



THE HOUGHTON STAR

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The Great Flood of Houghton

Nearly 40 Lambein residents displaced during flood cleanup, caused by burst pipe

BY MONICA SANDRECZKI

It's been called the Great Flood of Lambein. Last Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, a pipe burst in a sink room on the left side of fifth floor in Lambein Hall causing flooding that started on that floor and leaked all the way down to first, causing damage to College property and personal belongings.

In total, 26 rooms were damaged, said Lia Thomassian, Lambein RA, with damage that ranged from very little to extensive.

On Tuesday, an external company, Advanced Drying, made an assessment of all of the damages and tested the moisture levels of the carpets and came in Wednesday to get all of the extra water out of the carpets using commercial dehumidifiers and fans. Because of this, 37 girls were notified on Tuesday that they must pack up their rooms to move out by 9 a.m. Wednesday.

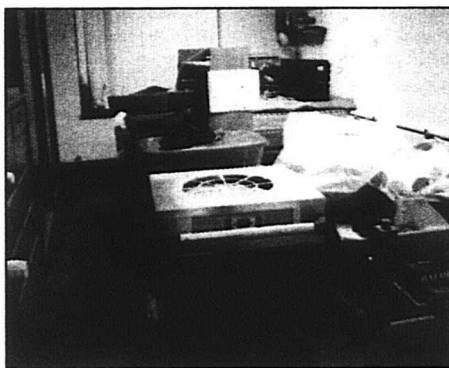


PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

Lambein residents packed up their belongings and moved to makeshift dorm rooms.

They are displaced, having to move out of their rooms and into empty dorm rooms and lounges, installing locks and blinds if need be in order to make them as much like a bedroom as possible.

Havilah Ford, Resident Director of Lambein Hall, said that she and Gabe Jacobson Director of Residence Life and Housing, found all of the empty rooms in Lambein to find places to temporarily house the residents. All of the RDs, Kathy Ackerman, Lambein housekeeper, and Rene Stempert, custodial, were available in Lambein Tuesday night from 7-10 to help pack. Luckily, the girls are only expected to be displaced for a maximum of 10 days.

According to Paul Cronk, senior officer of Safety and Security, Officer Dan Holcomb was on duty that Thanksgiving day and discovered the burst pipe in process of a routine check. When Cronk arrived later

Flood cont'd on page 3

Anna Austin Resigns as Commissioner of Comm.

Candidates vie to fill vacant SGA positions

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

Recently, Anna Austin, SGA Commissioner of Communications, announced that she would be stepping down from the position at the end of the semester for personal reasons. She remarked on her time in the SGA Executive Cabinet and said "my membership in the cabinet was certainly a learning and growing experience. My job was sometimes as stressful and rigorous as my course load, but it still taught me how very grown-up college kids could be, not act."

According to SGA Vice President Joshua Mertzluft, the responsibilities of the Commissioner of Communications include the public relations of the student government, keeping SGA records, taking minutes at Senate meetings, taking care of the Web site, and writing and releasing campus wide e-mails. He or she is also responsible for communications between branches of SGA and unique activities, such as donut days and advertising for blood drives.

Austin has been working for most of the semester to "take the SGA and try to turn around the connotation that it's a detached and impersonal organization," according to Mertzluft. She sought to show the student body that "we're students too." The SGA Executive Cabinet and student senate have been very pleased with the actions she has

taken thus far.

Those responsibilities will now be filled by a replacement to be chosen by the student senate next Tuesday night, during the Dec. 7 Senate meeting. There are three candidates running for the position: seniors Matt Stein and John French, and sophomore Jennifer Freeman, all of whom will give a speech before the Senate in which they outline their qualifications and state their cases for why they deserve the position.

When asked about his goals if he were to win the special election, Stein said that he has ideas for improving communications between SGA and students and the administration. As an example, he referenced the list of senators posted outside the SGA office and commented that it might be beneficial for the student body if there were pictures as well. That way, students would "know who the senators actually are."

As well as the election for Commissioner of Communication, there will also be a special election to replace sophomore senator, Alice Browning, who will be doing the Go-Ed program in Thailand. Candidates include William Evans, Gordon Brown, Sarah Jacoby, Christopher Clark, and William Clunn and will be elected in the same manner as the Commissioner of Communications. ★

West Seneca Campus Sold, Star Lake Property for Sale

BY COLLEEN JENNINGS

Houghton College has sold the campus in West Seneca to Young Development, an organization that plans on using the property for senior living. Meanwhile, the College's property at Star Lake is listed on the market and being shown to "interested parties" in hopes that it will soon be sold.

The West Seneca Campus is one of six sites that offer the Program for Accelerating College Education (P.A.C.E.) in Western New York, including Arcade, Dansville, and Olean. Houghton has signed a contract with Young Development and according to Dale Wright, Executive Director of Human Resources and Administration, the College is working its way through the details of contact with the buyer.

Wright noted that "after various internal studies conducted over a number of years," Houghton has decided to "focus more energy and resources into strengthening and growing the P.A.C.E. program" rather than "put resources towards property management of another campus." This means that the selling of the West Seneca property "does not in any way decrease our commitment to the P.A.C.E. program currently offered on that campus."

"We are committed to continuing

the P.A.C.E. program and to offer a P.A.C.E. cohort in the Southtowns," he added.

Young Development is allowing Houghton to continue to use the Lambein Learning Center for the program temporarily.

According to Sharon Myers, Executive Director of Marketing and Communications, "the College will likely rent other facilities in West Seneca or elsewhere in the Southtowns in order to offer the P.A.C.E. program."

Star Lake is property of the Willard J. Houghton Foundation, not Houghton College's. In the past, Star Lake has been used for the Houghton in Adirondack Park program that was "comprised of both summer and fall programs in Rural and Environmental Studies."

Myers said, "After a thorough review, the College determined that the Adirondack Park program would be discontinued." Once this decision was made, the Foundation decided to place the property on the market.

Houghton's decision to eliminate the program is disconcerting to some students and faculty involved in the past.

According to junior Michele Adams, the Star Lake program was her reason for choosing Houghton.

"It was by far my favorite

West Seneca cont'd on pg. 3

Engaging the World Leaking Truth or Spouting Gossip?

