's just like pulling teeth. It's like any creative job, you know, sometimes you're inspired and it's really fun and other times you're just going through the motions waiting to be inspired again.

STAR: What are the hazards, both personal and professional, of working for a newspaper that essentially just makes fun of people?

JG: So far I haven't really encountered a whole lot of hazards. Some people have responded by saying, "Hey, we're going to sue! This is outrageous! How can you print this?!" But we're protected by the First Amendment and we have very generous editors. And, you know, personally, for a while it was very hard to explain to my extended family what I did for a living. But as time went on and The Onion became a little bit better known, they knew, and my family has always been very supportive and proud of what I do. I guess the other down side of it is that, for example, one of the characters I write is a sort of stoner character name Jim Anchorer and he's always getting fired and smoking pot and his car is always breaking down. You put those three things together in some order and bang you have a Jim Anchorer story. I think my family always equated that column with my life. And there are certainly parts of my life that I use, like a lot of the car problems are actual problems that I have. And because of that, my uncle, for a while, thought I was a really heavy drug user, which is not at all the truth. But that's all been cleared up, so it's all good.

STAR: The Onion makes fun of what most people take very seriously and a lot of it seems very cynical. Is that the case? Is cynicism encouraged at The Onion?


JG: I don't know that it's necessarily encouraged. I think that there's definitely room for cynicism and optimism. In a way,

there's almost like an optimistic bent that's encouraged because you have to be able to make fun of things and make fun of people, but at the same time you also have to believe that you will be able to change things. You always have to have some sort of hope otherwise all of your writing will just be nihilistic, dreary, and horrible.

There's room at The Onion table for everyone; we have cynics, we have nihilists, we have optimists. If you don't have the optimism, though, I think you'll drive yourself crazy after a while.

STAR: What have you written that has gotten the biggest response from readers?

JG: One of the things we've said that has gotten the most complaints, it's really weird, we've gotten complaints for probably two to three years about this article, is a completely ridiculous article called, "Mary-Kate Olsen is Dragging Ashley Down." It was written in 2001 and it was exactly what it sounds like. It was an opinion piece by this woman who thought that Mary-Kate was dragging Ashley down. And really it was just a silly article and we thought nobody was going to care about it. But the thing is, the people who really care about Mary-Kate and Ashley range in age between eight and sixty and were writing in about how wrong we were and how bad we were for writing this and how Mary-Kate isn't dragging Ashley down and how maybe we should apologize to her. People didn't realize that we were a satirical paper. And I think that was what has really gotten the most reaction.

But I think, really, you have to be able to take it as well as you can dish it out. It's easy to sort of make fun of other people's belief systems and to poke holes in people's ideologies, but when it happens to you, it's like, "hey, wait a minute, you just don't understand." And people tend to really fly off the handle, especially in this day and age. It's not like you sit down at the type writer and type it all out and send it in an envelope, "Dear Sir, I was extremely disappointed with your editorial, blah blah blah." Now you're sitting at your keyboard and hitting the keys for five seconds, and then hit send, and it's done. I always look at it this way: people will always send a negative comment before they send a positive comment. For every one negative comment you get, there's probably five to ten positive comments that somebody didn't send. 

## 3rd Annual Film Festival Shines

By Katherine Thompson

The third annual Houghton film festival, which took place on the night of April 4, exhibited an assortment of student films. The films were divided into different categories: Dramatic Narrative, Comedy, Commercial, Documentary, Experimental, and Houghton-centric. Jessica Stoddard, one of the organizers of the event, put together a committee of judges to evaluate the films that were submitted.

Sally Murphy, a student judge on the committee, said of this year's submitted films, "Each film was rated the same way, but their strengths were reflected in the categories they were in. I think it is also noteworthy to notice the range of films submitted. Each director gave their own flair. I hope that [the festival] continues to grow in the number of submissions, perhaps even to a more selective point, whatever that might entail."

Both old and new hands contributed to this year's festival. Kerry Brogan once again showed Houghton her passion for filmmaking utilizing her experiences in South America and Antarctica to add to her submissions. Eddy Fetting continued to exhibit his love for the video gaming world with a "mockumentary." Orion Harrison turned to comedy this year with two comedic submissions and an additional submission in the Dramatic Narrative category.

