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Panel Discusses Political Ideology

By Emily Burlew

On Monday evening more than sixty students, faculty, and staff attended the Houghton College Forum on Political Ideology. Sponsored by Gadfly, SGA, and the Star, this event sought to answer questions regarding political ideologies and parties in the modern political world.

Panelists included History professor, Cameron Airhart, who, as a Canadian, offered an "immigrant perspective." Education professor Connie Finney, a registered Green party member, provided a pacifist perspective, and Intercultural Studies professor Ndunge Kiiti brought an international perspective. Joining these three were senior Political Science major and libertarian Justin Zaner as well as guest Bob VanWicklin. VanWicklin graduated from Houghton in 1992 and is currently the Chief of Staff for Republican Congressman Randy Kuhl.

Moderator Joshua Wallace Vice President of SGA, asked each panelist to introduce him or herself. After a first round of questions that focused on the individuals' particular backgrounds in relation to political ideology, Wallace moved on to topical questions.

In regards to foreign policy, panelists agreed that cooperative work was necessary for advancement. "Divisions stop at the oceans," said Airhart, referring to traditional conceptions of conservative and liberal. Zaner explored the admitted impossibility of a partnership between McCain and Obama, saying such an action would send a unified message to the rest of the world.

Finney added that she felt the election process was too adversarial. "No one is looking for a good cooperator," she said, adding that there was too much emphasis placed on accusations. "Does being a better accuser make someone a winner?" she asked.

The discussion then switched to issues involving morality and the family. "Are these issues where the government should be involved?" asked Wallace. Zaner spoke first saying, "if it affects someone personally and doesn't affect another,

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Senate Approves Over \$8,000 For Gospel Choir

By Katarina Kieffer

In a five-hour marathon Tuesday night meeting that ran past 1:15 a.m., the SGA senate approved a measure to give \$8,150 toward a concert event for the Gospel Choir Club. The vote, conducted by secret ballot, passed by a tight margin of 10-7 due to what one senator described as the "divisive nature" of the discussion.

This is at least the second year that Gospel Choir has been attempting to acquire funding for this concert, which would bring contemporary Christian worship artist Nicole C. Mullen to campus. The \$8,150 does not alone provide enough funding for the concert, and goes toward a total \$12,000 cost.

Tirzah Cook, a senior and part of the SGA's Executive Cabinet as Campus Activities Board (CAB) Director, noted, "To put it in perspective, \$8,150 is approximately 70 percent of CAB's

total budget for the semester, which we use to fund concerts, movies, parties, dances, coffeehouses, and all other activities."

The \$8,150 is nearly half of the Club Event Fund's (CEF) \$15,000 for the fall semester, which the SGA is charged with distributing among various student clubs.

The CEF funding is divided between Type I and Type II: Type I funding is used to support student organizations that have been given Club status by the senate. Whatever is left over after this allocation is considered part of Type II funds, which Clubs can apply to use for specific, one-time, planned events that would benefit a majority of the campus.

The total for Type I funding this semester, which includes the total budgets of all clubs, came to \$5,427; the \$8,150 given to Gospel Choir in Type II funding is substantially more than this amount.

Arguments in support of funding

the concert focused on the event's potential for encouraging diversity on campus and the possibility of using the concert as a recruitment tool. As members of Gospel Choir, Senior Class President James Schneider and Senator Adele Cameron were among the strongest advocates.

Asked later about her advocacy for the event, Cameron remarked, "It is important to understand that Houghton College embraces all cultures and forms of worship, [and] some styles of students vary from others but...A Nicole C. Mullen Concert crosses many cultural boundaries, [and] it opens so many doors for Houghton on a broader level for future students who consider campuses based on the diversified activities they incorporate in their daily entertainment."

Both Schneider and Cameron spoke out strongly about the way in which this event would support

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Study-Aboard Update: Houghton Down Under

By Rebekah Miller

"If you want to tell them about Kingsley, you can start with the ants," Rhian Pearse, sophomore, yelled across her three-bedroom flat as she swatted the small ant from the inside of her bowl. Kingsley College, in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, houses the Houghton Down Under program (HDU)—12 Houghton Students, five students from Westmont College in California, and a host of unwanted animals and other critters. While the Houghton and Westmont students have enjoyed each other's company, the ants, possums, roaches and spiders that at times inhabit the campus are not so dearly loved.

In addition to the less-than-stellar living conditions, the campus itself is, as Rhian refers to it, a "ghost town." While students have limited phone and internet access with which to connect to the world outside Australia, here on campus there are fewer than ten other residents, none of which actually attend classes with HDU students. Classes at Kingsley are saturated with HDU students and rarely, if



Photograph by Rhian Pearse

Studying in Melbourne, Australia, Houghton students broaden horizons.

at all, have other students enrolled. As a result, the campus can feel isolated from Australian contact.

This does not mean, however, that Houghton and Westmont students suffer from seclusion from the outside world. While the nearest train stop is a solid 15 minute walk, a 30 minute train ride will bring one right into the heart of the Central Business District

(CBD) where almost anything can be found: fashionable shopping malls, petite cafes, grandiose libraries, and more restaurants than can be easily counted. While Houghton is limited to its Subway and China Star, HDU students have the opportunity to explore a wide variety of international cuisine. On top of entertainment

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THE WORLD OUT

By Joel VanderWeele

Scientists Predicts Aids Vaccine

The French scientist who received a Nobel Prize for the discovery of the AIDS virus 25 years ago has predicted that he believes a vaccine could be possible in the next four years. Dr. Luc Montagnier said that the vaccine would likely be therapeutic, rather than preventative, meaning that it would keep the virus from flourishing in those who are already infected but wouldn't prevent the spread of the virus.