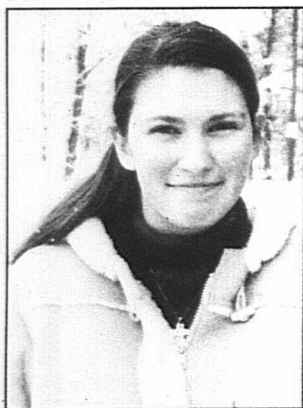


PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY BETHANY CHENEY

"Voluptuous" is a new political term. It is used to reference Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's nurse, who apparently travels everywhere with him because "only she knows his routine." Scandalous? Perhaps.

But have you heard about King Abdullah's speech impediment?

How embarrassing! What could be more humiliating than that? Perchance the fact that these messages were actually exchanged between the U.S. State department and U.S. embassies around the world.

WikiLeaks, the exposé of these exchanges between diplomats, is an international non-profit organization that publishes private documents for the sake of "revealing to the world the unethical

behavior of governments and corporations." In the past few weeks, WikiLeaks has shared with civil society the private thoughts of many U.S. leaders, without ever naming the culprits themselves. We now know that one of our officials considers French President Sarkozy an attention seeker, and another official finds German Chancellor Merkel cautious and uncreative: a circumspect ally.

Isn't it great to be enlightened to the true nature of our officials (and foreign diplomats)? This is so much like when elementary teachers pick up accidentally-discarded notes and read them to the whole class, while keeping the authors anonymous. What great consequences come of that! Someone knows that someone else doesn't like him, or something about him. Now there can be tension, we can play the blame game, and, if we're lucky, there will be a fight on the playground!

Speaking of fights, in October, WikiLeaks released about 400,000 military documents concerning the Iraq War, the result of which was the Iraq Body Count (IBC). The IBC pinned 15,000 more civilian deaths to the shoulders of those who served in the war based on reports from non-governmental organizations and other official reports.

The Pentagon flustered to have these military documents opened to the public, which is understandable, as it usually gives one a stomachache to have one's failures to investigate abuse allegations brought up, on top of the killing of an estimated 700 innocent people for get-

ting too close to checkpoints. Oh, and I forgot the part where these documents highlighted cases in which civilians (like news reporters) were gunned down and labeled "enemy casualties" to cover the mistake.

That leak resulted in more than a bothered Pentagon, and more than a couple of diplomats shoving each other into the sandbox; it resulted in deeper, honest investigations of international affairs, along with the deaths of thousands of people. It also might have peeved some Iraqis.

As our military and diplomatic officials stand, stripped naked by WikiLeaks, we face the question (covering our traumatized eyes of course) of whether or not these systems and people are entitled to privacy. If the consequence of absolute honesty—no omissions of snide thoughts and the forthright uncovering of mistakes—causes more international turmoil, is it worthwhile?

Will exposing corruption even do anything to prevent its continued thriving?

Gather 'round the sandbox children, we're about to find out if our diplomats want to work this out like real bullies, throwing sand in each other's mouths, or if they'll play, hurriedly apologizing while snickering, like always. Or, maybe, they'll seek out the teacher and ask him or her to stop reading private conversations out loud. We'll see what, beyond the principle of truth, is the reality of full disclosure.

SGA to Define Relationship with Student Clubs

BY EMILY RINEHART

Last spring, Encore and the Shakespeare Players, both clubs with similar interests in mind, voted to seek a merger. According to Shakespeare Players member Sharon Lampman, senior, the two groups hoped to benefit from sharing resources—not only monetarily, but also in terms of props, officers, and actors. If successful, the merger would create a more streamlined and efficient situation that would prevent competitions for actors, as the two clubs often garner interest from the same people. Lampman said the "goal was that the focus of each club would not be lost." With this purpose in mind, a new team of officers began meeting this fall semester.

Greg Bish, Director of Student Programs, did cite finances as a problem with an official combination, however. Should money from one club's account be moved to the account of another, that money would be absent for any interested students next year. For example, if a group of students wanted to pick up the work of Shakespeare Players in the future, they would not be able to retrieve the money previously shifted to Encore. Bish reported this as one problem as one hassle that commonly prevents clubs from creating a technical merger.

Groups seeking to become an official club must gather a petition with 40 signatures of interested students, proving there is sufficient interest among the student body for starting the club. Once the petition is accepted, a potential club must apply for a charter. If this is granted, the SGA Vice President and the Director of Student Programs will grant the group pre-provisional status. The pre-provisional club must write and submit a constitution draft to the Committee on Student Organizations (COSO), which will review it and send it back with any suggestions. Should COSO approve a constitution, it will be passed on to the Senate where a 2/3 vote provides provisional club status. According to the Welcome Letter given to potential clubs, provisional clubs are required to "file a charter at the start of each year, hold a booth at the Activities Fair, and turn in COSO Monthly Reports at the beginning of each month."

After one academic year as a provisional club, a group may petition COSO to become an official club, complete with full privileges. This request must again be passed by Senate in a 2/3 vote and be approved by the Student Life Council to become a full-fledged club.

This past Tuesday night, Senate continued a discussion on SGA's relationship to a club once its constitution is approved and full-fledged club status is received. Next week at Senate, they will be looking at a possible resolution regarding the issue. ★

The World OUT There

BY DEREK SCHWABE

Presidential Deficit Panel Prescribes Sweeping Tax Cuts

A deficit management panel of top U.S. economists and government officials appointed by President Obama released this week their unanimous recommendation for drastic tax cuts and tax raises. The proposal would reduce defense, social security, and other spending, cutting a total of \$4.1tn from the budget deficit by 2020. The written document submitted by the panel admitted that "The solution will be painful," but reminded the president, "There is no easy way out." Members of the panel strongly agreed that America's staggering debt problems posed a direct threat to her affluence and dominant place in the world today. One civilian committee member, businessman David Cote creatively expressed the telling immensity of the U.S. debt and said "If you had spent a million dollars a day since Jesus Christ was born 2010 years ago, you would still not have spent a trillion dollars. And that will be our annual interest bill."