Some new faces this year include Madison Murphy, who exhibited a touching and beautiful Dramatic Narrative piece called "Blind Justice," and Margaret Boecker, whose experimental stop motion film was a crowd favorite.

The festival began with a faux club pre-party in the Chamberlain Center, later moving over to the chapel for the screening. The festival itself was hosted by Peter Carpenter, Luke Sanford, and Aimee Kelly.

Kelly commented on this year's festival: "I felt like this particular film festival was a definite success for several reasons: Obviously

because of the phenomenal hosts, but also because the turn-out at the pre-party was awesome. The films were of high quality with an excellent variety of genres."

The screening also included many exhibition films from Justin Hackett, Jordan Green, Jessica Stoddard, and Professor Dave Huth.

As for the awards, Eddy Fetting's mockumentary took home the Houghton-centric award, and Margaret Boecker received Best Experimental Film and Best Editing. Kerry Brogan had Best Commercial in the bag with her Antarctica footage. Best Comedy, and Best Actor went to Orion Harrison's film "Tasty Torture," which one of the judges called "a stroke of simple wit." Harrison commented, "the idea of spoofing a graphically violent torture scene came off much better than I ever expected, surprisingly effective location (the bike storage for the townhouses)."

Harrison also walked away with the award for Best Sound for his celluloid interpretation of Umbrella Tree's "The Bird & The Fish." In explaining the creative process of this film, Harrison said, "A lot of people - including the band that wrote and recorded the song - commented to me that my interpretation was grim, dark, or too depressing. But the song asks the question that you may recognize from Fiddler on the Roof: 'A bird may love a fish... but where would they live?' and I didn't know how to answer that. It is a tragedy that they cannot live together, but a blessing that neither of them have to die alone."

As well as taking home the award in her category, Madison Murphy's dramatic narrative, "Blind Justice," also received the Best in Show award. One of the judges said of the film, "Murphy's balance of color, design and movement throughout her film was consistent and added to the slow melancholy feel to the piece. Although the story itself was quite moving, I believe it is actually her balance which ultimately made the film so successful." 

**"The films were of high quality with an excellent variety of genres."**

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## Movie Review: Best Picture *Slumdog Millionaire*

By Seth Zielinski

First off, I'd just like to mention that I intended to do a DVD review of this film, having viewed special features and commentaries to report to you on. But, the copy I'm viewing is one of many that were shipped out with an accidental lack of special features on the disc. So I'll be reviewing only the movie for you (although if anyone else encounters this problem, call 1-888-223-4FOX for a free replacement).

So, it was a couple months ago, back at home. I was meeting some friends of mine at a theater in Orchard Park to go see *The Wrestler*. But somehow there was a miscommunication, and no one was

there to meet me at the theater. They were coming the next day instead. I'm not sure if I wanted to see the movie by myself, and I had actually been more interested in seeing a movie called *Slumdog Millionaire* that I'd been hearing about. I had some free time, and I worked at the theater so I could get free tickets anyway. So, I decided to stay and see *Slumdog Millionaire*. I didn't know much about it, so I went in with pretty open expectations.

I saw the movie, and my initial thoughts were that it was one of the most beautiful and inspiring movies I'd ever seen.

Some time has passed, the movie has recently been released on DVD, and my initial impressions

on the film still hold up pretty well. This film was sort of the underdog pick at the Oscars, somewhat like *Juno* was last year and *Little Miss Sunshine* was the year before. But unlike those movies, *Slumdog* won nearly every Oscar it was nominated for, including Best Film Editing, Best Original Score, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Director, and Best Picture. It is a well-crafted, well-acted, well-directed, creatively-shot, beautifully-scored piece of art, telling a

tale filled with repeated tragedies but enduring hope, captivating you and leaving you giving your heart to the trials and aspirations of our protagonist, young Jamal Malik.

The story could've been awful or incoherent if it hadn't been carefully and meaningfully constructed. Jamal, a poor uneducated young man from the slums of India, ends up on an Indian version of "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire". Against expectations, Jamal answers nearly every question right, raising the hope of everyone watching, but raising the suspicions of the show. He's turned over to police, accused of cheating. He then tells of how every question he was asked relates to the events of his life leading up to him being on this show.