Jet forced down in Iran

Military officials have confirmed that a business jet was forced down in Iran due to airspace violations last week. It was originally reported by the Iranian media that the aircraft was a U.S. military plane, but those reports have been vehemently denied by U.S. and Iraqi officials. It was later revealed that the Dassault Falcon was en route from Turkey to Afghanistan on a humanitarian mission and entered Iranian airspace on accident. After a day of questioning, the passengers and crew were allowed to continue their flight to Afghanistan.

Protestors in Bangkok

A day after more than 400 Thai protesters were injured in a demonstration that turned violent, the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) released a statement that it would continue efforts to force the Thai government to resign. The PAD claims that the new government will simply continue the legacy of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was the victim of a military coup in 2006. Since then, Shinawatra's supporters have won every election they've participated in. The new PM, Somchai Wongsawat, who is Shinawatra's brother-in-law, has assured foreign leaders that the Thai government will do its best to resolve the domestic conflict in a democratic way.

Financial Crisis

One week after the U.S. passed a \$700 billion bail-out bill, the UK has followed suit, announcing a rescue package that makes £400 billion available to financial institutions. Following the announcement on Wednesday, the British FTSE 100 looked like it would recover after a dismal Tuesday, but ended up dropping another 5%. In further efforts to stabilize the global economy, President Bush and other world leaders came together in an unprecedented move to coordinate a simultaneous drop in interest rates. The U.S. Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank, as well as

the central banks of China, Canada, England, Switzerland, and Sweden have all agreed to lower their rates by at least .5%. French President and current President of the EU Nicolas Sarkozy announced that he believes this coordinated effort to be the only way to stabilize the economic crisis that is ricocheting around the world. While Western countries bail out their banks and lower their interest rates, the Asian markets are some of the hardest hit. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 hit its lowest mark in 2 decades, losing 9.38% on Wednesday. Even oil-rich countries in the Middle East, Africa, and South America are suffering from the economic crisis as the price of oil reached its lowest point in 2008.

North Korea Building Atomic Warhead

South Korea's top military official has announced that North Korea is in the process of building a small atomic warhead that could be loaded into a missile. It is believed that Pyongyang has enough plutonium to make at least six warheads, and has launched two short-range missiles into the Yellow Sea earlier this week. This news follows North Korea's recent backtrack on a plan to shut down its nuclear program in return for fuel aid from the U.S., who failed to take North Korea off its list of state sponsors of terrorism.

MLB Playoffs

After winning their Division Series contests, the Los Angeles Dodgers and Philadelphia Phillies will play to determine the National League Champion and the Boston Red Sox and Tampa Bay Rays will battle for the American League title. The Dodgers swept the Cubs out of contention in three games, while the other remaining teams took four games to eliminate their opponents.

Russia to Finish Withdrawal

Russia began the final phase of its planned exit process on Wednesday, pulling its troops back from buffer zones outside of the disputed territories of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The final withdrawal, scheduled to be complete by Friday, is in accordance with the treaty brokered by French President Nicolas Sarkozy in August on behalf of the EU. This plan should reduce tensions between the two countries, but Russia still plans on leaving 8,000 troops in both breakaway regions, a plan which NATO, the EU, and the U.S. have all condemned as a violation of prior commitments.

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it can't be justified...Government regularly oversteps its bounds."

VanWicklin explained that these issues are easy to understand, and therefore "almost everyone has a position" on them as opposed to other issues which are "further away from the kitchen table."

Finney

emphasized the importance the Church has in helping determine how much government is involved in issues of morality.

"Government has responsibilities to its citizens," said Finney, "but where is the church taking positions in these matters? We are the ones leaving these things to the government."

Airhart had the final word on morality and family, stating "Ideology breaks down in this area." He continued, "Government doesn't do morality and family very well," mentioning the end of life issue and the disaster occurring from the national attention given to the Terri Schiavo case in 2005.

On the issue of environment and the energy crisis, VanWicklin emphasized the shared feeling that this is a prominent concern, stating that "everyone believes the same thing on this issue, but uses different words to say it."

Airhart emphasized the importance of personal responsibility on the green issue, saying "We shouldn't be blaming government, or a political party, or an individual for the fix we're in." Zaner added a personal reference, talking about how three months spent in China last summer, where the extreme pollution masks mountains from one's sight, made him realize just how important the environmental issue.

Wallace then asked a question regarding the current healthcare issue. "Is it a solvable problem?" Airhart answered that the system is "broken, but solvable," and emphasized the need for an "American solution, not

a Canadian or a European solution."

When asked where they see current candidates and their chances to win, Zaner said the Republicans chose the Democrat's favorite Republican, John McCain, and pointed out that these candidates are more mainstream than those in previous elections.

VanWicklin

emphasized the general lack of executive experience, saying that three of the four candidates (Palin excluded) have served in

All over the world, "People are connected to U.S. Politics: The biggest challenge is educating ourselves."

the Senate, Zaner pointed to the two debates ahead. Airhart stated that Americans "are very nervous," it has come down to the economy, and Americans simply "trust Obama more" at this point.

Finney emphasized the importance of informed decision making. "Don't choose a candidate based on the weaknesses of their opponents," she urged. "Don't just choose the lesser of two evils."

Kiiti brought a different perspective, emphasizing the importance of this election for other countries. "The world has to shift," she said, "depending on which party is in power." She implored audience members to "seek out information about the rest of the world." "Everyone, everywhere is looking toward this election," she said.

Kiiti recounted two students who visited her in Kenya after they graduated. While they were visiting, Kenyans repeatedly questioned them about U.S. senators, policies, and bills. "People are connected to U.S. politics," she said. "The biggest challenge is educating ourselves."

The presentation of varying perspectives through the political forum was an attempt to foster conversation on campus concerning the upcoming election and motivate students to think about what they are voting for.

SHAWN McDONALD ROOTS TOUR
with Jake Smith

Saturday, October 11
9:00 PM
Wesley Chapel
\$5 Adv./\$7 at the door



• SGA continued from page 1

cultural diversity on campus. Cameron especially felt that there had been a narrow-minded attitude toward this event when it was suggested in the past, and again emphasized the potential for drawing in a more diverse group of prospective students.

