



Sweet news 7
Coffee Shop Review
pg. 4

New Assoc. Dean for Academic Admin.

Hijleh Replaces
Mills Woolsey

pg. 3

FtED:

"The 7 Words You Can't Say at Houghton"

pg. 7

THE HOUGHTON STAR

Volume CVII Issue XIV • Houghton, NY • January 28, 2011 • WWW.HOUGHTONSTAR.COM

"Contemporary Contexts" Replaces London FYHP

BY MONICA SANDRECKI

Today marks the first honors interview weekend for the upcoming year, without London FYHP. In addition to interviewing for East Meets West and Science Honors, interviews for "Contemporary Contexts: Faith, Reason, and Reconciliation" will take place on four weekends between now and mid-March.

This program, which replaced London FYHP, has a style similar to the EMW honors program in that it is based in Houghton, with a study abroad Mayterm component, instead of a full-immersion semester in London.

Furthermore, according to Kristina LaCelle-Peterson, Director of Honors Initiatives, instead of having the program concentrated in the spring semester of freshman year, it starts in the fall with a one credit "pro-seminar" class—which is an introduction to the class that includes analytical reading and writing—then, continues in the spring with the students taking eight credits, with a four-credit

Mayterm, then taking a four credit class as a group in the fall of sophomore year.

Also, the curriculum has the potential to change from semester to semester with a

include a Mayterm in a variety of metropolitan centers, not just London. The same faculty member could even be on the team for multiple consecutive years if his/her discipline

members are Dr. Chris Stewart, philosophy; Dr. Cameron Airhart, history; Dr. James Wardwell, English; Dr. Jon Case, theology; teaching 3M, Western Civilization, Literary

called the program an "open palate," because it could meet IS requirements in different areas, but shaping them to be at an honors level.

Stewart also said that the program is "sort of faculty driven by the needs and wants of the faculty to teach in the program." The AC allowed for a budget that would allow for one significant overnight trip in the fall and spring of freshman year to different metropolitan areas to utilize theatres and museums, that could be New York or Toronto, not ruling out Buffalo and Rochester, to be decided at the faculty team's discretion.

Wayne MacBeth, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Church Relations, also said that the end of London FYHP means to the loss of several aspects such as the integrated living community, while seeing faculty for a longer time frame, and the ability to have an extended amount of time to soak in material.

London cont'd on page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRADLEY MEYERS

London's Millenium Bridge that leads to St. Paul's Cathedral.

different theme underneath the umbrella program of "Contemporary Contexts," but must always include classes that all meet IS requirements. Each year, a team of faculty members creates a proposal for an interdisciplinary curriculum, which could range from the humanities and music, to math and science, and

corresponded to the developed syllabus.

"I think it's really exciting that it could be different every year," said Kristen Zingg, senior, London FYHP participant, who was asked to be part of the honors weekend review process. "That could be a unique drawing point."

This year, the faculty

Voices, and Introduction to Christianity.

According to LaCelle-Peterson, the program could go in a myriad of directions because of the large pool of faculty that can be involved. Stewart said that the Academic Council (AC), members of which approved the proposal for Contemporary Contexts,

Pre-Law Society Hosts State of the Union Event



PHOTO BY JEN FREEMAN

Close to 40 students gathered in the Campus Center to watch the State of the Union address.

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

During the Fall semester, the Committee on Student Organizations and the Student Senate approved the constitution of the Runnymede Pre-Law Society. The purpose of the society is to "educate students about the importance of law...

prepare pre-law students for the law school application and selection process" and to promote related activities. The cabinet, which consists of Kathleen Elenfeldt, Joel Ernst, Jennifer Freeman, and William Clunn, is working on planning activities for this semester such as a joint forum with Gadfly on the philosophy

of law, mock trials and practice LSATs.

On Tuesday, the Runnymede Pre-Law Society hosted an event, which was attended by about 40 students, surrounding the State of the Union address. President Obama's speech, which lasted about an hour and was interrupted for applause 64 times, focused on three main issues: economic recovery and advancement, the national debt, and national security. Before delving into the political issues, however, President Obama took a moment to honor Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, the wounded target of an assassination attempt earlier this month. After that terrible tragedy, there were renewed calls for civility in public discourse, a sentiment which the President echoed saying "we will move forward together or not at all."

After the introductions

and calls for civility and bipartisanship, President Obama shifted focus to the economy, a topic that the White House has been preaching, sometimes successfully, since the President took office in 2009. While emphasizing the fact that "America still has the largest, most prosperous economy in the world," President Obama outlined a three-part plan to continue the economic recovery and expand America's economic capabilities.

The first step described by the President is renewed investment in technology and infrastructure, specifically bio-medical research, alternative energy, high-speed rail lines and high speed Internet. He made pledges to have 1,000,000 electric cars on the road by 2015, 80% of American electricity be from renewable sources by 2035 and to modernize American infrastructure in an effort to

"out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world."

The second step in the President's economic plan is renewed investment in education. He pointed out that the United States ranks ninth in the world in percentage of college graduates and stated that "by the end of the decade, America will once again have the highest percentage of college graduates in the world." The President's education plan focuses on rewarding schools and school districts which show the capability to implement unique and successful measures, a policy dubbed "Race to the Top." He echoed this sentiment in respect to teachers, saying "we want to reward good teachers and stop making excuses for the bad" and urged Congress to

Pre-law cont'd on page 2

Engaging the World

Misfortune in Fame and Fortune



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY KRISTEN PALMER

He's known as the man with the "golden voice." Dispatch reporter Doral Chenoweth III found homeless Ted Williams standing beside a ramp off northbound I-71 in Columbus, Ohio. Williams held a sign that read: "I have a God-given gift of voice," and Chenoweth stopped.

"I'm gonna make you work for that dollar. Say something with your great radio voice," said Chenoweth to Williams in the video Chenoweth recorded.