Besides the undeniable quality of this film, it's got the kind of protagonist that I just love: the innocent, pure-of-heart underdog, always getting dumped on, but always hoping against hope and carrying on. Particularly effective is his continued pursuit of Latika, the girl whom he's always fought for and had a pure love for, but who always gets taken away from him.

This film has inspiring moments, many of which arise from its tragedies. Thus tying into an overall theme of the film...that Jamal and everyone around him have a destiny. Even though awful things happen, and some of the characters turn some dark corners... they all meaningfully serve the overall destiny. And in watching this film, you will wish more and

more for young Jamal to succeed in his journey, despite continued trials. But through it all, this film will have your heart, through its direction, music, wonderful tone and pacing, and its fantastic acting (which we even get from the children in the film, which is great, considering how iffy of a situation good child acting can be).

I can only think of one thing that had bothered me about it when I first saw it, regarding something that happens in the story towards the end. I won't say what, but I initially questioned whether it would have been better if that plot turn had gone the other way. But upon further viewings and reflections, and upon discovering that this plot element was the same as it had been in the novel this film is based on (Vikas Swarup's *Q & A*), I have grown very comfortable in the overall plot direction. Plus, the way everything is concluded and then reflected upon in the very ending of the film is remarkable and beautiful, in a way that is actually reminiscent for me of the ending of *Speed Racer* (unexpected reference, I know).

*Slumdog Millionaire* is a hopeful, beautiful film, whose beautiful ending my girlfriend still makes fun of me for welling up with tears during. I cannot recommend this film highly enough. It's a movie that is more than the sum of its parts, and very deserving of its critical and financial success.

Oh yeah, and I ended up seeing *The Wrestler* later on. Great movie.

## Highlander Track and Field Teams Begin Outdoor Season Strong

By Nick Fredette

This year, the Houghton Track & Field team has seen victory, tasted defeat, and bonded as a team. They have already finished their indoor season, and now moving to outdoor meets, the team looks to continue their strong performance throughout the rest of their season.

In men's Track and Field, the Highlanders will look to senior Dan Ballard to continue stellar performance from the earlier part of the season, where he broke both personal records and Houghton College records, while qualifying and competing in the NAIA indoor track National Championship in early March. Also, fellow senior Steve Scott is expecting continued performance in the outdoor season. After this season ends and these seniors--accompanied by seniors Chad Stauring, Josiah Snelgove and Jacob Connor, move on-- the younger runners will fill the shoes of these exceptional senior athletes.

Justin Bowersox-- a freshman--spoke about the challenge of losing graduating players. "The team, as always, has showed a lot of progress and produced some great runners. However, it's going to be difficult to get the same results we did this year next year, with all of the seniors we're losing."

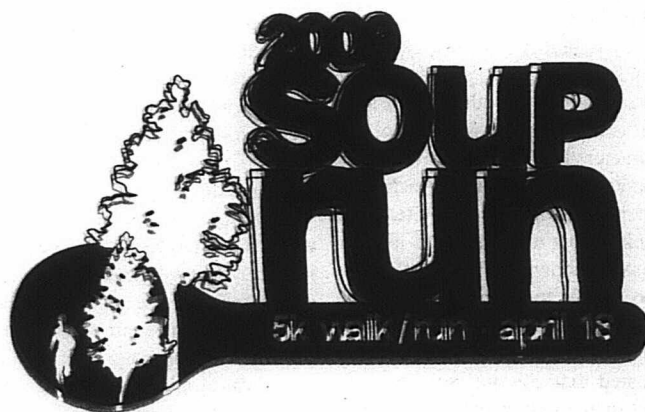
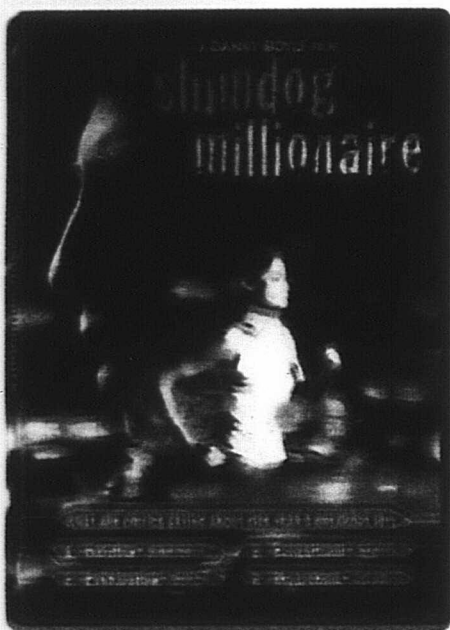
For the women, the story is much different due to their far younger team. The team has very few upperclassmen and some great talent coming from younger runners as well. Sophomore Darby Emerson came up big in her second year running for the Highlanders. She qualified for Nationals and competed to earn a 7th place ranking in the country for all NAIA Women's Indoor runners. Other underclassmen also produced consistently great results for the Highlanders. Freshmen Danielle Brennon, Jessica Bramhall and Dana Cunningham each made great contributions to the ladies Track & Field team here at Houghton, and Coach Bob Smalley will look for