Five Nations Give Pitch to Host 2022 World Cup

With the 2018 location still left undetermined, representatives from five nations met in Zurich this week to argue why each of their nations is best suited to host the 2022 World Cup. Australia, the United States, South Korea, Japan, and Qatar all made formal presentations. The 22 members of Fifa's executive committee will begin the voting process Thursday, continuing until one candidate nation emerges with a majority. The remote nation of Qatar claimed that bringing the World Cup to the Middle East would offer a "historic opportunity" to ease international and interreligious tensions. South Korea presented similar reasoning, pointing out the soothing effect of such an event for East Asian relations, particularly between North and South. Former president Bill Clinton was a strong presence in Zurich, strongly supporting the U.S. bid to host with promises of record-breaking profits for Fifa. Japan gave the most dazzling of proposals, promising the construction of 400 stadiums around the world, which would be paved with 3-D flat screens to show life-size, hologram-like matches around the world.



photos courtesy of www.portfolio.com and www.football-pictures.net

Faith-Based Survey Results Announced, First Draft of Resolution Proposed at Senate

BY MONICA SANDRECZKI

At Tuesday night's senate meeting, Senator Garrett Fitzsimmons presented a slideshow of the results of the two student surveys on the faith-based language. Both a pre-forum survey and a post-forum survey were made and sent to students via e-mail in light of the forum at which President Shirley Mullen and Sharon Myers, Executive Director of Marketing and Communications answered questions from community members.

The pre-forum survey asked students to identify their initial feelings in regard to the issue, options ranging from "Unsure/No Opinion" to "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree." Other questions also included whether or not students felt they understood the rationale behind the decision, and how they saw the decision as affecting Houghton's Christian character.

Of a total of 527 students, about two-fifths of the student body, who took the pre-forum poll, 58% strongly disagreed with the decision to use the faith-based language, while 29% disagreed. On the other end of

the spectrum, 2% strongly agreed and 3% agreed.

According to the initial survey, a total of 76% of students felt they understood the rationale behind the decision anywhere from "to some extent" to "understand." A total of 23% said they either did not understand or did not "fully understand." When asked if they felt that an increase in enrolled students resulted from the faith-based language in the prospective literature would justify the change, 7% agreed and 3% strongly agreed. Meanwhile, 34% strongly disagreed and 36% disagreed.

Following the SGA sponsored forum, ad-hoc committee members Commissioner of Finance Jaime Donnan, Senators Fitzsimmons, Austin Rudd, Theodore Janney and Emily Rinehart created and sent out a second survey, also via e-mail, the Friday before Thanksgiving Break.

Questions in the post-forum survey were answered by 320 students, of which 62% said that they attended the forum. Out of that 62%, 95 students said that their opinion had not been altered. A total of 44 students said their view had

been altered negatively towards the decision, while 57 students said their view had been altered positively in some way.

From that same 62%, students who attended the forum, 97 students strongly disagreed with the use of the faith-based language and 61 disagreed; 15 students agreed with the change and 4 students strongly agreed. 30 students said that the new language would not create a negative change in Houghton's character, and 97 students said it would likely mean a negative change. Other questions were whether or not students felt they understood the rationale behind the decision, if their opinion would be altered should enrollment increase as a result of the new faith-based language.

After the survey results, Fitzsimmons also presented the first draft of a resolution created by the above mentioned ad-hoc committee. The resolution draft was intended to reflect the results of the surveys, indicating that there is a concern of misrepresentation in part due to the confusion among some students, and that it is understood that the faith-based language is only in a few pieces

of literature and is also qualified. Recognizing that President Mullen and Sharon Myers said, in the forum on Nov. 9, that the new marketing strategy is not a permanent change, this first draft of the resolution has recommended three different changes: it be reconsidered and new possibilities explored by a student-based focus group; the language usage be stopped and an alternative considered; not using the terminology for future marketing.

The need for a resolution was brought about at a previous senate meeting when several students created a letter that asked that the Senate bring student concerns about the faith-based language to the President, Student Alumni Association, faculty, PR, The Board of Trustees, and the student body. The resolution was not called for in the letter, but it was decided at that meeting that creating a resolution would be the most appropriate course of action.

In the course of the agenda item in the Nov. 30 meeting, members and the resolution will return for consideration during the Dec. 7 Senate meeting next Tuesday. ★

Flood cont'd from page 1

that day, there was "a lot of water, everywhere. When I got there, there was an inch and a half of water on the floor."

Custodial and maintenance staff worked from Thursday through Saturday to suck up as much water as possible, using on-campus equipment, and to dry residents' belongings.

"We owe a huge 'thank-you' to [custodial and maintenance]. They worked all through break and dried everything—carpets, beds, clothes, notebooks," said Becca Lang, sophomore and RA of sixth floor. She was also the RA on duty on Sunday.

Jacobson and Sharra Hynes, Vice President of Student Life, notified all of the residents before they returned from break and the RA on duty, and the resident directors were available in Lambein when the girls arrived on Sunday to answer questions, provide an informational sheet, and to "ease minds," said Ford.

"I've been involved primarily with coordinating our response with students—notifying them over the break, working with the Residence Life staff to do room by room assessments, collecting information for the insurance claim process, working with custodial, maintenance and residence life on the clean up process, etc." said Hynes.

On Tuesday, the RDs began to meet with residents to catalog the damages to all personal items and College property, lists which were to be completed by Wednesday night. Thursday, the RDs researched the different items in order to get accurate pricing for reimbursement. Ford said that they even went as far as finding out specific brands and model

numbers. And today, the insurance company is returning to retrieve the lists for reimbursement.

Personal damage ranged from laptops to class notes, textbooks to artwork. Hynes said that they are working with the Campus Store to replace girls' textbooks, buying what is still in the store and having books shipped overnight.

"Also, we have notified faculty members of the situation and have provided them with a list of all students who were impacted by the damage," said Hynes.

Ford noted that the e-mail was to let faculty know "these girls have had things lost, had to move, and to please be gracious."

To ensure that this does not happen again, all of the faucets that were the same make as the one that burst, were changed out on Tuesday night.

"We want to be proactive so we don't have to worry about this happening again," said Ford.

