

THE HOUGHTON STAR

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Houghton Contributes to Haiti Relief

by Colleen White

In the face of the devastating earthquake in Haiti on January 12, members of the Houghton community are trying to find the best way to reach the country and help pick up the pieces. According to Student Government President Zach Adams, the first step in a series of efforts by the college will be a collection drive to contribute to the relief fund. Donations to World Hope International (WHI) will be collected in jars around campus, located mostly in dorms and at the Welcome Desk.

World Hope is a Christian non-profit organization dedicated to "alleviating suffering and injustice through education, enterprise and community health," according to their website. The suffering in Haiti at this moment is certainly very real, and WHI has already identified and sent medical teams to 10 of the sites hardest hit by the quake. As of last Thursday, World Hope had also delivered one jet full of medical supplies and tents, as well as a generator specifically destined for an orphanage that had collapsed. According to the World Hope representative on the scene, all 130 of the orphans had escaped the destroyed building.

It's this kind of outreach that the money from Houghton will go to, because according to Adams, all of the money donated from Houghton is 'earmarked' to go directly to Haiti relief. This agreement was set up by recent Houghton graduate Christy MacBeth who works for the World Hope International office in Washington, D.C. According to MacBeth, World Hope has had a presence in Haiti since 1996 and therefore is already mobilizing its 60-person team of Haitians and volunteers into relief action, supplying food, water, cooking fuel and other necessities to the victims. "The things people should never have to experience or see... are there," said MacBeth, but, "Donations are a HUGE help."

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Faculty Approve APC Plan to Implement Academic Restructure

by Kristen Palmer

The Academic Policies Council (APC), led by Ron Mahurin, Vice President for Academic Affairs, is making some major organizational changes. Supported by a vote of the full faculty just prior to the Christmas break, the Council will move forward in the plan to re-structure the academic system at Houghton. Two significant modifications will be made: five newly-appointed associate deans will join two current area associations deans. These associate deans will work with existing departments, and the APC will be combined with the Curriculum Review Committee to form one new council, which will be known as the Academic Council. Both modifications, according to Mahurin, will work to produce "greater effectiveness, collaboration, and vision for our academic programs."

Houghton currently has 17 different academic departments. The faculty, through a combination

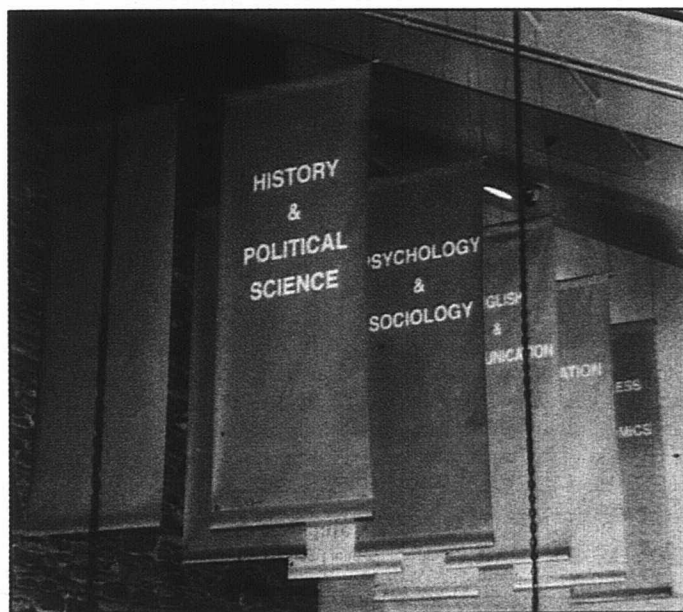


photo by Wesley Dean

A total of seven faculty members have been appointed to associate dean positions to work in the seven newly grouped "areas".

of election and appointment, according to Mahurin, has chosen seven faculty members to be associate deans who will work with the existing departments, which

have been grouped in to seven different "areas."

One area is the school of music.

Restructure cont'd on page 2

Student Leaders Tackle Diversity at Houghton in Color Conference

by Kyle Johnson

This past Saturday, January 23, the Office of Student Life hosted *Houghton in Color: Understanding Each Other*, a day-long leadership training conference for students from various leadership positions around campus. The event's purpose, according to Brian Webb, one of the event's coordinators, was to "provide an opportunity to dialogue about race and ethnicity at Houghton" and how such dynamics should affect leadership.

According to Webb, diversity is not a subject that evangelical circles tend to be "equipped to talk about." As a consequence, Webb concluded that "we ignore it, or marginalize those who might already feel marginalized" and "in the end nothing healthy

or constructive happens." Those who organized the event hoped to create a safe "space where dialogue [could] happen" and help people "put themselves in someone else's shoes."

The participants were invited at the discretion of various supervisors overseeing different leadership positions around campus, including Resident Assistants, Student Government, CAB, the *Star*, student athletes, and the Spiritual Life Committee.

The event began with several games and team building exercises designed to help the group "get energized" and get to know each other in order to facilitate a safe environment for tackling such sensitive topics. According to Webb, "core to dealing with any sort of difference is getting to know the person." The day

continued with group discussions and activities on a variety of topics relating to diversity at Houghton.