them to continue this productivity throughout the outdoor season.

One thing that the team is not looking forward to is the departure of Coach Matthew Dougherty. He has coached the Highlanders for a number of years, and has decided not to return for the 2009-10 season. Dougherty has vast experience as an endurance athlete, competing in events at the high school level through to the international level. He also has experience with Houghton as an alumnus, and as a coach, leading his cross country team at Paul Smith's college to finish 3rd in the National Championships. The team

will miss his great knowledge and experience in the sport, as well as his leadership and strong Christian perspective.

However, despite the loss of Coach Dougherty and this year's seniors, the Highlanders look to improve. For the rest of the year they will focus on continued training and conditioning while at the same time learn to perfect a work ethic, and become Godly men and women. The team lives by this quote, from Philippians chapter three: "We will run the race to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward through Jesus Christ our Lord."







## HoughtonPalooza (1b): Houghton's First Outdoor Music Festival

By Amy Buckingham

Following the esteemed tradition of music festivals like Coachella, Austin City Limits and Bonnaroo, Houghton ventures into the festival world with HoughtonPalooza, taking place this Saturday, April 18 on Leonard Street. HoughtonPalooza is billed to include 12 local musical acts including students and their friends. Commencing after the Soup Run, at one o'clock pm, HoughtonPalooza will begin with a performance by Dave Allen's band 3 in 1. Following the final performance of Sweet Hollow Drive, the Flats and Townhouses will be sponsoring a showing of "School of Rock." Also making an appearance at HoughtonPalooza is an 18 foot tall inflatable slide, funded by SGA, as well as various lawn games including corn hole.

It was conceived in that magical time between awake and asleep. Seniors Luke Sanford and Peter Carpenter laid sleepless late one January night. "Luke, y'know how, when it's nice out, we play cornhole outside, toss a football

around and play music from our stereo?" Wistfully, Luke replied, "Yeah, why can't we have that with real live bands playing real live music?" Thus, HoughtonPalooza was born.

Excitement on campus is building as the event draws near, yet still retains an element of mystery. Junior Bethany Christensen says, "I don't even know what it is, but I'm excited about it!"

Performances are to include returning acts like The Woods Themselves, Jody Mac and the other guys, and the Spot House band as well as some new groups like 4 Profit and the Autumn Equinox: Fall. Much anticipated amongst performers and concertgoers alike, is the band the Stelly Mistrs, including Jesse Stoddard, Aimee Kelly, Dan White, Joel VanderWeele and Alex Glover. Senior Jordan Zaner had two words to describe his excitement for the Stelly Mistrs, "Radical! Radical!"

Conveniently located on the 'miniquad' at the Townhouses, HoughtonPalooza is an opportunity for the musically inclined to share



their talents with the rest of the campus. "Houghton really does have some amazing talent and we want to give them a chance to play," Sanford said.

Carpenter and Sanford hope to see many students at the event. Sanford waxes, "This event is only going to be as good as the student body makes it. After all, every concert needs a crowd. I hope people come and enjoy one another's company outdoors and forget about the stresses of this

time of year for a bit."

They also hope that HoughtonPalooza will have such an impact as to become a cherished tradition in the future. With the help of CAB, FaTs and Greg Bish, Sanford and Carpenter eagerly await the realization of their brainchild.