"When you're listening to nothing but the best of oldies, you're listening to Magic 89.9. Thank you so much. God bless you," Williams responded to Chenoweth.

The same video appeared Jan. 3 on Dispatch.com, hit YouTube, and soon made Williams' response recognizable around the world.

Williams almost immediately

became an Internet sensation and began to appear on television, including shows like "Today," "The Early Show," and "The Jimmy Fallon Show." He was quickly offered several announcing jobs, including one with the Cleveland Cavaliers and appeared in a commercial for Kraft Macaroni and Cheese and also in voice-over promos for MSNBC — all a mere days after Chenoweth found him begging on the streets.

Apparently, Williams had experience in the radio business and worked as a DJ for several years before his life came to a halt in 1996 when he resorted to theft and forgery to finance his drug and alcohol addiction. This landed him behind bars, which estranged him from his family and left him on the streets.

Upon his sudden bout of fame, Williams claimed to have been sober for two years, only to admit a few weeks later when he appeared on the Dr. Phil show that he was still drinking daily. This didn't come as a surprise to many, including Dr. Howard Samuels, CEO of the Hills Treatment Center in Los Angeles, California, according to www.cnn.com.

"The hardest thing for an alcoholic is to have success, because the alcoholic, on a very deep level, has a very difficult time with success," said Samuels, who also appeared on Dr. Phil.

Williams and Samuels were joined on the show by Williams' ex-wife and five children who all explained

the reasons they "feel Williams is ill-equipped to handle his sudden fame."

Williams was reported to have had a physical dispute with his daughter at a Hollywood hotel. He was held in police custody and released several days before the show.

Dr. Phil pleaded with Williams to check into rehab, and Williams agreed, only to check himself out 12 days later.

Perhaps Williams' sudden fame and "fortune" were more harmful than beneficial. Williams told hosts of "the Early Show" that he wanted to take a nerve pill. His new and overwhelming popularity fed his addiction. Way to go, media.

Williams was taken on a not so voluntary roller coaster ride of publicity, as the media frenzy has thrust him into a spotlight for which he was not prepared. Who is now responsible to help him and undo what the media has done? Should the media back off and let him work through some of his problems, while he steps out of the spotlight for a time to get some perspective? His family seems to think so, and the media should comply.

Williams is reported to have said in an interview that a "\$30,000-a-year job and an apartment would be pretty nice too." He didn't want to be exploited. He would have been happy with a roof over his head.

Pre-law cont'd from page 1

renew the college tuition tax credit for students who plan on becoming teachers with a goal of hiring 100,000 new teachers by the end of the decade.

The third step in President Obama's economic plan is a comprehensive reform of the tax code. This is an effort, supported by Democrats and Republicans, to close tax loopholes, which some corporations have been exploiting, and lower the overall corporate tax rate, simultaneously lowering taxes and increasing federal revenue. Overall, President Obama's economic plan focused on creating opportunities for growth, entrepreneurship, and efficiency through targeted investment, although it is somewhat unclear how this plan can be reconciled with the next issue discussed, the national debt. Sophomore Joel Ernst referred to this problem as the President "attempting an impossible balancing act."

President Obama stated that the national debt is "not sustainable" and that "now is the time to act." He outlined multiple areas where reduction in government spending is possible, including cuts in defense spending, Tort reform, otherwise known as reducing frivolous lawsuits, reducing fraud and waste in Social Security and Medicare and eliminating the so-called "Bush tax cuts." Most notably, he announced a five-year freeze in domestic spending, a proposal to "merge, consolidate and reorganize the federal government," and a promise to veto any bill containing earmarks. He did not, however, announce any plan to consider serious changes to Social Security and Medicare, changes seen by many to be a necessity in any serious proposal to reduce the national debt.

President Obama finished his speech by discussing issues of national security. He focused on the almost complete autonomy of the Iraqi military and police force, which has allowed American soldiers to return from Iraq, and the progress being made with the military and police force in Afghanistan allowing for the scheduled plans for American withdrawal to remain intact. The President also sent a strong message to the enemies of America and said "we will not relent, we will not waver, and we will defeat you."

President Obama is known for being able to inspire millions with his soaring rhetoric and oratory; the State of the Union did not fit that mold. It was, however, a clear presentation of his philosophy of government and a strong first step in the President's bid for reelection.

Andrew Bonanno, junior, commented that the theme seemed to be "a willingness to engage in a give-and-take of ideas while at the same time going back to some basic American liberal values" and Ernst described the tone of the speech as "optimistic about major issues facing the country." It was a return to the 2007-2008 strategy that won the election; now we'll see if it is a successful strategy of governing as well. ★

The World OUT There

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

Ghailani Sentenced to Life Without Parole

On Tuesday, a federal judge sentenced Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani to life without parole for his role in the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in East Africa. Ghailani is the first of the Guantanamo Bay detainees to be tried in civilian courts. He was convicted in November on a single count of conspiracy to destroy buildings and property at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania but was acquitted of the remaining 284 counts. Giving Ghailani the maximum sentence possible was an important step in the Obama Administration's plan to close Guantanamo Bay and try all the detainees in civilian courts.



Terrorist Attack in Russia, 35 Killed

On Monday, 35 people were killed in Moscow when a bomb was detonated in the city's busiest airport. The blast also wounded 180 and was the latest in a string of terrorist attacks in Russia. No one has yet to claim responsibility but Islamic militants in the southern Russian region of Chechnya have been responsible for similar attacks in the past. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin have taken a strong stance against the perpetrators saying they "will be destroyed." President Medvedev has also fired a senior transport official and three police chiefs who were in charge of security at Moscow's Domodedovo airport.