Christian Curran, SGA senator for the class of 2013, was one of the students in attendance at the conference. He called the experience "very positive." Curran said he learned that "when it comes to people, any sort of simplification is oversimplification. You can't take attributes of the group and apply them to the individual or vice versa."

Curran added, "I don't think that most people are racist at Houghton, but I do think that a lot of people operate on stereotypes that begin as social constructs and models to understand the actions of other people." These stereotypes, Curran concluded, "make it harder

Diversity cont'd on page 2

THE WORLD IS OUT THERE

by Derek Schwabe

World Health Organization Considers Internet Use Tax

The World Health Organization (WHO), the international public health agency of the United Nations is currently reviewing a "suite of proposals" for rapidly funding and improving global health care systems. The proposals, generated by a 25 member panel of medical experts, academics, and health care bureaucrats included an unusual proposition that asks national governments to impose a tax on internet usage. Panel members insist that this suggestion and others will offer "new and innovative sources of funding" for increasing the organization's capabilities in drug-making research and production. Other suggestions included the requesting of richer nations to allocate a fixed portion of their annual gross domestic product for similar purposes. The panel hopes to implement a system of some kind that will raise the necessary billions of dollars annually to "re-vamp" public health care in developing nations. It predicts that "taxes would provide greater certainty once in place than voluntary contributions."

Apple Releases iPad PC

After a meticulously orchestrated marketing campaign, technology titan Apple has released its highly anticipated new tablet-like PC, the iPad this week. Apple CEO, Steve Jobs, in an introductory presentation, touted the new machine as "the best Web-browsing experience you've ever had." The basic design includes a sleek 9.7 inch multi-touch color display and internet browsing capabilities for both local and 3G networking.

Consumers are calling it Apple's response to producers of the popular netbook and ebook, noting its design to support both internet surfing and ebook software. The iPad is hoped by many to offer a firm new platform for the necessary restructuring of an outdated print publication industry. During the demonstration, Apple highlighted news publications and book publishers that will use its "apps" to offer users literature of all kinds, from the daily paper to bestselling novels. The iPad release has served to strengthen Apple's corporate ties with AT&T—the company chosen to provide 3G network access to users. The machine was listed at a starting price of \$499 and pre-ordered iPads will begin shipping in about 2 months.

Obama Delivers First State of the Union Address

President Barak Obama, in his State of the Union address Wednesday evening, named America's primary focus this year to be creating jobs. He announced plans to double American exports in the next five years and, in an effort to decrease the deficit, wants to freeze government spending for three years beginning in 2011.

According to Obama, one in ten Americans is unemployed and rural areas have been the hardest hit. He said that he would insist upon a new jobs bill, praising the House for passing one, and encouraging the Senate pass one too.

He also addressed the efforts to combat global warming, to make motions to allow homosexuals to serve in the military, to end the war in Iraq and bring the troops home, and to bring about an arms control treaty with Russia.

Restructure cont'd from page 1

Ben King, already the associate dean, will continue in that role. Keith Horn was recently hired as the associate dean for natural sciences and mathematics, which includes the biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, and computer science departments. Paul Young will be the associate dean of the social sciences, which includes the departments of psychology, business and economics, and history and political science. A fourth area, "arts and letters" will be comprised of the English and writing department, the communications department, and the art department. An associate dean for this area has yet to be appointed. The fifth area includes the departments of intercultural studies, world languages, and recreation and leisure studies.

Although a name for this area has not yet been determined, Marcus Dean, who currently chairs the intercultural studies department and is the director of all campus programs, will be the new associate dean. A sixth area is education and physical education, which will incorporate physical education into the education department. The associate dean of this area will be Cathy Freytag, the current chair of the education department. The seventh area, which is not an area of change, but more an area of affirmation, will be the biblical studies, theology, and philosophy area, and will be under the direction of Associate Dean Chris Stewart.

These changes are designed to bring about collaboration and effectiveness, according to Mahurin.

"We'd like to see interdisciplinary collaboration take place," he said. "The idea of the associate deans is that they will work even more closely with individual departments to help build that collaboration." Mahurin also hopes that the changes will enhance the effectiveness of Houghton's academic programs, as they will transfer some of the administrative tasks that had taken place at the departmental level to the new associate deans.

"From a standpoint of academic leadership, we think that over time we can build greater strength in our academic programs if we can be working with associate deans in their leadership development," said Mahurin.

From a faculty governance standpoint, an important change involves the merge of the APC and the CRC to form the Academic Council. Presently, the APC deals with programmatic changes, while the CRC deals with curriculum issues. When a decision concerning both has to be made, there is a lot of back and forth.

"By having all that discussion at the Academic Council, we're hoping we can move forward more quickly and create greater coherence in our oversight as a faculty of both programs and curriculum," said Mahurin. "The rationale there is that we think over time, it's going to be much easier and will streamline some of the work the faculty does with academic programs and curriculum."

For the immediate future, students will not see a major difference in the system, according to Mahurin. Faculty members, however, definitely will. There will be a redistribution in some faculty loads in order to give the associate deans the time in their schedules to serve in their leadership roles.

Department chairs will now be expected to teach closer to a full load and will receive a stipend, rather than receiving load credit, for their duties as department chairs. Long term, however, it is anticipated that students will reap the benefits of the academic programs at Houghton, which will be stronger for the structural changes made at this juncture.