HoughtonPalooza promises to be a "real sweet time" according to Carpenter. Zaner states, "Houghton doesn't rock hard, but I believe HoughtonPalooza will."

## Student-Written and Directed "Swallow" May Disturb, Unnerve

By Katarina Kieffer

"Swallow"—the student written, directed, and produced play being debuted this weekend—is not for the faint of heart, or those with a short attention span: with a five-hour running length and an epic storyline that covers everything from chronic drug use, to the "sin status" of homosexuality and transexuality, to the corrupt and idolatrous state of western academia, "Swallow" is certainly not mindless entertainment.

That, according to Josiah Richard Armstrong, the "writer, director, assistant producer, and costumer" of the play, is precisely the point. Like the films of Stanley Kubrick, who Armstrong said he was "very influenced" by in writing and staging his play, "Swallow" is meant to "let you get uncomfortable with what you're seeing." According to Armstrong, "in the first scene you're hit with the huge things that they [the characters] are dealing with," and the rest of the play explores the "why and how and what is significant" about these events.

The play has already been generating conversation and speculation on campus, due largely to its pervasive use of profanity and the homosexual orientation of two of the characters. "It's going to automatically turn off a certain audience, and I'm aware of that," Armstrong said. He insisted, however, that he was striving to

"paint a picture of people who were real," and the profanity in the play is carefully written to be character-relevant.

Both of the homosexuals in the play are practicing Christians, though the play does not make a strong statement either approving or disapproving a homosexual lifestyle: Armstrong said that the ending is "ambiguous" in terms of the themes of homosexuality. While Armstrong is hoping that "Swallow" will, after a year of "severe re-editing," eventually be published and performed in a wide variety of communities, he stressed "the importance of Houghton as the 'testing ground' for the play. "These are questions that you see and hear at Houghton all the time, but no one is willing to just put them out there...the question, then, is 'you as gospel-believing Christians—how are you going to respond to these stories?'"

Even with so many diverse and intense themes, Armstrong feels that the play allows for meaningful discussion. "Given that it's a five hour play, I've given them [the characters] a fair amount of time to 'pop out' and become alive; and these things will possibly scare people, because some won't be able to relate, and some will relate a little too closely."

Born out of an unusual class assignment in Kelvin Friebe's Old Testament Prophets class that allowed students to "creatively interpret" one of the prophetic

books, Swallow was initially a single-scene interpretation of the book of Jonah.

Now a four-act play, Armstrong says that the four acts are meant "to represent the birth, life, death, and resurrection cycle," and the Jonah influence is incorporated in the scene names, each of which is a phrase from the Old Testament book and reflects the primary action of each scene.

An avid theatre buff, who has been acting, directing one-act plays and theatre workshops for years, Armstrong calls Swallow "a dream come true" and a "method acting experiment," and at 167 pages, refers to it lovingly as "my minimalist epic: a Wagnerian opera in length."

The story is set in a college referred to as The University. "It's meant to embody the epitome of what we in America want academia to be," Armstrong said of the setting, "A sort of modern day intellectual Ninevah." The three primary characters are a homosexual psychology professor named Jonah, (played by sophomore Ryan Clark), who is unjustly "let go" from his position at the University due to his sexual orientation, though he is told it was due to financial difficulties. A practicing Christian, he returns to the University after 15 years to work as a counselor when he feels that God is calling him to return.

Matthew Stein, junior, plays Professor Gil Rosenburg, a

Jewish Agnostic existentialist, who Armstrong calls "bitter and brilliant."

Charlie Stanley, played by senior Jon Herr, is the main student character in Swallow, and his friendships with three other student characters play a large role in the story. He is, as Armstrong describes him, is "very angry, searching, and sensitive to an awful past he's had, and wants some kind of answer." Charlie is caught in between these two forces represented by Jonah and Gil, with the implication being that he could grow to be like either man.

"It's meant to present to an audience eight people that everyone has met," all of whom have questions they want answers to, most of all the question that serves as the tagline for the play: does anyone care about your story? Jonah, the counselor, embodies the person who cares about the stories of the characters by sharing the redeeming and healing love of Christ with them.

"Several have told me they are excited about seeing what this is going to do—what kind of discussion this is going to spark," Armstrong noted with excitement. "I want people to just react."

