



# THE HOUGHTON STAR

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## Myo Thant Delivers Constitution Day Lecture

By Kat Kieffer and Sandra Stark

On Wednesday evening, Myo Thant gave the first presentation in this year's Lecture Series, also speaking in recognition of Constitution day. A former member of the National League for Democracy in Burma, Thant outlined the broader history of Burma before turning his lecture toward a discussion of the possibilities for democracy in Burma, and his understandings of the best way to achieve that end.

For seven years, Thant was active in the National League for Democracy (NLD) in Burma. Beginning in July 1995, he was an assistant to Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the NLD and winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize. In May 1996 Thant was put under house arrest by the governing military junta for 18 months. During this time he took refuge in Suu Kyi's house, before escaping in 1997 to Thailand. There, he joined the NLD Liberated Youth and the All Burma Federation of Student Unions. After two years in exile, he resettled in the United States.

Thant's lecture offered faculty and students a brief glimpse into the hardship, chaos, and fear that can exist when liberty, justice, and law are not present in society.

Thant explained how, following the country's independence from the United Kingdom in 1948, Democracy did exist in the country for fourteen years. The ethnic and ideological tensions within the former colony, however, led to a number of one-party systems, up until General Ne Win staged a coup in 1974. At this time the democratic constitution of 1947, was abolished, and under the control of the Burmese Socialist Program party, Burma became a police state.

The rule of the military junta and the ongoing effects of that rule have carried over to the present day. Currently there are 70,000 child soldiers and 2,000,000 internally displaced people within Burma. There are also nearly three million refugees living in the bordering country of Thailand, with ten refugee camps attempting to accommodate this overwhelming number.

Thant outlined recent examples of government brutality, from the 10,000 nonviolent protestors killed



Photo By Ian Galloway

Myo Thant lectured on democracy in Burma.

during the crackdown on the 1998 Power People Movement led by Burmese students, to the more recent persecution of the Buddhist monks in September of 2007. Peaceful demonstrations led by these monks were brutally crushed by the junta, resulting in over 300 fatalities, between 4,000 and 8,000 arrests, and the immediate closure of all monasteries.

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## Notable Increase In Number of First-Year Students

By Amy Buckingham

Hailing from 10 different countries and 30 states, the 405 members of the class of 2012 have made their presence known on the Houghton campus this year. With numbers of 329 and 379 for the classes of 2011 and 2010 respectively, the 405 students of the current freshman class is a notable increase.

After a decline in numbers in recent years, this freshman class has incited excitement on campus, begging the question to be asked: why the increase? Is the Admissions Department going about recruitment in different ways, or is it simply that a larger number of applicants are being accepted?

With an average of 1,160 applicants in the past three years, admissions reports do not show an unusually high acceptance rate this year. Of 1,137 applicants for the class of 2012, 803 were accepted, with about half of that arriving on campus for the start of the fall term. This number does not differ significantly from the accepted applicants of the classes of 2011 and 2010, each having accepted about 75 percent of applicants.

While this number seems high, the majority of applicants accepted scored between the 1000 to the 1190 range on the SAT with an equal amount scoring above that. The ACT scores display similar results, with a large amount of the class scoring above a 26. In comparison to the last two classes, these average scores are only slightly higher.

If the scores and accepted applicants are not significantly different, there must be other reasons for the size of the freshman class. Wayne MacBeth, Vice President of Admissions, has credited this spike in enrollment to an increase in financial aid packages, more specifically through Houghton grants and the Chamberlain Scholarships, which were raised from \$7,500 a year to \$10,000 a year. With this financial increase, Chamberlain scholars were also required to participate in interviews.

Along with these increases in financial aid, the group Houghton Higher Ground (H2G) has had

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## Houghton Welcomes Nine New Faculty Members

By Olivia Butz

This fall, the Houghton College community welcomes nine new faculty members to campus, serving across the departmental spectrum. Some of the "hires" are interim replacements for professors on sabbatical, such as Yu Yan for David Perkins, and Lisa Arensen for Jon Arensen. Others are for permanent tenure-track positions. Still others replace faculty members that have left or are joining growing departments.

Lisa Arensen, interim Assistant Professor of Anthropology, is the daughter of Houghton's Professor of Anthropology Jon Arensen, and is currently working towards her Ph.D. in social anthropology at the University of Edinburgh. She grew up in East Africa, and after graduating from Houghton moved to Cambodia, where she worked with vulnerable women and girls for seven years. Her doctoral work

focuses on how farmers live and work in war-altered landscapes in northwest Cambodia, which is in line with her commitment to bear "witness in both word and deed to the vulnerability and suffering of the marginalized in our world."