Some senators had concerns, however. Sophomore class President Audrey Gillette expressed concern that, while "The senate was informed that advertising, planning, negotiations, etc. were under control...we were given no further details. I do not believe it was fiscally responsible in a time of national economic downturn, with so few details provided to the senate, to grant such a large sum of money for a one time event... I was not strongly opposed to giving money for the cause, but I was opposed to the rush and lack of information that we were faced with."

Cook felt that "Rather than thinking about financial responsibility, it seemed like the vote may have been swayed by the late hour, the length of the senate meeting, and the guilt of appearing to not care about cultural diversity."

She added, "This concert seems to be less about cultural diversity and more about Nicole C. Mullen."

Senator Josh Nolen expressed a similar feeling after the meeting. "While there were not any outright statements of racism, it seemed to be implied by some senators that if you voted against the proposal you were against diversity."

Still, Nolen felt that the primary issues were interest and preparation: "In the end, the division was this: the senators who voted against it did so not only because it was a lot of money, but they did not feel there was enough student interest or enough preparation; on the other side of the aisle, the senators who voted for it did so because they felt the planning was sufficient, there was student interest and, although it is a lot of money, that it was well within our budget."

One senator, who requested anonymity, suggested that the push to end the conversation may have had to do with the late hour and the desire "to just be done with it." Cook agreed, lamenting, "It was extremely unwise for 20 students

to make an \$8,000 decision at one in the morning."

Despite these concerns, Clara Sanders, a college Senator, did not feel "that it was in any way a pressured vote." She said, "Although the decision was difficult, we were well-informed; diversity is an important concern, and it's a good thing for students to consider it. The SGA was challenged by this issue, and that's important for our role as a leadership organization, regardless of the outcome of the vote."

The length of the meeting was not abnormal, considering that the Senate was dealing with funding allocations. "Normally, the allocations take a long time," said Jennifer Steinhoff, Commissioner of Communications and former student senator. "We try to be thorough, and...good stewards of the money we're given."

Cook spoke to the concerns about student interest and preparation, saying CAB had tried to work with the Gospel Choir over the summer

when asked about the possibility of bringing in Mullen. Booking a concert is complicated, and typically CAB is in charge of coordinating with various Administrative offices to pull off these events in a "fiscally responsible way." Research is done to make sure that the cost of bringing in

the artist can be justified by the potential ticket sales.

She suggested to Gospel Choir the possibility of bringing in "a different artist of the same genre, maybe one on tour in the area, that would be a more fiscally responsible choice. They were adamant, however, about bringing in Mullen, and CAB decided, based on our budget, we didn't feel it was a reasonable use of our money."

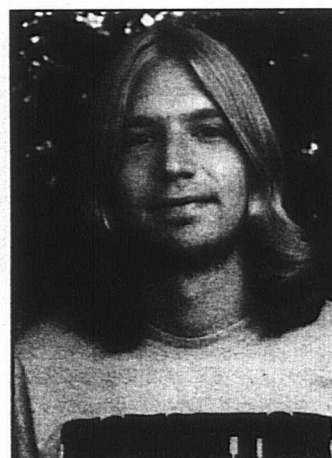
Regardless of the controversy, Cameron expressed that she was "ecstatic" to be "able to bring... [the Gospel Choir's vision] and have SGA—to who I must say, thanks for the vote of confidence in Gospel Choir—endorse such a vision and endorse diversity in worship."

Nolen expressed that he was unsure if Senate had made "the right decision," but that he "believe[s]" that the college should support the interests of the students, so far as it is able; and if it is a flop, then it will go down in history as the time when Houghton spent \$12,000 for a concert and only 3 people went."

Student Profile: Kyle Austin

By Sandra Stark

Kyle Austin, at age 22, is a freshman at Houghton College. Before attending Houghton, Kyle spent two years serving with Operation Mobilisation in Nepal. This is the beginning of a number of student profiles that will be appearing in the paper throughout the coming weeks.



Star: Can you tell me a bit about your background?

Austin: I was an MK in Europe. My parents were church planners with Wesleyan World Missions, which later became Global Partners. They worked in Germany for seven years, then the Czech Republic for six. During my junior and senior year, I went to high school in the Adirondacks. After high school, I figured that my options were college, continuing to work for minimum wage, or entering into missions. I didn't really feel called in any of the three directions, but I figured that you can't go wrong if you are serving God. So I decided to go into missions. I joined Operation Mobilisation, and went to Nepal for two years.

My parents' old boss told them to suggest to me the organization Operation Mobilisation, more specifically, OM Nepal. I didn't even know where Nepal was or anything; all I knew was that there was Bible distribution and there was a war going on there.

S: What did you do while you were there?

A: It is illegal to evangelize in Nepal, so we called our ministry "Trekking ministries." We would go out into the villages in groups of two, three, or four, and we would bring a whole bunch of gospel packages and Bibles in the Nepali language. Then, given the opportunity I would go to schools, do dramas, and teach about Jesus. We called it a cultural program. I would first teach about America, and then I would ask if I could teach about Jesus, and about half the time I was allowed to. I lived there for two years, spent about fifteen weeks out in the villages, and the rest of the time I was back in the capital of Kathmandu. There I spent a couple days a week doing friendship evangelism—just taking friends out for lunch and then talking about Jesus as much as possible with them. I also worked very closely with an orphanage. It was very convenient because there were a lot of riots, and when riots happened, we were not allowed to be on the streets. So I would go right over to the orphanage, and the kids would all be sent home from school, so we would play games, sing, and learn together about Jesus.

S: Did you ever fear for your safety when in Nepal?