White House Chief of Staff to Run for Chicago Mayor

On September 30, 2010, White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel announced that he would be leaving his post at the White House and returning to Chicago to run for mayor. Since he entered the race, however, his eligibility has been challenged on the basis that he has not maintained residency in the city. On Monday, a panel of Illinois Appellate Court justices ruled that he had not, in fact, met residency requirements. The next day, however, the Illinois state Supreme Court granted a stay on Monday's ruling and will make a decision on the case in the near future. The election is Feb. 22.



photos courtesy of www.slate.com, www.commonswikimedia.org, and www.blogs.state.gov

Hijleh Replaces Mills Woolsey as Academic Assoc. Dean

BY KYLE JOHNSON

Mark Hijleh, professor of music, has been appointed to replace Linda Mills Woolsey as the new Associate Dean for Academic Administration.

Academic Dean Ron Mahurin expressed satisfaction with Hijleh's appointment to the position.

"I am very pleased with the appointment of Dr. Hijleh for this post and for these responsibilities at this time in Houghton," he said. Mahurin also said that he believes Hijleh "is someone who can continue to build on the wonderful work that Dr. Mills Woolsey did in this position and continue to help us as a college as we move through other changes that are underway, and as we're trying to be faithful to all the work that has taken place in the past."

Mills Woolsey also articulated satisfaction with Hijleh's appointment and said: "I know he will work hard on behalf of students and faculty, and will bring his creativity and deep faith commitment to his work."

Hijleh has been a faculty member at Houghton for the past 18 years, and during that time has also served as

the interim Associate Dean for Music (2005-2006) and for the past two years as the Director of Integrative Studies. He has also been part of the London Honors Program faculty.

Although Mills Woolsey was appointed to a three-year term beginning in 2008, she decided to step down from the position a semester early because, as she explained, of the need for an experienced faculty "to cover the 2011 run of the London Honors Program," which is taking place this semester. According to Mahurin, the appointment process for the Associate Dean for Academic Administration position would normally take place during the current semester, but the process was expedited "to reflect the fact that we wouldn't have anyone in the Dean's office in this role for a semester."

Although Hijleh's three-year term officially begins June 1 of this year, Mahurin explained that Hijleh has already been sitting in on some meetings, describing this semester as "... in effect a sort of bridge to what would then be his full formal three-year term." Hijleh noted that he has already been handling some pressing

affairs that need to be addressed before summer.

Along with this transition, the position's title has changed. Mills Woolsey held the position as the Associate Academic Dean. Hijleh's title will be Associate Dean for Academic Administration. According to Mahurin, this title, which has been used before, "perhaps more accurately reflects the responsibilities of the Associate Dean." The title is also being used to clarify possible confusion surrounding the change in "leadership structure from departments to more area associate deans," explaining that this title will help "distinguish that title from the area associate dean title." Mahurin added that the title would also be helpful in situations where the Associate Dean for Academic Administration would "represent the College externally."

Hijleh described several opportunities and endeavors he looks forward to in his new position, including looking to "enhance the residential liberal arts experience," using "new technologies and learning innovations," and "working in the area of faculty development." Hijleh also

explained that he is "passionate about the importance of global perspectives," and that he is "very excited about the potential for Houghton to build on its long-standing history of cross-cultural engagement." Hijleh is specifically looking forward to furthering efforts began by Mills Woolsey whose "good work" led Houghton to receive "a grant from the Lilly Foundation to support and enhance mentoring between senior and junior faculty members." Hijleh said that he looks "forward to seeing that project come to fruition."

Hijleh believes that this is a "time of great opportunity for Houghton as we further define how we will fulfill our mission into the 21st century." He said that he is "eager to see more of the wonderful things God will do as we continue to seek to serve Him here at Houghton." Hijleh expressed that "it is a privilege to be part of that endeavor."

Although he is teaching some this semester, Hijleh said that after officially taking the position next fall, he will not "initially be doing any teaching." Hijleh is also continuing work into the summer on a book on world music theory, set for publication in 2012. ★

Short Chapel Attendance Results in Disciplinary Probation

BY MEGAN SPECKSGOOR

There has certainly been a day or two during a particularly biting Houghton winter when the majority of us have found it difficult to brave the grueling sub-zero trek to chapel in the morning, but what happens when occasional absences become too frequent? Josh Wallace, member of Student Life Council and participant of the Student Conduct Committee for three years, two of which as chair, outlined the consequences for individuals whose chapel attendance turns up lacking at the end of a semester.

Wallace said that penalties for this kind of delinquency partially depend on the severity of the case, but that a first-time offender will probably receive disciplinary probation. From there, if the infraction is repeated a second semester, the student responsible may be suspended, which seems "unnecessarily stringent," according to Wallace.

Houghton's policy was not always this rigid, but an outline for disciplinary procedure was rewritten and implemented during the 2009-2010

school year. While this enforcement may seem definite and perhaps overpowering Wallace said, "Any student has the right to make an appeal about a decision."

If a student faces disciplinary action for missing too much chapel credit, they are entitled to an appeal process in which they will be required to present their defense before the Student Conduct Committee, consisting of three faculty members and four students. During the appeal process, the student in question may bring in an advisor of his or her choice for support and present any concerns or explanations following the Committee's own presentation. Wallace assured that the Committee schedules all appeals as soon as possible so as not to keep any student in indecisive suspense, that the group is sympathetic within reason, that they research each individual's case extensively, and that they "don't take any accusation lightly."

Wallace estimated that last semester a total of 40 students faced some sort of predicament concerning chapel attendance and that around seven made appeals.

"Student Life is very good about not being judgmental," said Wallace. He considers the work of the establishment to be an unbiased "fact-finding mission" attempting to give each student a fair listening and be as "restorative" as possible. As an effort to help counteract future problems with chapel attendance, the newly restructured Houghton Web site allows each student to access their individual standing. One can do this by clicking the "Spiritual Life" link, then following the "Chapel Attendance" link under the "Chapel" tab and scrolling down to the section titled "Attendance Monitoring & Defective Cards."