David Kinman joins the faculty as Associate Professor of Spanish. He comes to Houghton after teaching for 35 years in a public school setting. Expressing a desire to serve his students through his teaching, he said he sensed revival on this campus, and is excited to be a part of it. He has ties to Houghton: his daughter, Jennifer Kinman, graduated from Houghton in 2005 and is now working in camp ministry.

Max Malikow is interim Associate Professor of Psychology. He is grateful for an opportunity to "formally organize [his] thinking on the integration of Christianity and psychology" by teaching the course of the same name in the spring, in

place of Daryl Stevenson, Professor of Psychology. He appreciates the community spirit he has found in Houghton and how this community consistently seeks to integrate faith and learning. An avid sports fan and participant, he has a counseling practice in Syracuse that he runs on the weekends.

Assistant Professor of Biology, Jamie Potter, has felt a strong calling to teach at a Christian liberal arts college since the beginning of her graduate work. Her husband was recently accepted into a cardiology fellowship at SUNY Buffalo, which limited her geographical prospects for teaching. Fortunately, she found a job she feels was designed for her at Houghton College, and one of her goals is to get non-majors excited about learning how biology affects everything in their lives. She also hopes she will be able to get involved in community theater in the Houghton area, and thereby

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## THE WORLD

By Joel VanderWeele

### Hurricane Ike

Upon hearing that the storm would cause a surge of 12-15 feet, 220,000 Texans evacuated their homes, of which only 70,000 had returned to by Monday. Ike forced 14 Texas oil refineries to close, eliminating over a fifth of the country's oil supply, causing gas prices to spike nationwide. After leaving the Texas coast in ruins, Ike headed north, causing 74-mph winds in Cincinnati, knocking out the power in 1.3 million homes in Kentucky, and dropping a record-setting rainfall in Chicago.

### Russian Plane Crash

A passenger jet caught fire while attempting to land last Sunday and crashed in the outskirts of Perm, Russia. Early reports suggest that the Boeing 737-500 had some technical failures in the right engine, lost control, and landed in a field a few hundred meters from the edge of town. There is no evidence that there was any terrorist involvement. None of the 82 passengers survived the crash, but no one on the ground was injured.

### Petraeus Steps Aside

General David Petraeus, the military commander in charge of the Multi-National Force in Iraq, stepped down from his command this week. Petraeus is praised for keeping the insurgency from becoming an all out civil war and for establishing a measure of order in Iraq amidst all the chaos. Taking over his command is General Ray Odierno, who served as the Army's number two in command from December 2006 to February 2008. Petraeus will take a post as commander of U.S. Central Command in October where he will oversee U.S. military involvement throughout the Middle East.

### Train Crash in California

A head-on collision between a freight train and a commuter train killed 25 people and injured over 130 in Los Angeles last Friday. Reports indicate that the commuter

train ran through a red light and rolled through a switch guiding it into the freight train. It is unclear what caused the conductor of the commuter train, to blow the red light, however investigators have subpoenaed the conductor's cell phone records to determine if he was distractedly texting while manning.

### Financial Crisis

Following what some called the biggest bankruptcy in modern history, the Dow Jones Industrial index experienced its worst day since September 11, 2001, dropping .55%. International markets plummeted even further than Wall Street, the UK's FTSE 100 losing 3.43%, Japan's Nikkei 225 losing 5%, and markets in Hong Kong losing a staggering 6%. In response to this major financial crisis, governments across the globe have been pumping cash into their markets to keep them from collapse.

### Election Update

Democratic Presidential nominee Senator Barack Obama is one of the few Americans profiting from the current financial crisis. As banks go under, Democrats are pinning the blame on the Bush administration's economic policy and claiming that Republican nominee John McCain's economic strategy is just more of the same. McCain experienced a surge in the polls after he nominated Alaska governor Sarah Palin as his running mate, but Obama has now regained the lead, according to a recent Gallup poll.

### U.S. Embassy Bombed

Suspected al-Qaeda militants attacked the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa, Yemen, on Wednesday, killing 16. Apparently, men disguised as security forces set off a number of bombs, including one car bomb, and opened sniper fire on Yemeni police men who came to investigate the scene. Yemeni officials are outraged at the violent acts, especially because the attack took place in the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. This is the second such attack on the U.S. Embassy in Yemen.

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To further demonstrate the military junta's disregard for the wellbeing of its own people, Thant detailed their response to cyclone Nargis, which struck Burma in May 2008. The government refused all international aid, and offered no national aid of any kind. The military regime also significantly understated the effect of the disaster, reporting 29,000 dead, while the UN reported between 63,000 and 101,000 dead.