A: I've been to some dangerous places. There was a ten year war between the communists and the monarchy that ended while I was there. The monarchy actually likes Americans, because after 9/11 the communists were actually put on the terrorist watch list, and that made the government eligible for American aid. This made the communists really angry with us. When I was out in the villages, I was in communist-controlled territory, and they got really upset with us a few times, threatening me and threatening the people that I was with. I usually could diffuse a situation just by talking quietly, sometimes for hours, to get people to stop yelling and threatening. One time we got in an argument with the communists, and they decided to just arrest us and let us call the embassy in the morning, but one of my friends decided to take off running, so we followed him. We ran down the mountain through the jungle—my first cross-country experience. We got away. We were faster than the communists.

S: What exactly is Climbing for Christ and Operation Mobilisation?

A: Climbing for Christ's mission statement is to "go where others can't, or others won't go." Many missionaries simply aren't physically capable of going some of the places that I have been, and others simply don't want to. The hope is that anytime there are avalanches or earthquakes, Climbing for Christ will be among the first Christian missionaries to be there.

S: Is there anything that you would like to tell your peers?

A: I think that we too quickly eliminate the possibility of missions from our plans. I didn't even really want to do it, but I just felt that I wasn't called anywhere else. I wish more of us did it, and not necessarily before college, but maybe after. Maybe simply being open to spending a year or two serving others, as opposed to just immediately getting money. If anyone has any questions about Operation Mobilisation or Climbing for Christ, I am an unofficial representative for both of them, so please get in contact with me.



Ultimate Frisbee Forfeits School Funding to Play on Sundays

By Monica Sandreczki

The Ultimate Frisbee team, unlike most Houghton College sports teams, is not given funding from Houghton because their games and tournaments often take place on Sundays.

According to Josh Grimm, 2006 Houghton graduate and former Ultimate Frisbee captain, the team was originally started as a club with funding through SGA. The SGA funding was in place from the spring of 2004 to the spring of 2005, during which time the team did not realize that, as a sponsored club, they were not allowed to play on Sundays. When the SGA became aware of the Sunday games, they withdrew the team's funding but did not ask to be reimbursed for the financial support they had provided for the past year.

"In Frisbee, we don't have weekday games like other sports, so it's almost impossible to only play on Saturdays," said Grimm. "We could have agreed to play only on Saturdays, but it defeats the purpose of having the club because then we can't play in tournaments."

The team never plays just one game; every competition is a tournament, and tournaments typically take place on Saturdays and Sundays.

Captain Jason Bongiovanni, a senior, explained that tournaments "usually take the entire weekend



Photo by Bethany Ortuist

Devin Stark plays in the the Ultimate Frisbee tournament this past weekend at Niagara.

with four games on the first day and between three and five on the second day depending on how well you do and the size of the tournament."

Since the team is not funded by Houghton College, it is not officially affiliated with the school.

The team makes money by hosting a tournament each semester. The tournaments bring in money because each team participating in the tournament must pay \$100-\$200 to the host team.

"It's really one big cycle. Teams earn money by hosting tournaments, then use the money earned to travel to other school's tournaments," said junior Mitch Edwards.

"The school is very generous

in allowing us to have the entire Field of Dreams for one Saturday," said Bongiovanni. "Even though the school does not give the team any funding, they still allow the team to exist by letting them host one tournament a semester. They could have easily told us that we weren't allowed to use their fields at all, so in a way they did make a concession," said Grimm.

According to Bongiovanni, some profit is made by selling Frisbees with the team's name, The Roaring Sheep, printed on them. Funds are used to pay for tournament fees, transportation, and other team expenses such as the jerseys the team purchased a few years ago.

Currently, the Frisbee fund covers the payment for tournaments, but the members usually have to help pay for hotels, and sometimes gas, according to Bongiovanni.

A typical tournament weekend will start with the team leaving early Saturday morning to drive to their destination. Once they arrive, they participate in "pool play." An eight-team tournament is divided into two groups of four teams and within those groups, each of the teams play each other. No teams are eliminated on Saturday, but are instead seeded according to their rank. The team spends the night at a hotel and returns on Sunday to participate in a single elimination bracket. However, if it is a single day tournament, the team will play up to five or six games in one day, "which is incredibly tiring," according to Edwards.

One interesting aspect of the sport is that there are no referees. The sport is completely self-officiating. According to Overland, games that are played on a national level have observers, and the call goes to the "person with the best perspective on the play."

The team's next tournament will be held in Edinboro, PA, this weekend (Oct. 11-12). The next home tournament is on Oct. 25. Junior Christine Rankin said the home tournament will be "smaller... with fewer than 15 teams, mostly because of lack of space."

In Like Flint's: Review of Local Rollerskating Rink

By Jesse Woolsey

It is not a movie based on poker legend Stu "The Kid" Ungar, an amateur bowling tournament, nor a high-stakes gambling establishment. Flint's High Roller in Pike is a revamped yet vintage roller skating rink that recently glided into the spotlight under new management as an up-and-coming Allegany County weekend hangout.

There is something magical about this rink founded in 1974. "When you go to the High Roller," declares devoted skater Didi Hodge, "you feel the passion of the skate." The smell of waxed floors, leather skates, and buttered popcorn brings one nostalgically back to childhood birthday parties. This rich wood and leather scent stays with you, both emotionally and physically. At the lacing of the skates and a spin of the wheels you glide across well-worn wooden planks back into your whimsical childhood love of fun and friends.

The new management at High Rollers offers bountiful improvements. The rink is in tip-top shape, the food menu has been expanded, skating hours have been lengthened until 11:00pm

and extended Thursday through Sunday, there has been promise of a new video game in the arcade, and, most importantly, the begrimed and shifty youth who once loitered in the building's dark corners with cigarettes and brown-bagged drinks have been expelled. Offering further protection to the skater, workers now disinfect each skate after its use, something neglected in the past. No more athlete's foot from a smelly guy who skated 28 years ago in your skates. The skating staff, including a blonde bombshell and an impressive amateur skater who sports black jeans, is compassionate and helpful when Marx Brothers-esque spills result in potentially shattered tailbones. Now that is quality family entertainment!