While Dean Brittain stated, "We've decided [at Houghton] that the Dean of the chapel is not to be involved in discipline [concerning attendance]," he provided some background information on our college's chapel policies.

Brittain said that each of the five Wesleyan Colleges in North America require mandatory chapel attendance on campus, so Houghton is in alignment with this standard. He also said that Student Life conducted a recent study that

compared Houghton's chapel policies with "like institutions," schools in the CCCU. The results placed Houghton on the relatively low end of the rigorous spectrum, with our average chapel length of 40 minutes being comparatively short and our required attendance of two out of every three chapels per semester being comparatively less than other Christian colleges.

When referring to some students who might perchance complain about the pressure of meeting Houghton's high expectations in the matter of chapel attendance, Brittain said "A lot of times people are operating on wrong information. People are sometimes convinced that we have the most draconian policy in the free world, but this is exactly wrong; for schools like us, we have a lenient policy."

Brittain also commented on the college's efforts to make chapel engaging and relatable for those enrolled at Houghton. "Students can suggest speakers," said Brittain. In fact, "every speaker has been suggested by someone, the majority of which are students." ★

London cont'd from page 1

"London FYHP was great but I wouldn't compare the two," said MacBeth, in reference to Contemporary Contexts.

Stewart said, "You don't have the key elements. I look at the substance and say this is totally different."

"I'm glad that they're not passing this off as a revamped, rehabilitated honors program in London," said Zingg. "For those of us who are upset that our honors program is dying, it'll make the transition smoother for everyone involved."

The proposal for Contemporary

Contexts, with parameters set by the Academic Dean's office, according to Stewart, was approved in December so there has been somewhat of a time crunch to pull the program together.

Stewart said that "in November we weren't envisioning this, so we won't work out the syllabus" until this summer and even into the fall.

According to MacBeth, the final proposal was "held up by the attempt to make it flexible so more faculty could be a part of it. It slowed the whole process down."

But, LaCelle-Peterson said that in the future, the faculty team will be known a year in advance, which would

reduce the time stress.

Despite this, the members of the team that Stewart is on have all worked together, save Case, in London FYHP and incorporated that curriculum to be used in Contemporary Contexts. Though, Case is currently serving as faculty on the last London FYHP.

"We thought [Case] would work in well with our little group," said Stewart. "He's the junior member of the squad."

MacBeth said that he thinks that students will be interested in the topic of how faith and reason meet and that they look for themes to "hook people's interest." He said that like EMW, Contemporary Contexts is team-taught

with an overseas Mayterm and that there is potential overlap with EMW, but it is not likely.

He added that some previous London FYHP students have said that they wanted their program to extend past one semester.

"Yes, spreading it out over three semesters is great, but when you start from the beginning of a time period each semester, you lose that cohesion and ability to get all three streams to come together across multiple disciplines," said Zingg. "I loved [London FYHP], and I'm sad to see it go but I'm going to be optimistic for these students who get something new." ★

Basketball Teams Lose to Notre Dame, Hopeful for Home Games

BY NICK FREDETTE

As winter dawns on the Houghton College campus, basketball season is in full swing. Both the men's and women's teams are 19 games into their respective seasons, and each team is looking to improve upon the first half of the season and move forward as both teams begin a stretch of home games through the next two weeks.

The men's team holds a 6-13 record. The Highlanders have struggled in the American Midwest Conference, with only one conference win, but will look to improve with eight straight conference matchups remaining in the season. Despite a tough season on the court, the team has been focused on overall growth, and this is reflected through speaking with Coach Drew Hannan.

He said, "This has been a roller coaster year on the court, with some quality wins and tough losses, but the true character of this team has been demonstrated throughout, both on the court and off. In the classroom, the players ended the first semester with a team GPA of over 3.1.

"As a coaching staff, we could not be prouder of the work they have put into becoming better individuals, a better team, and quality young men," said Hannan. He has put forth great effort to



PHOTOS BY DANIEL PIEXOTO

Despite an earlier win against Notre Dame, the men's basketball team lost in Tuesday's game with the same team.

stress that the players on his team are doing more than just playing basketball, and the players are reaping the benefits of that both on and off the court.

The Highlanders play three home games this week, as they faced off against Notre Dame College (Jan. 25, 1-77-58), Cedarville University (tonight, 6:00) and Wilberforce University (tomorrow, 2:00). They will look for continued performance from a strong senior class that includes David Dix,

Ryan Shay, and Devin Paige, three of the team's top four scorers, and also from underclassmen such as junior Mike Muñoz and sophomore Mark O'Brien.

The lady Highlanders have fared slightly better than their male counterparts this season, with an overall record of 8-11, and 3-6 in the AMC. The team is dominant at home, with only one loss at the Nielsen Center here at Houghton. Coach Lord spoke a bit about this aspect of the team.

"This year's team has been a pleasure to coach. They are much stronger than their current 8-11 record may initially indicate. In the midst of what is arguably the hardest schedule Houghton WBB has ever played, they are still very much alive in the play-off hunt. Houghton is one of 4 teams fighting for what appear to be two remaining available post-season spots. The quality of this year's group is very much attributable to the great leadership, on and off the court, of



Coach Hannan instructs the men's basketball team.

the senior class."

He credits the team's four seniors with leading the team on and off the court, and that is certainly evident in the statistics. Senior Ashley Dupler leads

Basketball cont'd on page 5

Taking Time to Smell the Coffee: Sweet_ness 7 Café

BY OLIVIA BUTZ



The coffee shop has become, in some way, a secular kind of sanctuary. Though a coffeehouse is obviously a business, one does not feel obligated to always buy something to avoid being kicked out of its semi-public space. At Buffalo's Sweet_ness 7 Café, one is allowed to sit and read the newspaper, check his or her e-mail and retreat into Laptopistan, catch up with an old friend, conduct one-on-one business meetings—all activities which are enriched by the availability of a variety of gourmet coffee drinks, baked goods, and breakfast and lunch entrees including grilled paninis and homemade soups. (In a recently opened second location, the shop offers a full crepe menu, the culinary quality of which I cannot evaluate because I have not experienced it.)