Ford said that the hardest part has been the damage to irreplaceable items, homemade gifts and the like, but added that girls that have had such possessions ruined have been very understanding. She also said that some of the girls have said that it has been a bonding experience and, in that sense, she is glad that something good came out of this.

"It's been encouraging because the girls in Lambein have had great attitudes," said Ford. "We're doing everything we can to alleviate the stress, because we know this can be frustrating."

"Sixth floor was the only floor not affected by the Great Flood," said Lang. "I like to call myself Noah, sailing above the flood."



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

Custodians and maintenance workers worked throughout the Thanksgiving Break to dry the damaged dorm rooms before residents returned.

West Seneca cont'd from page 1

semester, and I learned so much," she said. "I'm surprised that a school with so much focus on environmental stewardship would cut its main environmental program."

According to Professor James Wolfe, botany and ecology, Houghton in Adirondack Park is not only a beneficial program for environmental biology majors, but it is also beneficial for the outdoor recreation majors.

"For many students, it is their best

semester academically, not because it's easy (it's not), but because it's a more hands-on way of learning," he said. "This was not taken into account when the decision to sell was made."

There are no programs currently taking place at Star Lake. The property is listed, and although no offers have been made, it has been shown to multiple interested parties. According to Myers, Houghton will not be looking to buy another property like Star Lake in the future. ★

Student Spotlight:

Two Seniors Speak on Intentional Community

BY COLLEEN WHITE

Self-described "ordinary radical" and all-around rabble-rouser Shane Claiborne recently visited campus, bringing his message of authentic Christian love in action to every student's attention. To senior students Keith Kristich and Bryan Overland, Claiborne's message was nothing they hadn't heard before – rather, they have been earnestly delving into the deeper connotations of Claiborne's message in the context of the Gospel for several years, exploring what it means to live in "intentional community" and actively live out Christianity as a lifestyle. Through this journey they have also been spreading the ideas of community among their friends; in fact it was through Keith that I first picked up Claiborne's "Irresistible Revolution" two years ago. Now with graduation on the horizon the decision and means to put into practice these ideals loom large.

So how exactly would each of you define intentional community?

Keith: I would say it's living in a way where you're intentional about the way you live each day. It's about celebrating life with like-minded individuals, and forming a committed community around a shared set of values.

Bryan: You definitely need geographic proximity; you have to actually be living with the other people. Almost like at Houghton, especially in the dorms, although it's not quite intentional because you don't come here specifically to live with your floor-mates, but we do all have the common purpose of getting an education. In the dorms, we build each other up, and it's pretty hard to avoid people. That's characteristic of a community.

Keith: Especially on off-campus programs, when you go somewhere new and experience life as a group and experience life day in and day out together, that's a good example. When the common purpose is to learn about God then intentional community can be a ministry in itself. It can become almost like breathing; it's essential and

when you're living in real community everything you do has meaning, it's not just random like when you're on your own. Intentional community is about serving people around you, the ones you live with and the outside world.

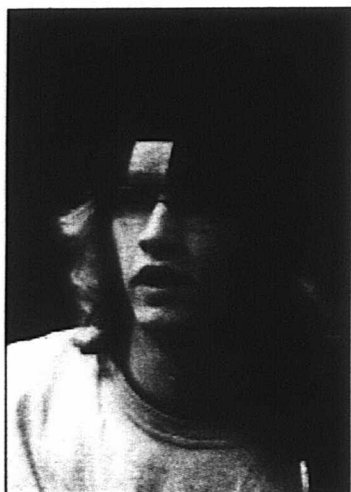


Photo courtesy of Keith Kristich

When did you first become interested in community living and what does it look like?

Bryan: I first saw it at Papafest. It's a "convergence of communities," a whole bunch of people living in their own communities get together to form one big community for a week. There are all sorts of different reasons, degrees and levels of each community – a neighborhood can be a community, or a house full of people...in each case they are all there for a specific purpose though.

Keith: You have to remember, community living is countercultural and so is Christianity. Christianity is a different way of life that Jesus tells us to do, and we need others to do it with, we can't do it on our own.

Bryan: Your chances of being successful (as a Christian) are more likely if you have a context of other Christians to live it in. Or at least eat with; the best thing about community is the potlucks.

Keith: Intentional community looks different everywhere you go, that is to

say, communal living isn't for everyone but community is.

Bryan: It's not just a group of friends getting together saying, "let's save money on rent," "let's hang out sometimes," it's, "let's have one car, let's have a

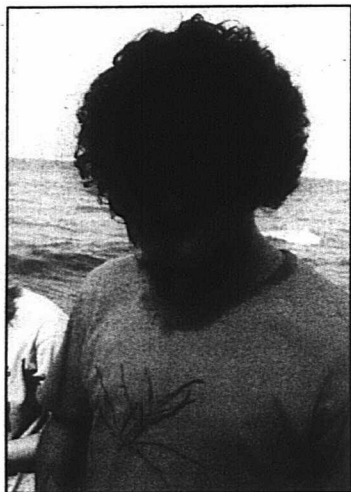


Photo courtesy of Bryan Overland

common purse. Let's do a service project and reach out to people." You have to have a common goal. I think the church should be more like this because, living in community you can't escape people but church has become just somewhere you go a few times a week to worship and have potlucks, and it should be more than that.

Keith: When you look at the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – we are made in the image of community and our church should represent that.

Do both of you want to live in intentional community?

Keith: Definitely.

Bryan: I would like to.

Keith: I know it's not going to just happen right away, and I know my dreams of what it looks like are going to change because it's got to be everyone's ideas together, but I do want to see what happens.

Bryan: I don't know if I want to do it forever.

Keith: But I know there are older people doing it, it's so diverse, it's not just for young people. Shane's not the first one; the Bruderhof is an international Christian community with 150-300 people in each location, they raise their kids in community and pay for each child's college education from a common purse. Community can't be based totally on idealism – there needs to be organization, and some kind of hierarchy or government. If not then there are too many unknowns, like, "Well if nothing is mine, and nothing is yours, who's going to wash the dishes?" "Everyone!" Well yes, but who's actually going to wash them? There needs to be rules and expectations.