The spectacular lighting and sound systems provide a wonderland of joyous disco hits and wheeled leather footwear. Music and entertainment are abundant. Ardent skater Eric Stevenson claims, "They've brought new life to the Hokey Pokey!" Slapstick humor is rampant during the Hokey Pokey as skaters attempt to spin each other arm in arm, swinging from partner to partner. The mainstays of birthday skate parties remain:



Photo by Kyle Horton

Yuliya Tsypushtanova, Greg Bish, Greg Dabb, and Chris Cruikshank enjoy a night of skating and hokey-pokeying.

spin the bottle, the limbo, and the chicken dance.

As if you were not already raring to go, there is even a side room that not only contains arcade games, pool tables, and two inexplicable exercise bikes from the 1980s, but a lit up dance floor straight out of Saturday Night Fever. Cautionary note: there is a barred cage and metal pole at the front of the dance floor, so, despite recent developments of dance policy, attendees will need to remain champions of character by keeping a higher purpose in mind

and realizing that all dancing is not the same.

Skaters at Flint's High Roller will find their hearts strangely warmed by the excitement of strapping on retro leather skates with their best friends. On November 1st, all proceeds from the rink's admission will go directly toward the Letchworth Central School 6th grade whale-watching trip. You can book the rink for parties or find more info at 585-493-2842. Group rates are available. It will change your life!



Houghton Philharmonia Preview: "Movements and Motions"

By Micah Warf

The prominence of the Greatbatch School of Music is manifested in many ways, both on and off the Houghton College campus, and possibly most effectively through the school's numerous vocal and instrumental ensembles. These include the College Choir, Symphonic Winds, and Chamber Singers, among others. One of the most energetic and colorful of these ensembles is the Houghton Philharmonia. Conducted by Dr. Brian Casey, assistant professor of Conducting and Horn and director of Orchestral Activities, the group is enjoying an especially strong season this year, with many talented freshman instrumentalists establishing themselves amidst a strong core of veteran players.

Comprised of instruments from across the spectrum of instrumental families, the nature of an orchestra allows the Philharmonia to offer an exceptionally broad range of sounds and styles to their audiences. This ability to quickly and easily move across genres and emotions is an especially important feature of the Philharmonia's concert this evening, October 10th.

After attending one of their rehearsal sessions this past Tuesday, I came away feeling inspired by the power and unity of the orchestra's sound. Dr. Casey commented that "this orchestra has a great amount of positive energy. They've been super to work with. It's a different ball game this semester [compared to last semester], largely because we have double the number of strings, which makes everyone feel better. There's just more weight and presence to the strings sound." Clara

Giebel, former concertmistress and longtime violinist with the ensemble, echoed this, saying, "It's really exciting to have so many new string players."

It was very exciting to hear about the enthusiasm for this year's orchestra, and even more exciting to hear them perform the program for tonight's musical offering. The repertoire that will be presented has been selected from many different schools and periods of orchestral composition, and comprise a concert entitled "Movements and Motions." When asked what this theme is all about, Dr. Casey responded that he chose pieces "that have strong rhythmic elements and varied rhythmic elements. Beethoven has this huge forceful march and Shostakovich has these cutesy rhythms with the violin and flute solos. The Strauss and Poulenc pieces are both 'perpetual motion,' and I brought those in to emphasize rhythmic elements."

The concert will begin with the immortal sound of Bach, embodied in several movements from his Orchestral Suite no. 3 in D. Controlled and elite, but incredibly graceful, these movements capture the essence of the Baroque era, and express a musicality which is intricate and does not immediately present itself to the listener. The famous "Air on the G String" will be familiar to most of the audience, and the other movements will no doubt be just as enjoyable.

A definite highlight of the evening will be the percussive, powerful, and unmistakably modern Chairman Dances by contemporary composer John Adams. Underpinned by a driving



Photo by Christie Spear

Dr. Brian Casey conducting the Houghton Philharmonia.

beat from a host of percussion instruments, the tonal melodies in the strings and woodwinds ride within this rhythmic framework, occasionally coming to the sonic forefront to provide glimpses of an emotive and complex chordal structure.

Grand, expressive, and broad, the neo-classical sensibilities of Beethoven are wonderfully evident in his fifth symphony. Usually recognized by its dark and intense first movement, the Philharmonia will be performing the fourth movement, Allegro, which is joyous and exuberant, combining a sweeping melody with characteristically full and harmonious orchestration. A dynamically challenging piece, the orchestra's masterful grasp of the music provides a scintillating blend of both passion and subtlety. Stuart LePan, freshman cellist, loves this particular piece because he "just

gets to rail on it. It's definitely a 'break the bow' kind of piece."

Standing in emotional contrast to the Beethoven piece is the first movement, Allegro Moderato, of what is possibly Schubert's most well-known orchestral work, the "Unfinished" Symphony no. 8. Beginning with a richly dark and brooding passage in the bass and cello, the movement builds to an adrenaline-filled climax, bringing in the upper strings and woodwinds. The music then begins a rhythmic chord progression that propels the music into an expansive, high-spirited melody.

Another highlight of the evening will be the first movement, Allegretto, from Shostakovich's Symphony no. 5. Obviously a far cry (musically speaking) from Bach or Beethoven, the twentieth century composition of this symphony places function over form, using rhythm and tone as tools to create a complex and almost tactile musical fabric. The meter and sound change constantly as the piece moves from raw, orchestral power to a gentle and delicate violin solo, covering a broad range of ground in between, but the excitement, color, and intensity do not waver. Jon Vogan, guest student conductor for the Shostakovich, says "the music is intense and playful and awesome, all at the same time."

Other pieces performed will showcase Haydn, Strauss, and Poulenc, and all promise to be a treat for the listening ear. Dr. Casey underscores this, saying, "every one of these pieces...I believe in them."

The concert will be at 8:00 PM this evening, October 10th, in Wesley Chapel.