Sweet_ness 7, owned and managed by proprietor Prish Moran, was located just a couple of blocks from my home on Lafayette Avenue for the summer of 2010, and became one of these 'secular' sanctuaries for me. While I worked in Buffalo, I often spent several hours at a time at Sweet_ness during the evenings and on weekends. It is located on the corner of Grant St. and Lafayette Ave., on Buffalo's West Side, several blocks from Lake Erie. One is initially signaled to the presence of the shop, if traveling east towards Grant St. on

Lafayette, by the seating available in a short 'deck' seating space, complete with tree stumps to sit on, if the hippie in you so desires to.

The ethos of Sweet_ness is partially established by the sign on its always open (in warm weather) front (porch-like) door which reads, "If you are in a hurry, you are probably in the wrong place" — implying that their customer service and speed of making drinks was slow. This I perhaps did not notice or agree with, though it is true that the atmosphere is very relaxed.

The shop has a homespun/artsy quality to it. No two tables within the café look entirely like—there are clever symbols and designs made of multiple colors of paper that adorn them. The menus are written on a series of chalkboards stacked next to each other and there are wooden and glass cabinets displaying teapots and pastry dishware; there is a corner shelf of games for the family and for the young at heart. The music that one encounters upon entering the shop ranges from The Shins to Frank Sinatra (and periodically, the genre of Oldies).

The prices at Sweet_ness are perhaps a little steep, compared to that of slightly less expensive chains such as Dunkin' Donuts and even

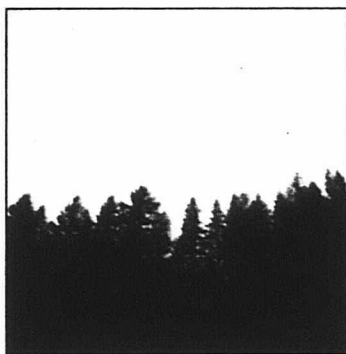
Coffee cont'd on page 5

Basketball cont'd from page 4

the team in points, rebounds, and blocks, averaging a double-double on the season while fellow senior Shannon Daugherty leads in assists and is fourth in scoring.

Regardless of the team's performance, the Women's team also focuses on growth both on and off the court. Assistant coach Kevin Austin is grateful for "opportunities to interact with the ladies and to get to know them better and to be able to pray with and for them," and said that these opportunities are "really what makes this season and any other great. It's about the relationships that God allows me to be a part of. I'm privileged to be an assistant coach in this program and to be able to get to know these young women and their families." The women's team also plays at home this weekend, as they match up against Cedarville University (tonight, 8:00) and then Wilberforce University (tomorrow, 4:00.)

Additionally, both teams will be participating in the NABC Coaches vs. Cancer weekend, raising money for the American Cancer Society by taking donations and pledges of support. Those interested in supporting the cause can make donations at the door, and pledges can be made in relation to total number of points scored by both teams over the course of the weekend. To make a pledge or for more information, please e-mail Coach Wright at collin.wright@houghton.edu. ★

Decemberists Embrace "a Turning of the Season"

BY DAVE GIANETTI

When I first set out to write this review I was not even a casual listener of The Decemberists. Four albums later, however, as well as picking the brain of their number one fan (my roommate), has brought me to have a much greater appreciation for The Decemberists. Their newest and sixth studio album *The King is Dead* is a short collection of lively and simple country ballads, and it reflects the core of The Decemberists' ability to mix genres outside of their own brand of indie pop while telling stories through their songs.

Lighthearted and seemingly-effortless, *The King is Dead* is a departure for The Decemberists in many ways. The musical influences are less layered and complex than in previous albums,

and the storytelling in the songs is less literary and not purely narrative. Their last album, *The Hazards of Love*, was a rock opera with a single narrative, with a large amount of swelling reverb and hard rock thrown in. While *The Hazards of Love* was dense, literary, and ambitious, *The King is Dead* is sweet, easy, and fun. Outright, it is less artistically complex than some of their previous works, but it is still new and well-written music, and represents a necessary period of simplicity. It is refreshing to hear The Decemberists tone down the narrative depth of their work after such a complex and full album as the *Hazards of Love*, and return to uncharted roots as they explore American Folk.

The biggest departure *The King is Dead* makes is its heavy American Folk influences—at first startling, as The Decemberists have drawn upon British Folk in most of their previous albums. But The Decemberists' creative and skilled instrumentation keeps their folk sound fresh, throwing in everything from horns to organs, and even a synthesizer. It may seem that compared to their older albums like *Picaresque* and *Hazards of Love* the musical influences are less layered and nuanced, and as a result this album might feel surprisingly stripped down. However, the different tone of this album seems an intentional hiatus from a complex and rich sound, focusing on a freer, more accessible style.

There have been some negative comments on how The Decemberists have copied other musical styles (mainly R.E.M.) rather than blending them into their already original and unique indie pop/rock core. While the lead singer of R.E.M. does sing on three of the tracks, and the lead singer Colin Meloy cites them as an influence on this record, I think there is no reason to raise a fuss. Familiarity is an important part of this album, not an issue with it. Overall, *The King is Dead* is an entertaining, solid album. I find it a delight to watch how my favorite artists' music evolves and how sometimes that allows us too see past the band's image and into them as people. It seems that for *The King is Dead*, Colin Meloy and the rest of the band took a break, slowed down, and had some fun.