"The expectation is that students will not see significant change immediately or be negatively impacted," said Mahurin. "This change surrounds how the faculty does its business, and the goal is to enhance both learning experience and enrich curricular offerings over time."

Dr. Mark Hijleh, member of the APC, agrees. "Efficiently consolidating some of the work currently dispersed among a large number of department chairs and the Academic Dean's office, and reallocating it to a small number of new associate deans who will work closely together as academic leaders, will allow collaboration between academic departments and programs across the campus to be more effectively connected to strategic planning and creative implementation," he said. ★

Diversity cont'd from page 1

to understand individuals."

Nathanael Smith, chaplain for the class of 2012, and an RA in Rothenbuhler, reflected, "As a member of a minority group I find it hard to empathize with the experience of those in the majority." He further concluded that having the "honest discussion" that the event facilitated was "eye

opening" and that "only through honest discussion, where we allow ourselves to be vulnerable, can we complete the process of healing."

Webb too found the event to be a success: "From the nature of the dialogue, and the comments made to me afterwards, it seemed like it accomplished [our] purposes." One such purpose Webb summarized in this way: "Basically, I like to help people see a bigger God." ★

The Houghton College Lecture Series
presents

"Byzantium: Rome's Lost Empire"

by

Lars Brownworth,

Alumnus of Houghton College

Seniors Prepare for Graduate School

by Erika Bremer

It's common for second semester seniors to complain about the graduate school application process. But according to Brian Reitnour of Career Services, it's important to start thinking about graduate school before their senior year in college.

Knowing how to prepare is key in the whole process, and Career Services can help students get their bearings, understand what needs to be done, and how to start looking.

Career Services seeks to help out in any way possible, whether test preparation or figuring out how to get the best financial aid. "It's a counseling type of service," Reitnour says.

For senior psychology major Jessica Smith, looking into graduate school options is a recent development. She says Reitnour suggested to her the possibilities of looking for jobs in addition to looking into the graduate scene. "It's interesting that you can do both, you're not limited to one or the other."

Smith's late realization that graduate school is something she should look at is one problem many students may run into. As Reitnour pointed out that within the U.S., "The Masters degree today is yesterday's Bachelors" and this means some who have not previously thought about going to graduate school should maybe re-

think their decision.

Senior business major Marc Williams, already accepted into the University of Rochester's Simon School of Business, has had his sights set on graduate school since freshman year. Even for Williams, who had a plan, Career Services proved useful for touching up his résumé.

He advises students to "take advantage of the people that are here...a lot of people don't want grad school because they're tired of school, but education is a life-long thing and if you have the opportunity, grad school makes you more marketable and also a more well-rounded person."

Reitnour stresses that students "really ought to start looking and thinking about what they want in terms of what they want to end up with when they're done...the earlier you start, the better are your chances of finding the right fit both academically and financially." While many students may tend to discuss their experiences and problems with their peers going through the same process, Reitnour encourages them to talk to people who know, including alumni—"And we can help connect them with alumni."

When asked whether or not they believed Houghton College has been successful in preparing students for graduate school, Smith and Williams responded "Absolutely, Yes!" Surveys conducted by Career Services



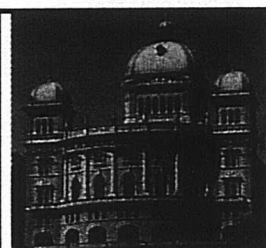
photo by Wesley Dean

The Career Services Center helps students with opportunities for graduate school and for finding jobs after graduation.

show that a majority of students who have gone on to graduate school believe that Houghton has done a good job of preparing them.

For Smith, her involvement in Youth for Christ has given her wonderful exposure and involvement with the types of people and situations she seeks to build her career around. His

involvement in the Student Investment Group and the Student Government Association were two experiences that strengthened Williams' apps. Both seniors emphasized the benefits of taking senior seminar courses in the fall semester or earlier so they have that experience to draw upon when searching for and applying to graduate programs. ★



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ChC 328



Haiti cont'd from page 1

This organization has other ties to Houghton, in particular that the founder of the charity, Jo Anne Lyon, served on the Houghton Board of Trustees until last year when she left to become the general superintendent of the Wesleyan Church. It was this kind of bond, said Sharra Hynes, Director of Student Life, that made World Hope the clear choice.

Beyond financial assistance there are also plans in the works for a mission trip to Haiti over Easter break. The trip would be open to any student who wanted to go, and the preliminary interest expressed by the student body is high according to Adams. It's

difficult to predict what kind of shape the country will be in by April 1st when Easter break begins, however Adams is hopeful that the opportunity to serve there will be open. Additionally, several clubs on campus including Evangelicals for Social Action, Global Christian Fellowship and Heritage Club, have decided to collaborate with SGA on several benefit events for Haiti in the coming months, although Adams stated that the ideas this network have come up with so far weren't concrete enough to announce yet. Clothing and other basic necessity drives are also in the works, but for now Adams said, "The obvious need is monetary." ★

Ortliip Gallery Presents the Faculty Art Exhibit

by Jeffrey Andersen

The saying goes: those who can't do, teach, but this is evidently not applicable to the Houghton College art faculty. The annual Faculty Art Exhibit will open with a reception tonight at 7pm in the Center for the Arts, featuring current work from all five art faculty. With the rare exception, all of the work on display was produced within the last year and represents a group of professors who are also active artists. The exhibit features work in printmaking, watercolor, ceramics, and digital imaging.