*Australia continued from page 1

and food, the city also boasts a range of museums and architecture. Because of the relative flexibility of the HDU program (classes are only Tuesday-Thursday), students have tremendous opportunity to explore the city on their own time.

Academically, the response to HDU courses is mixed. Some prefer the discussion-oriented class time and appreciate the fact that class grades are mainly based on papers and participation as opposed to tests. Lauren Gauzza, HDU senior, commented, "I like the classes, I feel like I'm learning more here than at Houghton. It's on your own pace and not so academically pressured." However, some students would prefer a more structured setup. Seth Monroe, Westmont HDU student, says that while the classes are "challenging enough," the academics are "back loaded" with many of the papers due at the end of the semester and with

little accountability for the reading. Regardless of one's preference of class structure, however, one cannot deny the existence of a relaxed and relatively non-stressful academic atmosphere both in and outside the classroom.

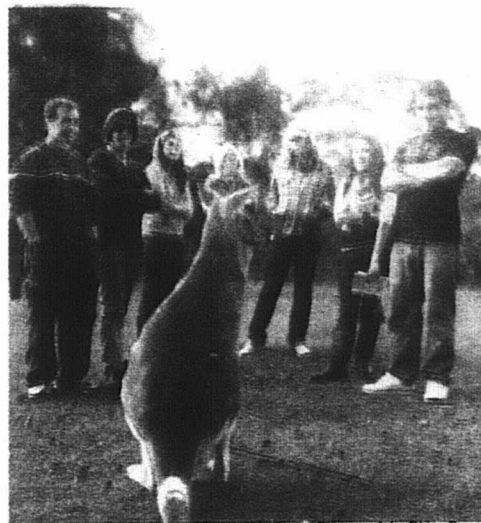
In its flexibility, the HDU program leaves it up to the student to decide how much he or she is going to get out of the program. While there are scheduled trips, such as Tasmania and the Great Ocean Road, and while all students are enrolled in two courses designed to outline life in Melbourne, students are mostly on their own when it comes to interacting with Australian culture. A planned community meal every week gives students the opportunity to meet those few individuals on campus. In addition, the long-standing Houghton relationship with Gavin, a well-connected, well-liked Australian, has led to a number of hidden gems of experiences. For example, several students recently had the opportunity to play hippies as extras in a Salvation Army

video.

Australia is about as far away as an American can get from home. As an HDU student myself, I have been enjoying this weird and friendly place where bark falls off the trees and complete strangers are willing to walk with you to your next destination in the event you get lost. We've had the opportunity to feed and pet kangaroos, and then later to go to the open-air market and buy kangaroo meat.

Though, I don't suggest the "roo" burgers; the lamb here is tastier.

Because Kingsley College has been sold to Tabor University, a 'Uni' over an hour away, students



Photograph by Rhian Pearce

Houghton Down Under students come face to face with new experiences.

speculate on the availability of this program next year. Most hope, however, that it can continue in Melbourne, with a few adjustments.



Freedom Within Framework: Seeing the Value of the Sabbath Policy

In the recent campus conversation about the Sabbath, "legalism" seems to be an all-too-common worry - but is it really a justifiable concern?

by Gabriel Jacobsen

Two weeks ago, the STAR contained two different reflections on the topic of the Sabbath and the relationship it should or should not share with our common life here at Houghton via official college policies. In the spirit of keeping the dialogue open, I would like to respond to a question implicitly raised within the body of those two pieces, one in contrast to the freedom we have in Christ, and the other in reference to suggestions that were made for our community's Sabbath practice at the Simplicity Initiative's Sabbath Celebration. I do not presume to speak on behalf of any of the policy making or enacting bodies on campus, but I simply wish to offer my own thoughts. The question is this: Does the college Sabbath policy (or suggestions for its amendment) amount to, or endanger us of, heading down the road of legalism?

As I begin, I would like to propose that it is not the existence of a policy, but its structural design and intended aims that determine whether any rule is categorically legalistic. This seems to me an important distinction if we want to move beyond automatically associating all Sabbath policies on our campus with legalism. It also seems relevant to point out that in

seeking a contextualized Sabbath practice for Houghton, it is reasonable to recognize the denominational and individual diversity of conviction among our community members, while maintaining continuity with Houghton's historical identity and solidarity with the Wesleyan Church.

In recognition of our community membership's diversity, I think it beneficial to understand Houghton's Sabbath policy (located on the college website) as providing a framework that preserves the freedom of those on campus for whom Sunday (or Saturday) Sabbath observance is a matter of conviction. It does not bind individual community members that choose not to practice a specific Sabbath as a matter of Christian freedom. This is consistent with the New Testament in not requiring observance of the Mosaic Law as a matter of inclusion in the New Covenant family (Acts 15, Gal. 2, Col. 2) and allows us to embody the spirit of loving deference to others found in 1 Corinthians 10:23-33.

As we will most likely always have a piece of our community that values Sabbath practice, we can recognize our freedom in Christ to see all days as holy unto

the Lord, but defer, in love, to the consciences of other believers who set apart a day of worship and rest. This was the intended sense of Dr. Friebe's comments at the Sabbath Celebration, who stated in further e-mail correspondence, "I do want to avoid institutionalizing Sabbath in the sense of legally imposing a set of do's and don'ts on the whole

Charges of legalism toward the Sabbath policy at Houghton seem a bit extreme.

campus when such are not part of the personally held convictions of some (maybe even the majority) of individuals. While saying that, I also

think that there do need to be some institutional standards which help to safeguard Sabbath observance for those who desire to keep it."

It is here that we may find a rationale for keeping closed those areas of the campus that would present employees and students with either the need or an appeal to work in areas on campus that are not essential to its function or that are connected to its primary vocation as an educational institution (i.e. library, classrooms, sports, etc.).