A faculty panel will be present at each performance, and after the play there will be time for the audience to react and discuss the themes with the panelists and cast members.





## Missive With a Mission: A Letter to Houghton College Faculty

A student speaks his mind on the four-credit system, faculty and student relations, and some systemic problems facing Houghton today

by Ian Taylor

This institution is facing an identity crisis and decisions are being made without long-term perspective, or at least not a long-term perspective that the students agree with or understand. Is the idea of a liberal arts institution fatally flawed? Regardless of whether or not the administration and faculty believe this to be the case, their actions would seem to indicate that they do. Whether it be the introduction of the four-credit system, the changes to the integrative studies requirements, or the destruction of the foreign language department, these actions go against the liberal arts philosophy that is supposedly paramount to this institution and represent a series of poor decisions made by the administration and faculty without proper consultation of students.

The four-credit system has seized freedom from the students. The faculty have acted without enough input from students, and acted in a way that has impaired students' abilities to explore all the facets of a liberal arts education. The logic pertaining to the four-credit system seems to be that by increasing how many credit hours a class is worth it will allow students to have a course load comprised of fewer classes and allow them to study the subjects more in-depth. While this in itself is not a bad idea, its effect is much greater

than what many faculty members seem to have realized. It has always been the right of the faculty to set ground rules for students but in this case, they have gone too far. By introducing this new system they have taken much of the choice out of the student's hands. Students should have a significant degree of freedom both in course selection and course load. It is disconcerting that the faculty would choose to restrict students in this way. Concerns were raised by students but were largely ignored.

The actions against the liberal arts philosophy, however, are even more unnerving. An institution that flaunts its broad options for education but is simultaneously slashing programs that are deemed too weak to survive is deplorable. The liberal arts education that was once so essential to a student's intellectual maturity has been undermined. This seems to be a result of a philosophy change somewhere within the administration and faculty and this change was not conveyed to the students. While it is probable that the intentions of the administration and faculty were not to weaken the liberal arts, from the students'

perspective it is difficult for it to appear otherwise. It is unfortunate that the administration and faculty did not deem it necessary to open this discussion up to students and explain their rationale.

One last point to be made concerns the revisiting and revising of policies by the administration. It is very troubling because of the trend that seems to be developing.

The administration encourages student involvement in these processes and should be applauded for that, but this student involvement is not as positive as one might think. The trend seems to be that the administration drags its feet on language

and as the deadline approaches those involved in the process are forced into accepting something that is far from what they would like. They can take the revised policy with its flaws, or keep in place the previous policy, which is highly inadequate. It seems that this is either poor time management or heavy-handed and manipulative behavior. It has been indicated by many students that they feel it is the latter and if this is the case, it is disconcerting if the administration is indeed acting in this way.

It seems that student involvement, opinions and ideas are only desired when it is convenient for those in authority. As the current processes are, students have a voice powerless to have any real influence and are at the mercy of the administration and faculty if they want to be heard at all. These processes, which have led to these conditions, are flawed and need to be changed. This institution exists because of and to serve its students. If students' views and ideas continue not to be taken into account, it seems probable that students will become increasingly dissatisfied and disillusioned with their situation and poor decisions will continue to be made.

This is a call for more openness and higher levels of student involvement in college processes; responsibility for this lies not only with the administration and faculty, but also with the students. The ideal outcome would be greater student involvement and facilitation, encouragement and support of that involvement by the administration and faculty. It is my hope that the administration and faculty will realize that this is not a personal attack but rather an earnest attempt to bring the issues at hand into a public forum for discussion.

*Ian Taylor is a junior Political Science major*

**This is a call for more openness and higher levels of student involvement in college processes...**

## What Are We Doing to Make the Invisible Children Visible?

A Houghton student in Uganda brings his perspective to first-world campaigns for third-world awareness by the Invisible Children group

by Peter Savage

If someone told you to jump off of a bridge, would you do it? Over the last few weeks there has been a trickle of information coming from the US about the newest Invisible Children campaign, "Abduct Yourself." You too can take part by buying a \$30 t-shirt pack, donating \$5, or traveling to a major US city to take part in a mass demonstration. This latest development is a PR stunt designed to draw attention to the plight of Joseph Kony's 30,000 child soldiers. Before you jump onboard this new grassroots fad there are some things you should consider.