Bryan: It works well if you're a hermit, but then that's not really a community. I don't know if I'll commit for life, maybe a one or two year commitment and see how it goes.

Why would someone commit for life?

Keith: It's a very practical way to live. Why is it normal to graduate and live alone? At college it's supposed to be the "best time of our lives," so why not continue to live a simple lifestyle with your friends? You can pay off bills faster too by sharing things and saving money.

Bryan: The Christian part of it. I pattern my life off of Christ as a Christian, so if I do live in intentional community then it will be for that reason, and if I don't, same thing.

So where should someone look for more information on what you've been saying?

Keith: Papafest 2011!

Bryan: Read the Irresistible Revolution, check out ic.org or communityofcommunities.info.

Keith: And start micro-movements at Houghton, get together to intentionally share a meal don't just float through college.

Bryan: Try it out. ★

Women Soccer Wraps Up Season at Nationals

BY NICK FREDETTE

As the William Carey University Crusaders netted their second goal just 11 minutes into the second round of the NAIA National Championship Tournament on Tuesday, things looked bleak for the Highlanders. Freshman Atalie Fite managed to find the net for Houghton with 15 minutes remaining in the game, but despite a strong fight, fell to the Crusaders 2-1.

Senior captain Kaylin Bull said of the game, "It was a shame that we let them get ahead so early in the game because it was extremely difficult to try to come back from a 2-0 lead with the field and weather

conditions. We couldn't put any passes together because of the puddles on the field, and at that point all they had to do was clear it out as far as they could."

The women's soccer team had finished the regular season with a 7-1-2 conference record, winning the American Midwest Conference title, and earning them a trip to the national tournament. The team defeated Indiana Wesleyan University in the opening round, which brought them to Decatur, Alabama, for the final site of the NAIA National Championship, and their game against William Carey.

Despite a tough loss to the Crusaders, the Houghton women's soccer program has enjoyed a successful season, which comes as no surprise. In a year where the Highlanders advanced to the

second round of the NAIA National Championship Tournament, finished with a 13-5-3 overall record, and Coach David Lewis saw his 300th win, one can say that it has been a good year. Each player on the squad has had a unique experience this year both athletically and spiritually.

"Jesus is the only explanation for a team of girls so unified and filled with so much joy, and I will cherish the rich memories I have with this team for the rest of my life," said Bull.

As a graduating senior, she has made strong contributions to the women's soccer program at Houghton, but in the coming years Coach Lewis and the Highlanders will have to look to their younger players to produce. The success this year has been a good experience for

the younger players, and experience in games at this level will always be beneficial to development on the field.

"We had a great season and I'm so grateful to have been a part of this team. Winning in the first round of Nationals in Indiana and advancing to the final site in Decatur, Alabama was such an amazing experience. This was a season I'll never forget," said Melissa Lincoln, freshman.

As the Highlanders soccer season comes to a close, one thing is for certain: players and fans alike have enjoyed and cherished the success of a great 2010 season, and will certainly look forward to next fall.

Christmas Show Will "Blow Away" Audiences

BY ABBY BUCKINGHAM

Musical ensembles at Houghton College have a reputation for excellence, which is proudly displayed at the annual Christmas Prism show. This year marks the fourth annual Prism event, with performances by the College Choir, Men's and Women's Choir, Philharmonia, and the Symphonic Winds, along with soloists and chamber music.

Each year a theme is chosen by the artistic director and music faculty, and the music performed centers around this theme. In previous years, the theme has been a line from a hymn or a more broad Christmas-based theme. This year, Mary's Magnificat is the driving force of Prism.

The Magnificat is found in Luke 1:46-49 when Mary visits Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, while pregnant with Jesus, saying, "My spirit exalts the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for the mighty one has done great things for me and holy is His name." A multitude of composers have used this exaltation as a basis for their compositions and from these, selections were chosen.

The music in the show this year is "... very diverse. We've picked composers from all over the world and all throughout history who have used [The Magnificat]," said Associate Professor of conducting and voice and Director of Choral Activities, Brandon Johnson. There is also less of a dramatic component to this year's performance as compared to years past. "This one seems to be a bit more concertizing," said Johnson.

Parts of Johannes Bach's setting of



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

The inspiration for this year's Christmas Prism is Mary's Magnificat.

Magnificat are used a few times throughout the show, along with a large variety of other music. A Christmas medley titled, "The Many Mood of Christmas," which combines "What Child Is This?," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Bring a Torch Janette Isabella," and "Angels We Have Heard On High," will be performed by the Men's and Women's Choirs together.

Sophomore Brian Morse, who sings in the Men's Choir, said of the group, "Everyone is really working hard to get this together in time. Anyone on the outside doesn't know how many hours

of preparation go into this but there are a ton."

"Rehearsals are fairly arduous and it's difficult to coordinate everything because we work on getting a flow," remarked Joia Otto, sophomore violinist who is in Philharmonia, referring to the complex interplay of the ensembles and sound and lighting technicians.

Freshman Samantha Krzyzewski, who is part of the Women's Choir, said she is particularly excited about her first Prism performance.

"It's been a really great experience

being able to sing ["The Many Moods of Christmas"] alongside Men's Choir. I was shocked by the power of all our voices joining together to sing."

Otto agreed, saying, "I find it really cool that everyone comes together, playing the finale together, having this huge extravaganza with everyone."

This year, approximately 160 choristers plus 130 instrumentalists will be performing in the show. Johnson said that this year's show is "one of the most musically gratifying Christmas Prisms that I've been involved with. It's going to flow very nicely." Krzyzewski added, "I don't want to give too much away but the finale will most definitely blow you away."

Additionally, the SGA is partnering with Jericho Road Ministries through 2010 Houghton graduate Suzie Derksen to host 88 guests from Buffalo for tonight's performance. Jericho Road is located in West Buffalo and provides financial, medical, social, and spiritual support for refugees from various countries and religious backgrounds. Volunteering students will be hosting the guests in family units, dining with them at the cafeteria and accompanying them to Prism as well as the after party in the Van Dyke Lounge. In response to Houghton's Prism performance, visitors from Jericho Road plan to give a presentation at the after party to share some of their respective cultures with the campus.