In relation to remaining faithful to Houghton's historical identity and connection to the Wesleyan Church (as well as following the practice of

much of the worldwide church), it is not surprising to me that Sunday, the day of Jesus' resurrection, is set aside as our community's day for worship and rest for those who wish to observe it as such. Our policy is not an outward-only display of tradition, but comes from the identifying values of our historical community.

In light of this sense of finding freedom within framework, a path divergent from duty-bound law keeping emerges that serves the entire Houghton community in a way that is faithful to its identity and commitments. Charges of legalism toward Sabbath policy at Houghton seem a bit extreme. My answer to the earlier stated question must therefore be "not necessarily." We must find, in the sentiment of J.H. Yoder, "paths of [practice] without infidelity, fidelity without rigidity" (Body Politics 10). I think our policy captures that spirit quite well. I am sure that some will disagree and I hope that we will continue to take advantage of the opportunity to consider this issue together as a community—as an expression of Christian freedom that is not fearful of finding or enacting concrete ways of supporting the diversity of Sabbath expression on our campus.

Gabe Jacobsen is the Resident Director of Rothenbuhler Hall.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Micah Warf's memorable editorial in the September 26 issue left me mad at The Man for messing with the cherished student institution of SPOT. The administration was going to fill the show with so-called "classic" acts while censoring current students from presenting barely any new and relevant material! After the fact, I'm sure plenty of people are relieved that the apocalyptic full-scale takeover predicted by Mr. Warf seems not to have taken place.

But me? I sat through the "fun" of slow-moving skits, musical acts with vocalists who couldn't quite hit their pitches, and an unasked-for Third Coming of Stuart and Doreen. My hopes that SPOT would rise out of mediocrity were for the most part dashed. There were a couple good acts, and my favorite was Alex Glover's genuinely humorous song about a relevant campus issue. (I heard that the act with the stringed instruments was really good, and that it came just before a showcase dance number. I left before those acts, just after Jill Stuart's impressive "4x speed"

recitation.) But I have the feeling that if I had left after the old-timers had finished their fun, I would have walked away more satisfied.

The retro portion of SPOT was more solidly entertaining than the second part of the show. A significant portion of it related to campus life and fittingly, lovingly lampooned it, things which SPOT should do more than it usually does. The Glee Club's "Four Years of Houghton" proved that some things never change around campus and are always good for satire. Even the segments in between acts were usually fascinating as we learned more about what life at Houghton used to be like. I was delighted with the Look Back that had been burdensomely foisted upon this year's Homecoming SPOT.

Then we moved to the new stuff. Even the debate between the great Eric Stevenson and the beloved President Mullen left me disappointed.

Micah, I say this with all brotherly love: The Man can take over my SPOT anytime he wants.

-Andrew Davis, Class of 2009

Dear Editor,

I appreciated the opportunity I received last week to explain my role in preparing for Homecoming and some of the rationale behind a number of the decisions made

regarding the weekend. As a result of my participation, I feel a great deal of responsibility to apologize for a discrepancy between what I said last week in my interview with the Star's Freshman Intern, Miss Sandreczki, and what transpired after it was published.

Last week's issue of The Star quoted me as I expressed my appreciation toward the 125th Committee for the extra time available to prepare for the "Then and Now" SPOT. While I feel the "Then" portion was extremely well done and deserving of great compliment, I did not feel the "Now" segment was reflective of the additional time given for added preparations required of the 125th Event.

The discrepancy between the anticipated and the actual production was not the fault of one person, or even a group of people, but simply a misunderstanding of that which would be required for an event of this magnitude. I feel there is a great deal of good to be said for the individuals who worked so diligently to hold the event, but also feel disappointment for the difference in the quality promised and the actual quality of the event.

To end on a positive note, I was very pleased to see President Mullen so deeply involved in the event and to see so many freshmen eager to become involved in the Houghton

Legacy surrounding SPOT. I submit my apology for providing slightly misleading information and wait with anticipation for the next SPOT event.

-Josh Wallace, Class of 2011

Dear Editor,

After weeks of cryptic emails from the administration about "125th Homecoming Celebration" activities and days of upsetting schedule changes, the 125th Homecoming Committee's evil plans were finally brought to light: they are trying to starve us into submission. How, you may ask? Observe the following phenomena:

I will admit that I had no qualms with going trayless, though I am concerned with the situation on the ski hill come snowfall. But now it is clear that this was only the first step in weakening the students' defenses against a full attack. How can we organize our platforms for campus activism at the most voluntarily attended event of the year when we are literally being starved?

I applaud Mr. Alex Glover for his strength to stand up on stage and deliver his scathingly direct and poetically desperate epic ballad of the Tray Wars. However I fear that his attack of the inner workings of the administration did not go unnoticed, as I have not seen him since his courageous stand against



the (Wo)man. The hunger was too much for him.

I cannot say that I wasn't surprised to walk into 'dinner' on Saturday evening to find all of our food miniaturized. But I rest assured that this is simply another effort, along with going trayless, by the various initiatives, staffs, and organizations on campus, to reduce our carbon footprint, our hydrogen thumbprint, and most importantly, our voices.

Saturday's lunch was cleverly disguised, as a 'carnival' and dinner as 'stroll and dine', both ambiguous enough to conceal their lethal intentions and weasel \$7 from our meal plans at the same time. Neither meal fulfilled my hopes, the carnival atmosphere being dampened by the circus lines of eager alumni and their children awaiting cold hamburgers and stale pretzels, and dinner bringing to mind the 4 o'clock hour at Sam's Club, complete with mini sausages and cheese cubes.

While these 'options', fancily presented to us on silver (like) trays and jealously guarded by tuxedoed wait staff, did not seem like typical dinner fare, I am confident that they provided sufficient sustenance to the College Choir members who would perform later that evening, as well as the SPOT players from 'then' and 'now'.