As far as the title of the album, after reading many considerations and attempts at explaining the title, I have heard that it is a reference to Michael Jackson's death, a Smith's album, and the fact that The Decemberists used American instead of British influences. I don't know if there is an answer, and frankly I don't think that it is important to the album conceptually. As far as I am concerned, The Decemberists have both been around long enough and are talented enough to claim the death of anyone they please. ★

Coffee cont'd from page 4

McDonald's McCafe; the quality of the drink or food that is purchased, however, is well worth the extra couple of cents or additional dollar. Conveniently, Sweet_ness does accept Visa/MasterCard payment options. As far as the fare itself is concerned, the house coffee was good—I don't remember disliking it, though not especially memorable. The specialty coffees/espressos/teas offer a number of sweet/bitter delights. I particularly enjoyed their making of the 'Vietnam'—an iced coffee made with sweetened condensed milk—needless to say, this drink needs no additional sweetening!

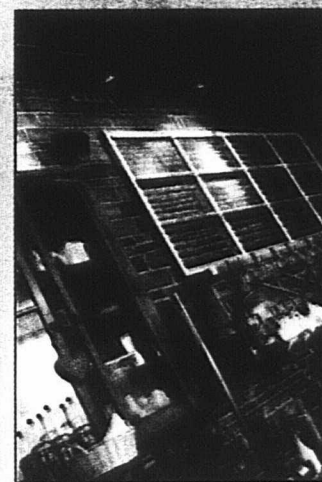
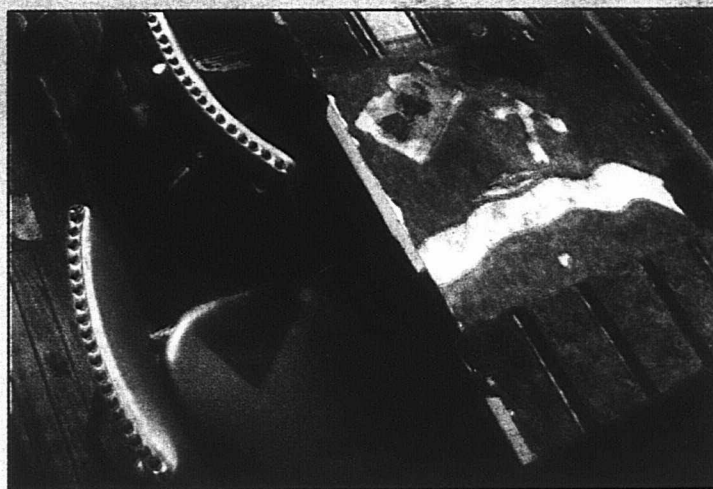
Sweet_ness 7 is very much a 'community' place. It is a part of a string of stores along Grant Street, which includes the Grant Street Art Gallery, Mums and Daisies, and Krudmart. They are all part of one larger building, merely occupying different spaces and storefronts within the larger space—a delight to the eye as an architectural piece—that facilitates varieties of expressions of culture. In contrast with much of the uniform and franchised commercial development along Grant Street, Sweet_ness 7 and its partner shops offer a more personal and unique kind of experience. They have a bulletin board inside where locals can advertise, provide free Buffalonian publications, host meetings for local non-profit organizations, and provide the café

as space for performances in tandem with Buffalo's underground art festival. In the unique position to experience Sweet_ness during the summer, I had the opportunity to experience (though I confess I did not attend) their hosting of communal World Cup games. The staff wheeled in a 4-5 foot wide screen, and community members would pack into every available seat and perhaps snag lemonade while cheering on the myriad prestigious, international football teams.

Sweet_ness 7 is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (in the summer till 9 p.m.) If you're ever in Buffalo and looking for a good cup of coffee, this shop is an excellent place to search out and savor. But only if you're not a hurry... because if you are, you're probably in the wrong place.



Buffalo's Sweet_ness 7 Café boasts a colorful and creative atmosphere as well as quality food and drink.



All photos courtesy of Sweetness 7 Facebook page

Two-Faced Diplomacy: The West's Response to Tunisia



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY SARAH FERNALD

When I visited Tunisia less than a year ago, I was awed by what I saw there. A beautiful country hailed as one of the most progressive and open of the Muslim states, Tunisia welcomes Westerners, especially tourists visiting one of the hundreds of resorts along its 1,148 km of coastline or exploring the desert to find the famous Star Wars sets.

Emboldened by Tunisia's moderate reputation, its apparently stable economy, and modernity regarding women's rights, I spent ten days haggling in markets, drawing the famous mosaics of Carthage into my notebook, drinking tea and learning Arabic, listening to stories under the stars, and eating relatively well for my ridiculously pathetic budget.

But despite the amazing weather

and hospitable people, signs of tension broke the surface. The obligatory picture of the President Ben Ali in every business was treated with a mock reverence that stank of dissatisfaction better than any expression of disdain could have. Those that asked me about the economy elsewhere made it clear that the poor majority resented the money-bloated aristocracy.

I was still taken back, however, when news of the Tunisian riots reached me. Mohamad Bouazizi sparked the revolt in a town square with his own body, and was being praised as a hero and a martyr by many in the Muslim world. Protests even Europeans found shocking rocked Tunis, the capital, as well as neighboring areas, and were responded to with riot police and tear gas. The entire situation was beyond that with which we, as Americans, can identify. On Jan. 14, President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali stepped down and, a day later, fled the

country. The leaders of the coup are now in the process of restructuring the Tunisian government and trying to instill a more than nominal democracy. The outburst seems to confirm the mes-

sage of the American media: that the world desperately needs democratization and Westernization and that we, the US, need to help liberate them.

But if that's the case, where were we?