Joseph Kony is on the run. The LRA is currently operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo or in the Central African Republic. They are estimated to be little more than 200- 800 hundred strong, depending on your source. While Ugandan forces have since withdrawn from the DRC, forces from Congo, South Sudan and the CAR continue to pursue him. Rumors in Uganda tell of Israeli Special Forces units assisting in the attempt to locate and kill or capture

Kony. When you participate in the 'Abduct Yourself' campaign consider what message you are sending to US policy makers. Are you advocating that the United States should send troops into the Congo after Kony? Or are you advocating that the US should support local national governments like it did by providing intelligence and fuel for the botched Operation Lightning Thunder in December?

A second thing to consider is whether traveling to a city is better than donating the money you would spend on travel. As of 14 April 2009 only \$4,201.59 had been donated to Invisible Children as a part of their effort. When I checked a month ago the number was only around \$1,000! With ten days to go the thousands of excited teenagers and young adults preparing to march on their cities have only been able to raise a little over \$4,000. I understand that awareness of an issue can be extremely important but so can funding sustainable programs that ensure these types of atrocities do not continue!

I spent the month of February working with Food for the Hungry in Kitgum, Uganda.

This district sits on the border of Sudan and northern Uganda and is the former home of the LRA. Every person I worked with in the Child Protection Department had lost numerous family members to the LRA. At the monthly UN cluster meeting for child protection, I was very surprised to find that the Invisible Children campaign does not have an active staff within the Kitgum District. The closest real office is in Gulu, two to three hours from Kitgum, where IC operates programs within 11 schools. During my time with Food for the Hungry I visited over 20 schools. Instead of spending thousands of dollars on an ad campaign, perhaps IC would consider using that money to sponsor more children and purchase more school supplies for northern Uganda, the region affected by the LRA for more than 20 years.

One of the greatest challenges I faced while working with Food for the Hungry was

finding funding for programs geared towards sustainable programs. These programs work to empower local leaders to carry the weight of rebuilding communities once the NGO's move out. The 'Abduct Yourself' campaign is calling for more funding for emergency relief

**Before you jump onboard this new grassroots fad, there are some things you should consider.**

operations. Within the development field there seems to be an endless supply of this type of funding.

Instead of advocating for increased awareness and funding of LRA returnee programs,

of which there are many, and in which Food for the Hungry plays an active role, we should be advocating for anti-corruption programs. We should raise funds and awareness of how the lack of infrastructure in northern Uganda prevents a farmer from feeding his family. I will admit that none of these sound as glamorous as 'Abducting Yourself' or spending \$30 on IC memorabilia, but they


*Continued on page 7...*





...Continued from page 6

will actually make a difference in the lives of future generations.

In his blog, Yale professor Chris Blattman provides a great perspective on the 'Abduct Yourself' campaign: "One consequence, whether it's IC or Save Darfur, is a lot of dangerously ill-prepared young people embarking on missions to save the children of this or that war zone. At best it's hubris and egocentric. More often, though, it leads to bad programs, misallocated resources, or ill-conceived military adventures. There's lots of room for intelligent advocacy." If you do decide to participate come April 25, consider what message you are sending and what you would truly like to see happen in this part of Africa. Don't get involved for the sake of it or to assuage your conscience for being born a 'lucky American.' Abducting Yourself is not the cool thing to do as any members of the Acholi tribe in Kitgum would tell you. People will lose their lives today and tomorrow over this very issue. Don't turn someone else's horror story into tomorrow's trendy catchphrase. 

Peter Savage is a junior International Relations and Political Science major

From the Editors' Desk...

## God Bless Us, At Least Some of Us!

Don't we all need prayer as we go about working out our faith in the world, and not just "missionaries"?

by Joel VanderWeele

Every year, at Houghton's Global Christian Fellowship (GCF) Commissioning Service Chapel, we are asked to pray for all the students going on short-term mission trips and service projects as they go out into the world to serve God and the Church. We pledge our support for these students and assure them that we will pray that God will be with them throughout their trip.

It is wonderful that Houghton supports its students in this way. Being a missionary is difficult and noble work, and puts one in the unique situation where teaching others about Christianity is actually in your job description.