It's a fairly cohesive show despite the variety in media; the show conveys an understanding that the work of Professors John Rhett, Gary Baxter, Jillian Sokso, and Ted Murphy is the product of a life of integrated vocation, passion, and place, and that even the specific place of western New York is important to their lives and artwork.

This is most obvious in the work of Murphy and Baxter. Murphy's paintings, which are adroit demonstrations of the potential of the watercolor medium to capture light and atmosphere, have as their explicit content places around Houghton: his



photo courtesy of Wesley Dean

Ceramic work by Gary Baxter as part of the Art Faculty Exhibit.

backyard, the big tree in the Field of Dreams. Baxter's series of lidded jars explore a traditional ceramic form with abstracted but seemingly familiar landscape imagery. Sokso's prints, with their motif of blackbirds and sparrows heavily overlaid with patterns and chine collé shapes, also do not seem foreign to our experience of western New York. These bodies of work are an act of creatively

observing and participating in the local surroundings. Rhett's work makes evident his art-life; smaller watercolor sketches are presented next to larger interpretations of those scenes, providing a two-layered approach to the artist's experience.

Ryan Thompson's work is something different altogether. His "The Burden of Proof - Forest and Sea" explores the role and value

of digital images when presented as tangible works. The obvious pixilation reveals the role that computers played in generating the work (and our inurement to lo-fi images), and by printing the work on newsprint and allowing viewers to take home identical copies of the work, he raises questions about the cheapening of images by digital means of distribution through comparison to traditional means. In a backhanded way, "Forest and Sea" may affirm tangible art, while mocking viewers' consumerist approach to it.

The Faculty Art Exhibit is always an enjoyable event, and it is an important one. In regards to the significance of the event, Baxter says that students "need to see faculty AT work. They need to see art in the wild, and just how much clutter is involved in making work." And art students do have this opportunity, clutter and all. However, Baxter insists that it is just as important that students "see the finished pieces, the successes, displayed in the clutter-free gallery context, 'like caged animals in a zoo, as Robert Hughes says.'" Caged art professors? Well, that should be a good opportunity for art and non-art students alike.★

Despite Setbacks, Men's Basketball Thrives

by Nicholas Fredette

As the Houghton Men's Basketball team is well into conference play and has only eight regular-season games remaining, we look at the progress they've made so far. The Highlanders' current record is 8-10 overall, after a tough road trip to Florida over the new year. Despite this record, the team is confident heading into the last half of American Midwest Conference play, and is looking to finish the season strong in hopes of making the conference tournament.

Their last four games have been on the road, but the Highlanders return home this weekend to face NAIA #2 ranked Walsh University on Friday, followed by Mount Vernon Nazarene University on Saturday. Walsh is sure to be a tough opponent, with five solid starters led by senior forward Ricky Jackson. Jackson averages 23.3 points per game, and also leads the Cavaliers with 21 blocks. The Highlanders must look to defend strongly against Jackson and the rest of the Cavaliers if they look to pick up a win this Friday against Walsh. Against Mount Vernon Nazarene, the Highlanders will

also look to play strong defense, and to limit their turnovers. If they can manage to fuel their offense by keeping their assist to turnover ratio high, the team is confident they can pick up a win. They will be supported by Houghton's "sixth man", backed by fearless leader Zach Wise. The players name the "sixth man" as a big factor on the court in home games, helping them to get pumped up for game time, while also affecting the opposing team with thunderous cheers of "DE-FENSE!" As Wise put it, "The sixth man really gets the crowd going, and gets into it with themes for every game."

A big blow to the Highlanders this season has been the loss of senior forward Yannick Anzuluni. With him out of the lineup for all but two games this season, the Highlanders have needed to look elsewhere for scoring and rebounding, as well as the strong defensive presence Anzuluni maintained. Despite this loss, other members of the team have stepped up and performed well over the course of the season. Devin Paige and Ryan Shay have picked up much of the slack left by Anzuluni being benched,

performing extremely well in both scoring and rebounding. They lead scoring and rebounding, respectively, and Shay also leads in assists. Devin Paige exhibited his ability to score on January 16th against #12 ranked Cedarville University, where he scored 17 points, including an emphatic 50+ foot shot at the final buzzer to win the game for the Highlanders. Shay and Paige are backed by strong play from other players including Bryce Ireland and freshman point guard trio Mark O'Brien, Mike Amico, and Seth Shay.