Performances will take place on tonight and tomorrow at 8 p.m. Doors will open at 7:40 and tickets are \$5 for students. ★

Stevens Art Studio Soon to be Renovated

BY ERIKA BREMER

Houghton College's art faculty members have been discussing what changes need to be made to the Stevens Art Studios in order to enhance recruitment and to benefit currently enrolled art students. Many of Houghton's students are probably not very familiar with the art building. However, it is one of the college's oldest buildings, the front part having been one of the original facilities of the Wesleyan camp that once occupied campus.

I spoke with the head of the department, Assistant Professor of art Jillian Sokso about the actions to be taken for redesigning the art building. She mentioned how some aspects of the art building can't be much improved but they will do what they can with what is available to them. She said the building they have fosters a great community among the students, despite some of its drawbacks.

Some aesthetic changes will be made with the help of freelance interior designer Meagan Luhrs, who is also the Director of Exhibition at the Ortlip Gallery and responsible for designing the renovations at Our Common Ground. Her plans include updating the studios, not through any actual construction, but through redesigning it into an "unusual funky space, mid-century modern." This will mainly include new furniture and a new coat of paint, especially in the lobby.

"If any building on campus should look great," says Sokso, "it should be

the art building, where people who are about aesthetics live and work."

The art department saved half of the funds to make this "face-lift" possible and the College will help with the other half, though as far as specifics are concerned, the art department is waiting to hear back from the Dean as to the approval of their proposed plans. Professor Gary Baxter asserted that "The administration has been very good to us and we have felt very supported," though persistence on the part of the art faculty was necessary. Because many of the needs aren't glaringly obvious, it takes a while for them to work their way to the top of the list.

The lobby redesign will take place over winter break. Students can expect new furniture, fresh paint, and tasteful display cases "to display student artwork," as Baxter pointed out. The space is used as a student lounge, for in-class critiques, for the Artists' Guild and as a space to meet and greet prospective students and their families. Sokso said she thought this makes it a significant space because it best demonstrates that "we care and we know what we're doing." Like housekeeping, prospective students and their families won't notice if the space is nice, "but if something is broken or there's old furniture—they'll say something." She stressed that the redesign will make the space "fresh and contemporary" and said that the department's hallmark is that the community and current student body should feel like they care and want to invest in them. Besides the lobby

space, Sokso said she is hoping that the studios can invest in new window shades to control the lighting in sensitive areas as well as new graphic design tables. Most of these will probably take place in Spring 2011, and as soon as the weather permits, the building's exterior will be landscaped and freshly painted.

I spoke with a couple of the current senior art majors about the changes going to take place. Senior Sally Murphy didn't know much concerning the plans, but she hopes they won't end up detracting from the unique character of the art building as it is.

"I like the craziness of it, being an art major it adds to the casualness... There's something nice about it being cluttered like it is. It's a fun way to see

where Houghton College has been in the past and where it's going." She is very supportive of the redesign of the lobby, however.

Marc LeMaire agreed, noting rather emphatically that "clutteredness is a really valuable aspect of the school."

Kendra Inglis and Megan Little said they think the bigger issue has to do with the crowded nature of the studios.

"There's not enough space and I think there should be more private studio space for the seniors at least," Inglis says. Unfortunately, any major constructive work is not planned in the near future. The hope is to have the studios completely redesigned by the beginning of Fall 2011. ★

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UnChristian? Keeping Perceptions in Perspective



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY KYLE JOHNSON

There has recently been great concern about what the rest of the world, particularly young Americans, thinks of Christianity. The book *unChristian* has been a major, though not the sole, catalyst of this discussion and it is a conversation that has been pervasive here at Houghton and elsewhere among Christians. There are two main contentions that have been made in this discussion. First, is that negative perceptions about Christianity exist. Second, that there is at least some truth to these perceptions. While I do not wish to entirely contradict or offer a comprehensive critique of *unChristian* (some of the thoughts I offer are pointed out by the authors themselves), I do want to point out some things that I fear may not be kept in the proper perspective as this discussion continues.

Firstly, while it is undoubtedly true that negative perceptions about Christianity exist, this is not a new phenomenon. In the first century, for example, Christians were believed to be cannibals who ate babies. Christians in the Soviet Union were labeled as enemies of the state for living in contradiction with the fundamental values of their society. We have always dealt with negative views of Christianity, some based entirely on misunderstanding and some based on the truthful recognition that our beliefs clash with those of the given culture. While we are generally aware of these parts of our heritage, I

sometimes get the impression we find something very uncanny about the fact that there are people that don't like us.

We've been spoiled to live in a society that has long been friendly toward, even endorsing of, Christianity. We need to be careful not to seem like we're whining when we get too worked up over being viewed as 'sheltered' or 'hypocritical' when Christians have suffered for much worse perceptions. There is nothing particularly phenomenal about the claim, to quote the opening line of *unChristian*, that "Christianity has an image problem."

Many contend, however, that there is a great deal of truth to the particular perceptions that are often mentioned. Whether or not this claim is true I'm not necessarily prepared to deal with to any significant degree. Regardless, just because these perceptions exist does not mean we should automatically assume that they are accurate criticisms or are a fair representation of the Christian community, especially since negative perceptions are common to our history. That's a very imprudent leap to make.

Furthermore, while I do not believe that the criticism of non-Christians is always wrong, we should also keep in mind that such critiques are coming from those who have different worldviews and criteria. These differing presuppositions are necessarily going to lead to misunderstandings that can't really be reconciled. This is one of the very reasons why Christians have been and will always be subject to negative perceptions: many

of the claims of Christianity will never be okay to the rest of the world. We should leave room for the possibility that there may be no way to be true to the revealed truths of Scripture without receiving criticism. There may be no possible way to call the world to repentance from sin without being labeled 'too judgmental'. Persecuted Christians merely deal with

this dynamic on an exacerbated level.