Up until the moment when Ben Ali fled, France, England, and the US were all maintaining their support for the wobbling regime. They avoided interfering

with Tunisia's government because they deemed it a reasonable government with whom it was easy to do business, and therefore a friend of the West. As long as the West had access to everything it wanted from Tunisia, the problems of the majority of poor there were not our concern. Now that the tides have turned, however, so has our

rhetoric. Nicolas Sarkozy immediately issued a statement apologizing for misunderstanding the needs of the people and all three aforementioned Western states launched investigations into the illegal money schemes and corruption of the former President. Everyone has condemned the past regime, denouncing their support of it, and is trying to exert as much control as possible in the creation of the new government. Careful diplomatic speeches have made sure that we are linked with whoever holds the power.

Now I understand the need for diplomacy in world politics, but when it comes to human rights why are some places worth going to war over and others only lovely vacation spots? Why do we allow the view of our governments to be so out of touch with those of the native people? And if our only objective is the maintenance of our dominance, regardless of those being crushed below it, how will we ever accomplish anything for the world? It saddens me that our two-faced nature is so transparent. My only prayer is that in the future, our diplomacy won't further weaken the world's trust in us.

Sarah is a junior Intercultural Studies and French major

Letters to the Editor

Send to

houghtonstar@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

Thank you for seeking to develop articles with a Christian worldview at the Star. The Jan 21 issue had articles about homosexuals, atheists, racial emphasis and violent crimes. All are important topics to address.

Chris Hartline did an excellent job explaining how the Tucson shooting brought division. He also gave an appropriate response to it. However, several opinions appeared divisive. Some articles expressed how Christians were against others. Their conclusion often ended by stating this division is good or acceptable.

The New Testament emphasizes unity, love, faith, service and the fellowship of believers. There is diversity in the body of Christ, but no one is to be exalted over another. It does not matter what a person's political, ethnic, gender, economic or physical situation is, all are equally valued by God. Every human being is made in God's image whether they are Christian or not.

Every person has also sinned. Everyone is in desperate need of God's forgiveness and love. Thus, God sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross. At the cross Jesus took our sin upon Himself which led to His death. On Easter Sunday Jesus arose to over-

come sin and death. Today Jesus lives, giving eternal life and transforming those who trust in Him.

This is good news. If it were not for God's grace I too would be lost and hopeless. So by Christ's example of love, humility and sacrifice in an unjust world, I chose to respond in a similar way.

We are to restore what is broken, then empower people to grow stronger physically, emotionally and spiritually. Through Christ we are to speak God's truth in love to bring healing and unity. Jesus Christ really is the answer to our social and personal concerns. My hope is for the Star staff and all at Houghton College to keep on addressing current issues in light of a Christian worldview.

*-Dr. Jim Szymanski,
Houghton resident*

Dear Editor,

In response to former Professor Dave Perkins' letter of 21 January:

Inherent in the story in Luke 7 of the prostitute whose sins were forgiven by Jesus, prompting Jesus to say she was saved, is the sense that she had repented of her sinful ways. Hence, her weeping to such an extent that Jesus' feet needed to be dried by her long hair. Former Professor Perkins errs by lifting a sentence from this story and assuming that Jesus required no change of behavior in recognition of forgiveness and salvation. Such an understanding is inconsistent with other stories in the Gospel, such as the woman caught in adultery in John 8. She was

likewise forgiven by Christ and told to 'go and sin no more.' Jesus, who knew the hearts of men and women, could tell she had repented (as he could with the prostitute of Luke) and proceeded to give her further instructions about reconstructing her life.

To be forgiven by Christ with no obligation to depart from sinfulness -- which is how the Bible characterizes sexual relations outside of marriage -- opens the door to what many evangelicals call 'cheap grace.' Paul condemns this in Romans 6. Christians are required to seek reconciliation and there-

fore engage non-repentant individuals, including homosexuals, in normal friendship and civility, hoping to bring all into the Kingdom of God. But the Bible is clear in stating that sexual relations between same-sex couples is outside the will of God and therefore sinful. To paper over this distinct difference in the name of 'welcoming' or 'inclusion' is a serious misreading of the text.

*-Daniel C. Minchen,
Associate Professor of Business and Communication*

Check out the poll at
www.houghtonstar.com

*As Houghton searches for
Sharon Myers' replacement,
what should be their
highest priority?*

From the Editor's Desk

The 7 Words You Can't Say at Houghton

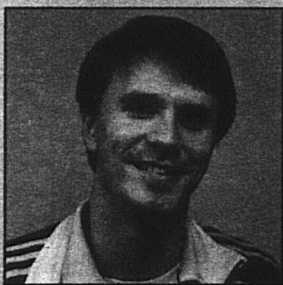


PHOTO BY DANIEL PEIKOTO

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

Alcohol, tobacco, drugs, sex, gambler, homosexual, atheist. What do these seven words have in common? They are all things that Houghton students cannot do or be. It is somewhat understandable that the College has outlawed these things; these rules all have at least a circumstantial basis in scripture. Plus, where would Houghton be without the donations given by older alumni who see these actions and beliefs as the pillars of sin? There are Biblical and economical reasons for limiting the behavior of students, but are those reasons adequate?

This strict religiosity is, of course, not a Houghton phenomenon. Former president George H.W. Bush stated in 1987 that "I don't know that atheists

should be considered as citizens, nor should they be considered patriots." Jerry Falwell, the founder of Liberty University, described homosexuals as "brute beasts... part of a vile and satanic system [that] will be utterly annihilated, and there will be celebration in heaven."

I won't comment on these quotes for now except to say that Houghton should think twice before they enact and perpetuate policies by which they can be linked in any way to these types of statements.

For now, I want to focus on a different aspect of the College's rules. How can Houghton adequately prepare students for life in the real world while limiting exposure to, and even discussion of, people and issues which will be prevalent? As hard as this may be for some to accept, not everyone shares the same views or practices the same lifestyle as the one outlined in the Houghton Community Covenant. This could present itself as a problem in regards to both large and

small issues.