But what about those of us who are called to work in fields not explicitly Christian? Shouldn't we be included in this special service too? Aren't all Christians called to the same mission? What about the pre-school helpers, the office interns, and the fast food restaurant servers? Are they not called to do the same work as missionaries, just in a different way? Doesn't each line of work hold a unique set of difficulties which require serious


thought and support? Why don't we pray for non-missionary workers as they go out into the world to serve God and the Church?

I do not wish to denigrate mission work at all, and I know that the service is not intended to define mission work as the only "Christian" work, but I do wonder what message this service sends to those students who are not doing missionary work.

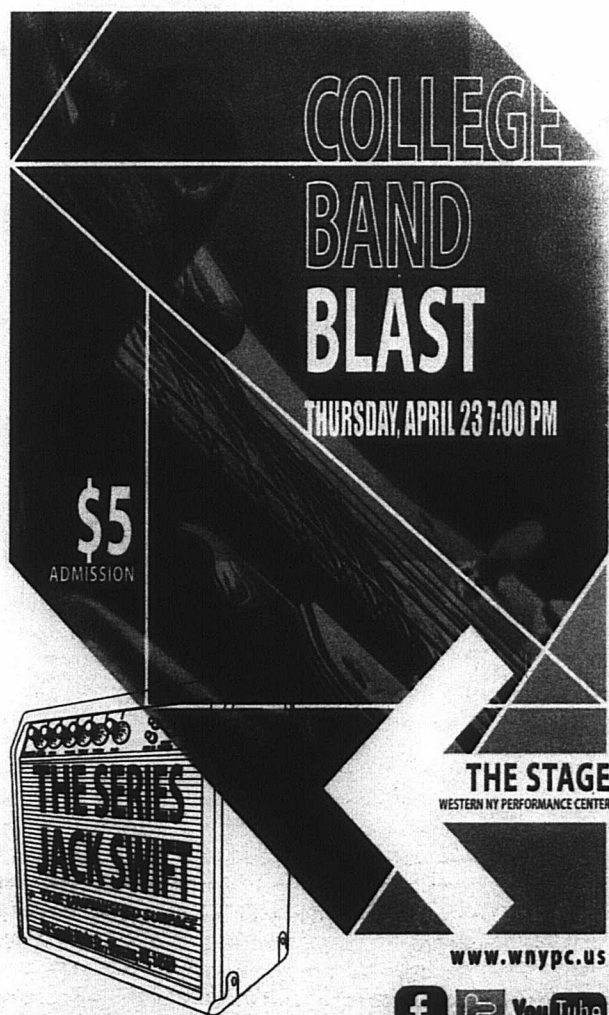
We certainly do not want to claim that non-missionary Christians are not doing God's work. It would also be inappropriate to assume that being a Christian in the everyday workplace is easy. In actual fact, it can be very difficult to know how to be a Christian in the workplace, where discussion about religion is often not allowed, and almost always discouraged. At the same time, sometimes workplace evangelism (however you choose to define this word) is even more effective than mission work because people are more likely to take seriously the words of someone who they already know and trust.

To my mind, every Christian in the work place has a special challenge to do God's work and serve his

people, whether they happen to be in the mission field or at the checkout counter at Wegmans. When evangelizing (again, however you choose to interpret it) is not in your job title, it can be extremely difficult to know how your Christianity should effect what you do and how you interact with others. Do you respect the rules of the workplace and remain quiet about your faith hoping that your actions will speak for themselves, or do you rebel and speak openly about the gospel, risking your job and opening the position up for someone who may not have as good an influence on the other people in your place of work? This is a very real and difficult question which millions of Christians must ask themselves.

Let's not limit our prayers to students who are going into the mission field. Instead, let's acknowledge that every one of us has a special challenge to live out our faiths in whatever work we are called to perform. 

Joel is a junior Math and Philosophy major, and serves as Associate Editor



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# artist: MARGARET OF THE WEEK: BOECKER

## Notes from the artist:

I am interested in the human desire to know and be known. This is an urge that is most deeply instilled within us. We all strive for intimacy and connection; something more than mere companionship. We still find that, sometimes, all we have to offer is silence.

*Margaret is a senior Art major with a concentration in Graphic Design.*



*What Mystery, What Misery, digital print*



*detail, Silence for Silence, digital print*