No one has really suggested the contrary, but we should also remind ourselves that Scripture should be our primary standard for correct Christian practice, and we should judge all criticisms accordingly. Where there are negative perceptions about Christianity that do reflect things legitimately wrong in the Church, Scripture should also be our guide

We should remind ourselves that Scripture should be our primary standard for correct Christian practice, and we should judge all criticisms accordingly

in detecting and dealing with the root of such problems. The perception that we are judgmental, for example, may not stem from too great of a focus on condemning sin (as a non-Christian could conceivably contend). Instead, it may be because we have developed an unbiblical view of sin that is too shallow and has stripped us of a proper sense of urgency and compassion to see the world change, making our condemnations hollow.

In light of all these things, I worry that we have unwittingly developed an obsession with ourselves. The gospel of Christ is much larger than me, or our public image. It is something objectively true, and which transcends the Church

and any perceptions someone may have. Our obsession with what the world thinks has, I fear, compelled us to relativize and contextualize our Christianity. In hopes of avoiding the connotations of 'Christian', we try to soften the impact by explaining what is distinct about what Christian means to me, or my church, or what have you. The gospel, however, is not about me or us, but about Christ. I believe that Scripture demands that I think of myself as not essentially a Kyle-Christian, a Houghton-Christian, or a Presbyterian-Christian. I am a Christian, who has ultimately bound his existence to the unchanging truth that Jesus Christ is Lord. I want people to see what that universal reality means, not what it means, "to me."

I hope that with the ongoing discussion regarding the perceptions of non-Christians we search our hearts to make sure we are in no way motivated by the desire to be liked or accepted. Our sole end is the gospel of Christ, living rightly before God, and fulfilling those ends come what may.

I am reminded of the words of missionary-martyr Jim Elliot, when he wrote of his disgust for what he perceived as a placid Christianity: "The world cannot hate us, we are too much like its own." There are things in the Church that need fixed, and we should be sensitive to the ways people have been legitimately hurt by Christians and should approach all with love and humility and peacefulness. But I would be more concerned if we were liked and accepted by the world. I hope that if perceptions of Christians change positively, that it has not come at the expense of becoming like the world. My hunch is that it is impossible to have it both ways.

Kyle is a junior Bible and Humanities major

Letters to the editor (signed) should be 350 words or fewer and be submitted by Tuesday at 7 p.m. You may either submit a letter online at www.houghtonstar.com or send us an email at houghtonstar@gmail.com

Tell Us What You Think

The Houghton Star is dedicated to the free exchange of ideas, and encourages community members to participate in the discussion. Ideas expressed in this newspaper reflect solely the opinion of the writer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit any contributions for reasons of length or decorum.

Letters
to the
Editor

Send to

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Dear Editor,

Paralyzed by agnosticism, I cannot call myself a Deist or a Christian, and I find both worldviews equally dubious. If forced to take sides, though, between the two defenses offered in the Star over the past weeks, reason and personal experience pull me to Deism.

Finding Josiah Proia's article, "God's Hand in History: A Christian Response to Deism," I was curious to see how "the messy details of deism" would be brought to light. Instead, all I read was a 'because the bible tells me so' explanation of why deism is only partially true. In objection to the "numerous examples of [God's]

involvement in HIStory," which Proia used to defend God's "trustworthiness," I cannot help but to read the Bible and find myself appalled at this God and 'His Word,' both overflowing with contradictions. Whereas Jesus taught such virtues as humility, mercy, peacemaking, and loving all people because God so loved the world, his Father ordered Samuel to destroy men, women, children, infants, and animals (1 Samuel 15:3). This revered god of love and forgiveness burned whole cities, drowned entire armies, and, as far as I can tell from Romans 9:18, predestined certain individuals for eternal damnation. With these depictions of a god no more fickle in his action than I, what room is there for belief?

In addition, Josiah Proia gave two examples from American history to support God's involvement in the world, the enslavement and eventual release of Squanto and George Washington's near-death experience in the French and Indian War. Whether these events actually occurred as described, I am not fit to say. What is most bothersome is the fact that God's miraculous movement in the States was offered as an undeniable explanation of the circumstances and results surrounding each anecdote. To call

From the Editor's Desk

The Truth about Homosexuality: It's Not a Religious Issue



PHOTO BY DANIEL PEIXOTO

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

On December 21, 1993, the Clinton Administration announced a Defense Directive that mandated that military applicants were not to be asked about their sexual orientation, and if an applicant was openly gay, they were to be denied. This policy was and is still known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." For the last 17 years, conservative Republicans and the Religious Right have supported and defended Don't Ask, Don't Tell because of the supposed negative repercussions on morale that would be the result of allowing openly gay men and women to serve in our armed forces. Putting aside their complete lack of faith in the members of the American military as rational and open-minded people, the Pentagon has recently released a report stating that there is no evidence that morale would be negatively affected by the allowance of openly gay men and women to serve. And yet, as is their custom, Republicans and the Religious

Right have continued to oppose the repeal of this backward, archaic policy which has no place in a free society.

But I guess we shouldn't be surprised. Conservatives have opposed almost every expansion of civil rights in the history of our nation, so why should they stop now? Those who oppose the

repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell are the same ones who would have opposed desegregation in the 1950s, women's rights in the early 1900s and emancipation in the 1800s. Even with this opposition, the men and women who fought, suffered, even died for these rights ultimately succeeded, making the

opposition to the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell all the more misguided. Anti-gay policies are the last remaining institutionally accepted forms of discrimination in this country. That is not to say that racism or sexism no longer exist; they do. But neither racism nor sexism is created, perpetuated and defended by the government of the United States like anti-gay policies are. We should not accept a nation with equal rights for some or equal rights for most, but only a nation with equal rights for all. To quote President

John F. Kennedy, equality is a moral issue "as old as the scriptures and as clear as the American Constitution."

Houghton students have a tendency to view the issue of homosexuality, and many other issues for that matter, through the myopic lens of evangelical Christianity. But with debate ongoing

about Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and gay-marriage, it becomes obvious that homosexuality is not a religious issue at all. Even if you believe that homosexuality is a sin, Andrew Marin's comment when he visited a few months resonates still: "It's not love the sinner hate the sin; it's love the sinner hate the sin in your own life."