You're standing at the water cooler with a group of coworkers discussing social politics and the issue of homosexuality comes up; is it ok for you to say that you believe homosexuality is unnatural and a sin? It's your first

week of graduate school and a group of people you just met want to go out for a drink but you have no idea which beer to order or what the difference is between whiskey and bourbon. You've just started working at an investment firm and one of the partners is impressed with your contribution so he invites you up to his office for a cigar and you

have a coughing fit after the first drag.

In the grand scheme of things, these hypotheticals may be of little significance but they describe aspects of cultural fluency which are neglected at Houghton. Is there a solution to this problem? Probably not. I don't imagine Houghton would alter the community covenant to allow drinking, smoking

or the like. But there must be a way to have a mature conversation about actions and issues without absolute allowance. The Intercultural Studies department offers a class on Intercultural Competencies; maybe there should also be a class on American Cultural Competencies. Houghton does a great job of preparing students for issues faced around the world but fails to prepare students for issues faced in the American workplace.

There is also the possibility that you make a conscious choice not to engage in this type of activity and can confidently and adequately defend your moral standards. If that's the case, that's wonderful, and if you can do so with grace and strength, you will be a positive representation of the way Christianity can be acted out. But for many, these issues of cultural fluency will remain and have the potential to cause, at the very least, embarrassment and possibly offense.

Until something drastic happens, however, we all must continue to abide by the rules limiting the use of those 7 words.

Chris is a junior History and Political Science major

Houghton fails to prepare students for issues faced in the American workplace

The Penultimate Word

For a Good Cause: On Advertising in Chapel



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY ELISA SHEARER

The mission statement of Houghton's chapel can be found on the Houghton website under the Spiritual Life tab. It reads that chapel services should be "participatory," "celebratory," "revelatory," "expository," and "educational."

This makes me wonder about Shaun Groves' message this Monday. You remember - he sang with a lovely voice, he positioned himself brazenly in the middle of the stage instead of taking the stodgy behind-the-podium stance, he wore flannel, he played the guitar with gusto and charisma, he told appropriately religious jokes, and then asked us to donate money to Compassion International, while students appeared in the aisles, waiting for the next eager Houghton student to raise their hand up to (publicly) take one of the donation slips.

What concerned me about Groves' service was that the point of it seemed to be the call to donation at the end -

a specific call to donate via Compassion International. Groves' disclaiming statements about the importance of donating to all charitable institutions was overshadowed by the 'Compassion International' packets being waved over students' heads as the service and the sermon concluded.

Now I, like most of the Houghton student body, am suffering from the oft-denied guilt of the upper class. I see my belongings and note my comfortable state and think that, if I were really being logical about the whole thing, I'd be giving much more money and resources and time to the poor and suffering than I am. So this might be my defensive reaction to the assault on my carefully balanced state of temporarily guiltless wealth. I am also like most of the Houghton student body, in that I give, but I don't give enough. And I know it. And Shaun knows it (and, worse, he knows that I know it).

And I'm all about my conscience being attacked. (I don't see a way that I could be against it, really - I could tell them "no, I don't want to hear about people who need my money," a sentiment which is often true, but not one I could say without feeling like a terrible person, which is obviously an unpleasant experience, and usually one I try to avoid, whether that is right or not.) But was Groves' message appropriate for chapel? Did it deepen our understanding of the Scriptures for the sake of a

better understanding of God's word, or for the sake of convincing us to donate to an organization?

At the end of Shaun Groves' speech, I felt like what we had just watched was a longer version of those usually terribly written but bravely executed mini-skits performed by students advertising for CAB or JET (or some other similarly acronymned organization). I understand that it makes sense for a Christian charity to visit a Christian (ahem) college. And I understand that it makes sense for a Christian charity to solicit donations (that's why they're called a charity, I assume), colleges campuses included.

And Groves, along with Compassion International, was indeed welcomed to campus - Groves' concert that night was a success, and the table set up for Compassion International in the Van Dyke Lounge drew students asking for more information or to sign up right away to donate. The concert, as enjoyable and free entertainment in the middle of January, drew many people,

and other students approached Compassion's table in the Campus Center with an interest in donating. But is our chapel service, as something all students are required to attend, the appropriate venue for advertisement?

I wonder at the merit of students walking the aisles, hawking wares at the end of a chapel service. They were charitable wares, yes - does that make it okay? I wonder at students attending a required corporate worship service and being presented with a plea from a charity for their money.

Are advertisements appropriate fodder for chapel services? I wouldn't generally say so. Do advertisements have more merit when they are for a charitable organization? I suspect this might be true, or might seem true, but I am honestly not sure. Was Groves' message an advertisement? I think it was. Such is the source of my discontent.

Elisa is a junior Psychology and English major

The mission of the Houghton Star is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have characterized Houghton College since its inception. This will be done by serving as a medium for the expression of student thought and as a quality publication of significant campus news, Houghton area news, and events.



Still Death, oil



Full Circle, mixed media



Creature Cups and Monster Mugs (in progress), clay



True Friends Stab You in the Front, clay

cameron thibault

ARTIST of the WEEK

A note from the artist:

I feel things and so I make things, and that's about it. They are unrefined because I can't make them refined... that's the way I like it and the way it should be. Our feelings are raw and constantly changing and I think that what we do should reflect that. I don't care if it 'looks good' as long as it makes sense and represents whatever and wherever I am at the point of creation, because that's what's important. Don't give me a lavish orchestra playing that great piece by Bach that we've all heard a thousand times. Let me hear the sad song played by that homeless man on the street, whose name I may never know, whose face I may never see again, and who, for a time is giving me a glimpse into the pain that defines who he is in this very moment... the quiet but powerful sense of emotion that ties us together as human beings and brings us to our knees before God. That, is truly beautiful.

sudoku CHALLENGE

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

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

**Prize: Leroy Townes and the
Lonestars album!**

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