The Houghton Highlanders Men's and Women's teams both

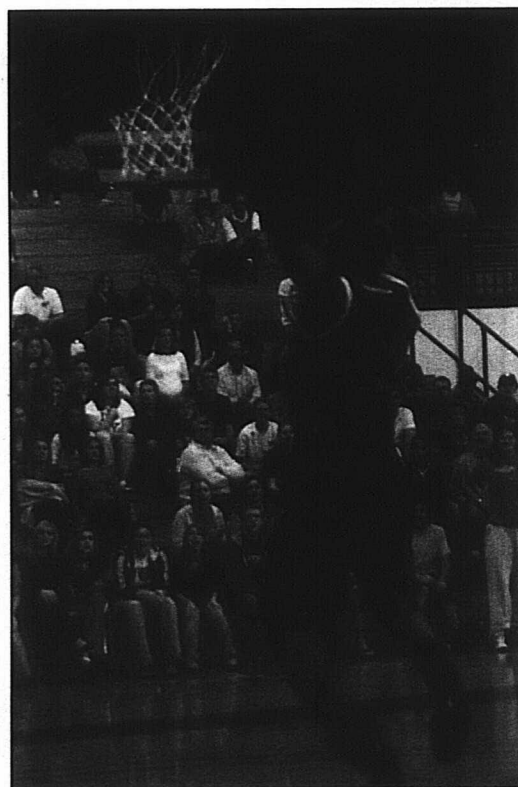


photo courtesy of Mike Wise

Junior Devin Paige dunks in the Houghton win over SUNY Canton (72-56) on Dec 6th.

play at home this weekend. Come support your Highlanders!★

Buffalo Restaurant Review: Mother's

by Christopher Aitken

On Monday January 25th, at eight o'clock, the Greatbatch School of Music, Houghton College featured faculty artist and pianist, William John Newbrough, in recital. Dr. Newbrough, whose reputation precedes him both on campus and beyond, favored listeners with a program whose wide spectrum offered a wide variety of styles. Said program, entitled "A Tour of European Keyboard Music, 1730-1930" featured works by D. Scarlatti, Chopin, Kodály, Schubert and Debussy. Despite having to deal with a bout of tendonitis leading up to the recital, Newbrough did not fail to impress, invigorate and inspire.

Dr. Newbrough began by playing the first of two sonatas by Domenico Scarlatti, the famous gallant style composer of the early-1700's. Both were played with a great technical precision as well as an overwhelming sense of the gallant character; Newbrough certainly capitalized on Scarlatti's typical transparent writing. He made the sonatas seem almost effortless. While some atypical romanticized elements (such as rubato) were evident in the performance, they still, like the performer, never cease to charm.

Most striking was Newbrough's control of the piano. His musical sensitivity and technical facility offered the audience a very true and yet utterly fresh rendition of pianissimo;

the softest of passages were played with utmost delicacy. His appropriately hushed playing brought clam to otherwise pervasive coughs, sniffles and rustlings of papers. This was most evident in both Fryderyk Chopin's Sonata in B-flat minor as well as Franz Schubert's Impromptu in G-flat Major, the latter of which almost sounds like a delightful homogeny of the composer's own "Ave Maria" and Franz Liszt's "Liebesträume". Upon playing the eminent opening phrase of the "funeral march" movement in the Chopin sonata, Ben King, director and associate dean of the Greatbatch School of Music, Houghton College, displayed an instant smile of satisfaction.

His final set of pieces included Claude Debussy's "Clair de Lune," perhaps one of Debussy's most famous compositions, and of it, Newbrough offered a fresh interpretation (mostly with elongated rests and gripping pauses) to an all-too familiar audience. It was no doubt a highlight of the recital. Despite the anticipated concluding trio of Debussy pieces, the audience soiled this prescribed triplicate by demanding an encore, as demonstrated by a flattering standing ovation (and one deafening, well-deserved whistle).



photo courtesy of Wesley Dean

Professor Newbrough presented A Tour of European Keyboard Music, 1730-1930 on Jan 25th.

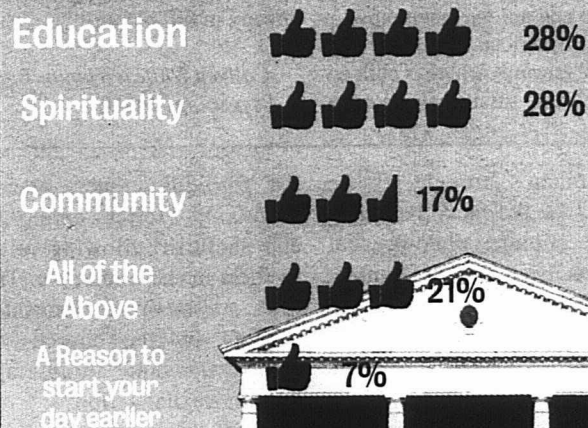
Newbrough responded by playing a slow, lilting waltz entitled "La plus que Lente", again by Debussy.

Newbrough's intimacy with the instrument was very communicative, his artistry, very evident. At times, he would lean in very closely while playing, as if to savor in the sounds of the piano first-hand. Other times (and especially at greater musical moments of technical flight or at the conclusion of a piece), he would dramatically toss his arms into the air, offering

the audience a moving and virtuosic physical aspect to the performance.

To err is human, and to recover, professional. While no performance is flawless, Newbrough's was a sound offering of what it is like to come remarkably close. Houghton College is blessed to have this professional in residence, a fine performer who offers up veritable banquets of music after which the aspiring pianist, avid listener, novice, colleague and student all pine.★

Which aspect of Chapel do you appreciate most?