So, it must be assumed that it was all a build up to SPOT so that the Homecoming Committee could be certain that we didn't interfere with their perfectly planned performance for the alumni and benefactors of our school. As if taking the reins of SPOT from the hands of the students who were intended for the pouring out of talent was not enough, they had to starve those few performers that did get in to be sure they didn't try anything funny.

Well, I'm on to you, Houghton College. And Madame President, I want my chicken patties back.

-Laura Day, Class of 2010

Dear Editor,

While visiting campus on Homecoming weekend, I was intrigued by the strong opinions in the Star about alumni participation in the SPOT. I wanted to write to offer my perspective. ("Perspective" is what old folks call opinion.)

First, the returning alumni who attended the SPOT, and those of us fortunate enough to perform, had a blast! The current crop of Houghton students does a great job with the SPOT and those of us returning after several years envy the availability of the technological tools that contribute to the high quality of the production.

We understand that this is an event to showcase current students. Please consider that the returning alumni who participated did so to demonstrate an on-going love for Houghton and its students. (Then

From the Editors' Desk...

Houghton's Blurry Vision: Missing What's Close to Home

It's good that we are beginning to emphasize a global perspective, but are we becoming too farsighted?

by Katarina Kieffer

Last year, when I was returning from a Mayterm spent in the Balkans (courtesy of East Meets West program), I met Tanya, a tenacious world traveler from New Zealand, while spending a 23-hour layover in the Gatwick airport. While sipping Starbucks coffee and zealously guarding our backpacks, we talked about our recent travels, religious experiences, and our political persuasions. The one troubling aspect of this conversation did not stem from our different assessments of our different religious views—she was a dedicated Buddhist and a reluctant Christian—but her assessment of the Americans she'd met during her travels. "The problem with you Americans," she said, "is that you're so nearsighted. You don't realize that everything you do affects everyone else, and if you do, you certainly don't care."

Initially, I agreed with her. Having just left Eastern Europe, a part of the world that for centuries was eclipsed by its Western counterpart, I was particularly convinced that most Americans were woefully ignorant about the rest of the world and their potential for influence in those countries they knew nothing about. Houghton students, however, surely could not be lumped into that category. After all, I'd just finished a program that focused on the historical and cultural development of the Balkans, probably one of the regions most misunderstood by Americans. Houghton emphasizes study-abroad programs and global connection; the Intercultural Studies major has been one of the most popular in recent years, and for a small campus in the middle of rural New York, there are plenty of opportunities on campus to learn about other cultures. Houghton students, then, could not be grouped with the "nearsighted" Americans Tanya had encountered.

A year and a half later, I find that experience troubling me again, but in a fundamentally different way.

again, it may have been that middle-age yearning to be silly in front of a large audience.) My hope is that, in some small way, we can remind you that there is a larger Houghton family that serves, gives, and continually prays that God's will is done in each of your lives.

I thank the Homecoming committee for including us fogies in the "Then and Now" SPOT. I thank the current students for tolerating us and laughing, even if it was only to be polite. I hope you enjoyed your time with us as much as we enjoyed our time with you.

Happy 125th Anniversary Houghton...and many more!

Jon Bradley, Class of 1984

With the recent 125th celebrations, I couldn't help but notice that Global Connection was emphasized at every turn. We are impassioned about social justice issues around the world, with everything from student groups like Nehemiah's Vision pushing to bring global issues to local awareness, to the Lecture Series bringing in speakers like Burmese refugee Myo Thant. No, we certainly can't say that Houghton has a problem with being "nearsighted" in regards to the rest of the world.

But we do have a pervasive vision problem here at Houghton. Take a random sample of 50 students and ask them about the upcoming elections:

it's likely that the majority would not be able to tell you the name of their congressman; hopefully at least half would know the vicepresidential candidates, and if you were lucky, almost everyone would be able to tell you the name of the two main presidential candidates. Take it a step further and ask them to discuss the positions of each candidate, and I suspect most of them would struggle; if pressed, they may even express apathy.

Almost everyone at this college has strong religious views: much of the drive for social justice and global involvement, after all, comes from the particular religious heritage of Houghton. What is surprising is the general apathy toward politics.

Perhaps American politics seem distasteful and self-serving when compared with global concerns; why should be worrying about campaign slogans and smears when there are people dying of starvation in so many areas of our world? Wouldn't it be better if, instead of focusing on our differences and arguing about trivial things, we acted on our commonality in Christ, for a common purpose, to help those less fortunate than ourselves?

These are valid concerns, and noble goals. Certainly they present a far-reaching picture of what we hope to accomplish in other parts of the world. What we seem to be missing, however, is a clear picture of what we look like close up: take a look at any given community, and regardless of whether or not you find people who agree ideologically, you're going to find individuals who have substantial disagreements on all sorts of practical matters. This is true of communities at any level, whether you're looking at the global church, American civic society, or even Houghton College.

Not only is it inefficient to strive for our ideals if we can't recognize and embrace the non-ideal world in which we live, it can be nothing short of escapist. By avoiding our own community's messy problems in the rush to help

another community with their struggles, we run the risk, to borrow a well-known metaphor, of trying to pull the speck out of their eye while ignoring the log in our own.

Effective action begins with an understanding of where you are coming from. Yes, we should continue to emphasize a global perspective—we've fixed the "nearsighted" problem, after all—but we must also be willing to remain involved in our immediate communities, in spite of any distasteful issues or relationships those communities may entail. Those who do otherwise are in danger of indulging far-sighted fancies that presume human nature is different somewhere else in the world; and any Intercultural major (or liberal democrat, for that matter) would call that an uncomfortably imperialist notion.

Katarina is a senior Political Science and Humanities double major and serves as Editor-in-Chief.

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



homecoming WEEKEND 2008

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Tim, Mike, and Wendell



Thank you to the Basketball team for your service to the community by setting up, cleaning up, and moving furniture for the Homecoming/125th Anniversary Festival on the Quad and the "Stroll and Dine" Dinner. Your help was very much appreciated. -The Public Events Office

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