The hypocrisy is astounding of those who say that homosexuality is a perversion of the natural order or a sin and thus gay marriage should be banned or Don't Ask, Don't Tell should continue. Since all sins are equal, maybe we should restrict the freedom of those who are overweight; gluttony is one of the deadly sins after all. Maybe we should refuse to allow an alcoholic to marry; they're living in sin too, right? I hope everyone realizes the sarcasm of the last two statements and also their absurdity. Of course someone's civil

rights should not be infringed upon because he or she is overweight or an alcoholic. But neither should someone's civil rights be infringed upon because he or she is openly gay. America is a country that is built on freedom of expression and liberty of conscience. Don't Ask, Don't Tell is in direct conflict with these principles and if you don't believe me, believe Lt. Dan Choi, a military officer who was discharged for revealing that he is gay. "Don't Ask, Don't Tell is not a joking matter. It is the only law that enforces shame."

Laws are meant to protect and defend the freedom and liberty of a nation's citizens. Continuing this policy has and will continue to call into question our nation's commitment to civil rights. Hopefully sometime soon, the Conservatives and Religious Right will realize that as in many other cases, they are on the wrong side of morality, the wrong side of reality and the wrong side of history.

Chris is a junior History and Political Science major

Anti-gay policies are the last remaining institutionally accepted forms of discrimination in this country

anything a miracle, I believe there must be no other possible explanation other than God. In each case presented by Proia, is coincidence so unbelievable, or at least equally rational as saying, 'God did it?' If so, where is the rational evidence of God? I have yet to experience that evidence, and any secondhand account is too dubious.

-Bradley Meyers, Class of 2012

Dear Editor,

...like nowhere else. I am unsure of whose job it was to create the new slogans that scroll across the images on our homepage, and I respect them for their effort. But while they might get an E for effort, in all other ways I'd give them an F. Not only are some of the statements humorously vague and easily mistaken (take off "else" and it becomes We're like nowhere), they are also insultingly childish. All work and no play isn't our style, it is cliché and pointless and does not represent the atmosphere at Houghton. Fun is not absent here, but it is more mature than the language of style and play and an overused cliché represent.

The worst, however, is: When we say "liberal arts," we mean it. Of course

we mean whatever we say and shouldn't have to reinforce that fact. And besides, most people, especially prospective students, don't know what liberal arts means, so why are we bragging that we mean something they don't understand?

It concerns me that none of the slogans are even Houghton specific. Any liberal arts college in the world could say those things about themselves. I'm not against change—new slogans, new website, etc.—but the current slogans make us sound like unintelligent pre-teens. I'm considering applying to prestigious graduate schools, and when I mention that I'm obtaining my BA at Houghton College, in all likelihood, a few of these schools will look up Houghton. Frankly, I'm embarrassed by the mumbo-jumbo language they will find there. Time for more change.

On a slightly more serious note, the current edition of the Houghton Magazine is eager to explain that the pointing-hand symbol on our website and promotional materials is a copy of a wooden hand that once sat atop a church spire in Houghton. Is anyone else a bit disturbed that this symbol of the Church of God pointing to God has now been turned on its side so it points to us?

-Megan Little, Class of 2011

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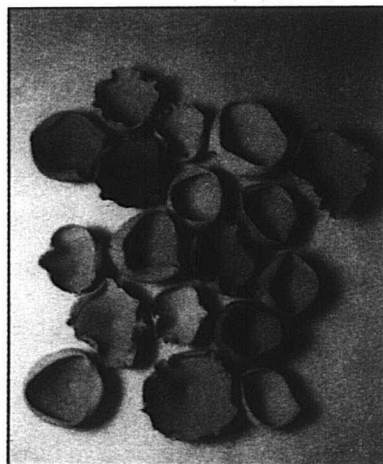
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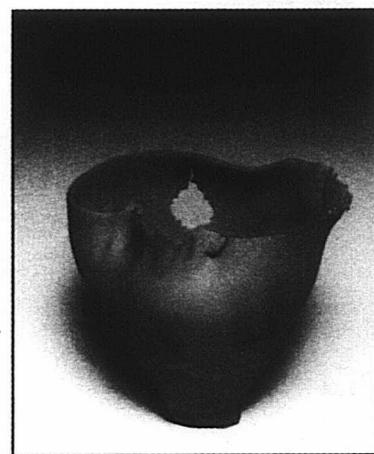
Orange Tree, watercolor



Jar, clay



collection of clay vessels

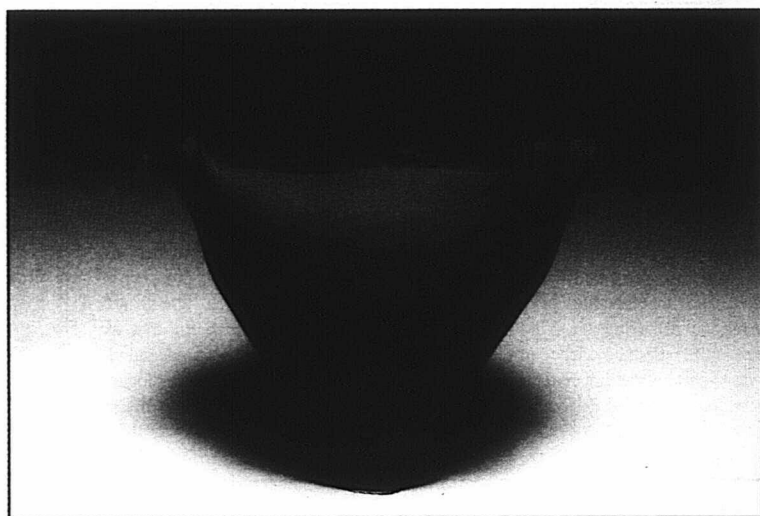


Untitled, clay

marc lemaire

ARTIST of the WEEK

A note from the artist: I have found myself grappling with ideas rooted in these contrasting ideas: nature and modernity, independence and society, fatalism and healing, beauty and fragility, transience and eternal, abstract and tactile. My aspiration is to raise questions to an audience rather than answers; I find this is only accomplished through patient observation. I hope people can become more aware of their surroundings and to find meaning in the small parts of life.



Untitled, ceramic vessel

sudoku CHALLENGE

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

Prize: Leroy Townes and the Lonestars album!

Last week's winner of the Suduko challenge was Andiana Sidell! Please come by the STAR office to claim your prize.

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