Results from 29 votes



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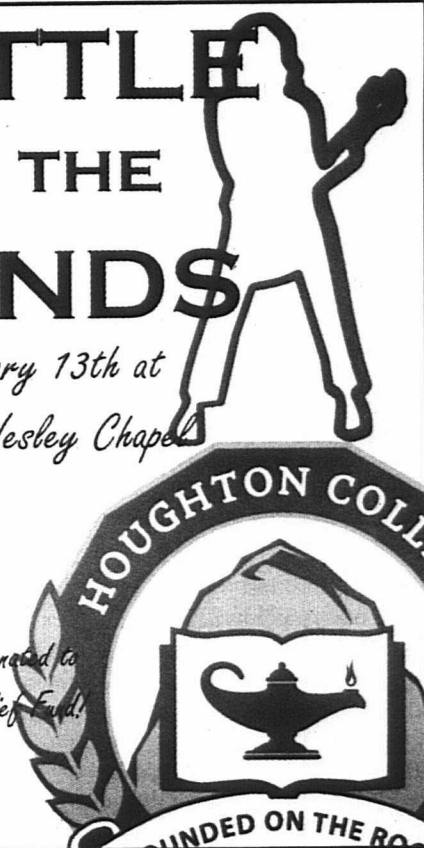
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Every Meal is an Opportunity to Change the Future

by Colleen White

Remember the first time you swiped that plastic card with your picture on it and stepped beneath that magical metal grate into the wonderland that was Pioneer food services? If you were like me, it was heaven to a freshman straight from the PBJ wasteland of high school. Pizza, french fries, and ice cream abounded in glorious quantities until that first shining semester had passed and the wondrous 'mee-meep' of scanning-in lost its melodious qualities. One meal began to blend into the next, and the taco bar became a bore rather than a bi-weekly excitement, until one day you finally resigned yourself to cereal for dinner and acknowledged inwardly that your older siblings really had been right about college food all along. However, you who are reading this are not me, and therefore my story must be a little different than yours.

My quest for better food began two years ago at an environmental club screening of the documentary "King Corn." Blissfully unaware of the horrors I had been ignorant of before that evening, I probably downed a hamburger or two with bacon and a side of country-fried steak before heading off to the Chamberlain Center. In this particular two-hour period, however, my life was changed forever. If you haven't heard of the industrial food crisis threatening America right now, or if the words "organic," "free-range," "Michael Pollan," and "sustainability" (minus the prefix "organizational") don't ring any bells, allow me to clue you in to what I've learned

over the past two years.

In the 1950s, America was faced with a swiftly rising population and a shrinking food supply. The solution to this problem was found in recycling ammonium nitrate left over from World War II for crops such as corn, in order to fertilize the ground and grow more bountiful harvests. Scientists

also contributed to this effort through genetic engineering, modifying corn and soy plants in particular to grow more closely together and therefore maximize the number of plants able to grow on a square acre. These new genetically modified plants were even thirstier for

fertilizer, meaning that more fossil fuels needed to be converted into nitrogenous materials to feed the corn, and cover it with pesticides to minimize loss. The government under Richard Nixon perceived this as good, and doled out subsidies aplenty to corn farmers in order to ensure that this stockpile of American corn would not run out any time soon, and would be available for export. This appeared to be a decent theory, judging by the size of the massive corn fields that began to take over the Midwest shortly thereafter. Today, corn is planted on 86.5 million acres of American soil according to the USDA, making up roughly one third of all harvested cropland.

This overabundance of corn is so cheap that it is mainly used to feed livestock, fattening them up more quickly than grass-fed beef so

that they can be slaughtered after a few months in a warehouse. What is leftover of the corn is either turned into corn syrup or ethanol: one to feed our cravings for sugar and the other to quench our ever-dry gas tanks. One-fourth of all supermarket items contain corn syrup, mainly because it makes

The only way to make the necessary change to a system built on renewable resources is to start making judicious personal choices today.

items taste better for a lower cost than cane sugar. This low cost is then transferred to the consumer who, on a tight budget, is much more likely to reach for \$1 Doritos over \$3 carrots. This tendency can be witnessed in the ballooning rates of obesity, particularly in poorer populations of the U.S. The top three causes of death in the U.S.- heart disease, cancer and stroke- can all be directly linked to obesity and an unhealthy diet. But, when a corn-fed beef patty from McDonald's costs a quarter of what an organic salad does, few people are willing to make the sacrifice. The sacrifice, however, needs to be made. It is now known that the rate of diabetes has doubled in the past ten years and is expected to rise to 15% of the adult population by 2015. Diabetes is often caused by obesity and was responsible for \$174 billion in medical costs in 2007, according to the National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse. If the cost of healthcare is such an issue, maybe it's time we start addressing the cause and not the symptoms.

The American method of industrial farming, which is built on non-renewable fossil fuels, is not a

system built to last much longer. We have already begun to see the effects of natural resource scarcity, not just in higher prices at the gas pump, but in numerous violent clashes around the world. The only way to make the necessary change to a system built on renewable resources is to start making judicious personal choices today. It is true that we often do not have the financial freedom to control how much gas our cars burn or what kind of fuel heats our home; however, the food we eat is something we *can* control. Agriculture accounts for 20% of all fossil fuel usage in the U.S., thanks primarily to the system in place. It is easy to blame the government and accept the idea that only just the right bill or subsidy can make the needed changes, but the fact remains that each of us chooses what kind of farming methods we support three times a day, at every meal. Granted, most students don't shop for all of their food, much less from local, organic sources, but with the glowing promise of environmentally-conscious Sodexo on the horizon next year, the opportunity to change the way Houghton eats is promising. Until then, what each of us puts on our plates is our own decision, but as for me, I have lost the taste for industrial meat ever since that fateful night two years ago. Many people would say that one person cannot make a difference, but much larger problems have been overcome in the past, and the nation-wide fight for affordable, quality food is already in full bloom.

Colleen White is a junior Biology & Psychology Major

Letters

to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In your last issue, a commentary piece by a Houghton alumnus was published in which the author makes several claims concerning the nature of homosexuality. Essentially, the author, while recognizing the issue of homosexuality to be a complex one, holds that "Same-

sex attraction is actually a very normal fringe issue of the sinful human's struggle with sexuality. The pull that we feel... to the same-sex... are all part of our fallen sinful identity."

In short, the author makes the argument that homosexuality is a sin- going so far as to rank it equal with "illicit sex, commercial sex, [and] pornography". There are, despite the confident tone of the article, several major flaws in the assertions put forward by the author.

First -in regards to the claim that "Same-sex attraction is... a very normal fringe issue of the

sinful human's struggle..."- we have to face the facts. Nowhere in the Bible is homosexual attraction listed as a sin. Granted, there are brief passages in the Old Testament where homosexual action is condemned (Leviticus 20:13- for example) but nowhere is the mere predisposition to homosexuality forbidden.

And this brings us to the second issue of homosexual action in general. The only place in the Old Testament where homosexual action is condemned is a few verses in Leviticus (18:22 and 20:13 to be exact)- along with an extensive

list forbidding such practices as mixing fabrics, eating pork and shellfish, allowing mildew to form in the home, etc. These laws are no longer considered binding by the church- why doesn't the same attitude apply to homosexual action?

Now of course, warnings against homosexual action do appear in the New Testament. In Romans 1:27 and 1 Corinthians 6:9, homosexual actions are condemned, however the exact reasons for this are less than clear. Historically, there was a sect of Roman polytheism that

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This Week Online: The Star's Online Forum on President Obama's State of the Union Address

From the Editor's Desk...

Overcoming the Anonymity of the Round Table

by Mitch Edwards

Being a senior at college has its perks. Even at Houghton, where equality is sought after, one does not have to look far to find how students of this status are given special treatment. As opposed to underclassmen, seniors at this institution are granted first choice in the selection of classes, given preferential treatment when applying for student leadership positions, and have the ability to live in non-dormitory buildings. Yes, if only for these trivial reasons, student seniority is a status underclassmen should aspire to.

Despite enjoying the more practical advantages associated with my senior status, my real contentment does not emanate from privileges like living in the coveted Brown House, nor does it come from getting into the classes I want to take. The biggest reason for my senior-thankfulness is having an understanding of what I value in a social environment, and what I do not.

When I think of why I'm thankful to be a senior, I immediately think of why I'm happy to not be a freshman, or underclassman in general. For many, the first years of college mark a tumultuous time of regret,

confusion, or simply, wonder -- and for good reason. When an eighteen-year-old leaves home for the first time in order to join a community of unknown people, modifying one's personality becomes very tempting. An incoming freshman can consciously or subconsciously decide to leave behind some "negative" personal attributes, and work on fostering those that he or she perceives as "positive." Now, factor in that most, if not all of first-years, are in some way undertaking this process of self-modification while simultaneously meeting others of their like, and the first year social environment becomes confusing and awkward.

One of my most vivid memories of freshman year was sitting at the round tables in the center of the cafeteria during meal-time. The friend group to which I belonged would often meet at one of these tables and try to see how many people could fit around its edge. I now see this daily, scheduled occurrence as a somewhat desperate act of relief.

For many of us, the roundtable was a lifeboat of security and familiarity, floating in the frightening waves of isolation.

Though we knew very little about one another's personal lives, we belonged to a group together, and therefore found commonality within our collective membership. We saw each other not as individuals with individual stories, but as members within a group that shared a common story.

While this mentality might seem appealing to some, I quickly grew tired of it. Every night, a consensus was taken on what activities "the group" was planning for the evening -- anything from watching a movie in somebody's dorm room to worshipping together in the chapel basement. Surprisingly, despite being constantly surrounded by others, this practice generated significant feelings of frustration and loneliness. Though it seemed as if friendship was abounding within the group, the shallow depth of our relationships quickly became apparent. In order to maintain such a large social group, we had silently agreed to replace meaningful relationship with superficial connection.

It wasn't long until the group began to fade, as members gradually swam away from the lifeboat, aware that they had better possibilities

finding meaningful friendship with those who shared similar interests, or similar individual stories. To this day, whenever I recall memories of the group, I wonder how we could have been so naïve. Did we really expect the group to remain intact for the entirety of our Houghton career?

What I find most disconcerting about this experience is that this social process might be unavoidable. It is through this experience that freshman, or maturing humans in general, figure out what social group they want to participate within. One might even say that this process is necessary, for without it, we're back where we began -- isolated and alone.

I'm happy to be a senior not because I get certain perks, but because I've never felt more comfortable with what I value in a social setting.

To the underclassmen who belong to large groups of individual anonymity: better times are on the horizon. To the underclassmen who are distressed to see their large friend group slowly decaying: this is natural, don't resist. My final advice: don't stay within the lifeboat merely because it's familiar and safe.

Mitch Edwards is a senior History major and is Commentary Editor

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practiced homosexuality as a form of worship-- one might argue that Paul's condemnation of homosexual action was an attack on syncretism within the early church. While there's nothing to *prove* this, nevertheless arguments can be made by both sides without any definitive conclusion being arrived at.

So I guess the point I'm going for here is that it's unfair to claim that homosexual action (let alone homosexual attraction) is indisputably condemned by the Bible. I'm not trying to argue that homosexuality is acceptable- I honestly don't know. But then again, I don't believe anyone can claim to know either.

-Gordon Brown, Class of 2012

**Disgusted?
Delighted?
Just confused?**

**We want you to be part of
the conversation.**

Letters to the editor (signed) should be 350 words or fewer and be submitted by Tuesday at 7 p.m. to star@houghton.edu

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

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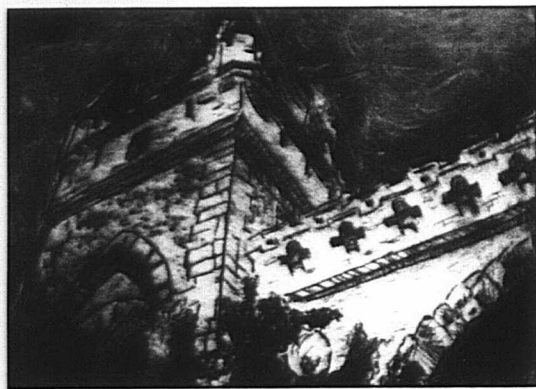
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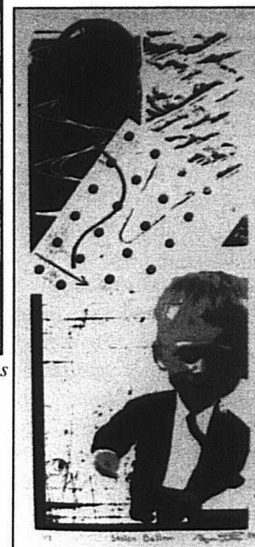
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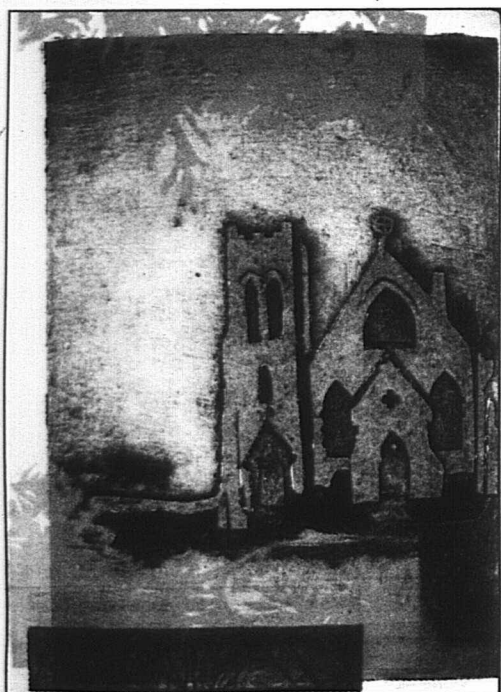
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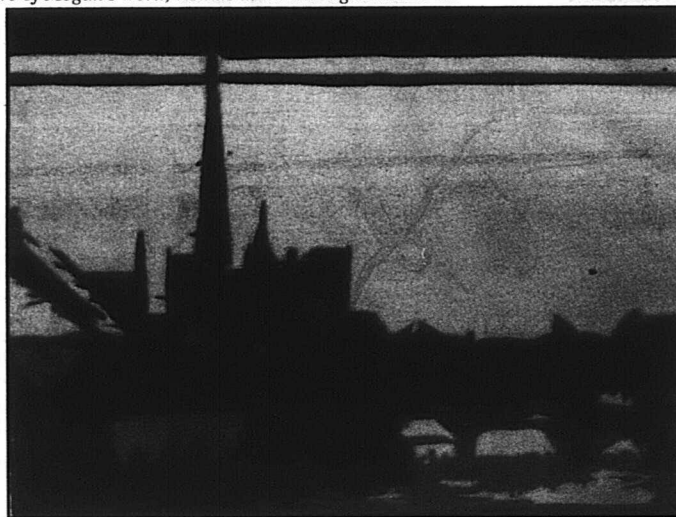
MEGAN LITTLE

Note from the artist: I am like a child with all God's creation as my playground and as inspiration for my games. And I will play all sorts of games: games with words in poems and stories, games with pictures; in paintings, prints and more. If there is a material with which I can create, I want to try!

Games are never quite so much fun on your own, so I write collaborative stories online, and I'm now creating a collaborative picture book called "Stuck Going East" about a guy who travels the world going in just one direction. Come join the game: <http://stuckgoingeast.wordpress.com/>.

For more of Megan's work, visit us at www.houghtonstar.com

OF THE artist WEEK



Grand River, Woodblock print

sudoku CHALLENGE

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

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

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

THIS SUDOKU IS
EASY

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

Prize: Leroy Townes and the Lone Stars' album!

THIS SUDOKU IS
HARD