Toward the end of his talk, Thant began to move away from narrating the troubled past and present of Burmese life and began to focus on the future possibility of democracy in Burma.

Despite having worked closely with Suu Kyi, an advocate for non-violence, Thant recognized that non-violent means of protest may not be the best method for dealing with the military junta. In other cases where causes have been won by non-violent protests, such as Gandhi's

movement in India, there has been at least a minimal recognition of basic human rights claims by the party in power. The Burmese people, by sad contrast, are facing the junta, who, according to Thant, recognize "nothing but power" and regularly torture and kill dissidents and civilians indiscriminately.

While clarifying that in most situations he would support non-violent means of protest, he advocated the need for "protection" in Burma in order for conditions to be right for the rise of democracy. Thant did not clarify exactly what he meant by protection, or whether this protection would come from intervention by the United Nations, a general uprising within Burma itself, or even from other sympathetic nations. Instead, he focused on a more foundational need: for the Burmese people to develop a sense of human rights and democracy within the national consciousness.

One of the greatest problems, he insisted, is that the balance of power within Burma is so skewed toward the dictatorship; the people, even though they greatly outnumber the junta, live in weakness and fear

while the members of the ruling military class literally take whatever they want. While the physical might of the Junta is undeniable, fear is the most oppressive factor. Thant argued that a "mental and physical preparation" must take place within the Burmese population at large before democracy is feasible. Until the average citizen is "willing to die" for freedom, there will not be enough support to begin the push for democratic government.

Thant insisted that the Burmese needed "strong leadership" in order to move toward democracy; significantly, he advocated that this leadership come from within the country itself, rather than from another nation.

He did ask that Americans continue to push their representatives

**"In Burma murder and torture are commonplace. Why would the civilized world allow this to happen?"**

to support further pressure on the current Burmese government, using the "two hands" of diplomacy and sanction.

Currently, economic sanctions are in place, but Thant felt that further action was needed. He emphasized the role of the U.N. Security Council, calling for America to put pressure on China and Russia, who support the ruling Junta for "economic, political, and military" reasons, to recognize the human rights violations that occur every day within Burma.

Russia, he noted, has been accused by media sources of supporting the Burmese military's bid for nuclear weapons, and China, which shares a border with Burma, benefits from cheap natural gas, oil, and timber exports from the struggling Burmese nation.

He ended his talk by commenting that, "In Burma murder and torture are commonplace. What is the value of human life? People are victimized and living in fear every day. Why would the civilized world allow this to happen?" By calling for international involvement and support, yet still advocating strong national responsibility, Thant presented a unique perspective on methods for democracy building within developing countries.

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some affect on enrollment. This group enabled Houghton to become involved through sponsorship at Kingdom Bound, an area Christian music festival, which has increased the number of prospective students. While this class is composed of students hailing from 30 states in comparison to last year's 23 states, records show that the majority of students are from close areas: 54 percent are from New York, and 16 percent are from Pennsylvania.

MacBeth also recognized the addition of the Masters in Education

program as a possible reason for higher education numbers. While the classes of 2010 and 2011 have the same number of students in the education programs, the class of 2012 has added to this number significantly. Also showing notable increases are the Biology, Business and English fields.

MacBeth has every confidence in the new class. "I am happy about the quality and the quantity of the new student group this year," he said, "I believe Houghton offers them a great educational experience. And I also believe this class will contribute

greatly to academic and community life."

While there can be no denying that the "quantity" of freshman is encouraging, there are still lingering concerns about "quality." Despite the average numbers staying relatively constant within the past few years, there are still speculations that despite short-term consistency, the numbers reflect a general, long-term drop in standards. Some professors have expressed concerns that there seem to be a larger number of freshman students dropping first year classes already this semester. This leads to

concerns about whether or not the freshmen are adequately equipped to acclimate to a higher education workload.

Despite these issues, it is undeniable that the increase in numbers is a positive trend, particularly after the strong enrollment concerns of the past few years. What remains to be seen is if this spike in enrollment is an anomaly, or the beginning of an upward trend; more time is also needed before evaluating "quality" questions and trends with regards to recent classes.





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exercise the right part of her brain.


Associate Professor of Accounting, Lois Ross taught Intermediate Accounting as an adjunct faculty member for the 2007-2008 school year. She has "recently come from the business world," and expressed the need in business for "well-trained men and women, who love the Lord and put Him first in their lives." She also has ties to Houghton: her son recently completed his Ph.D. in psychology after attending Houghton for undergraduate study.

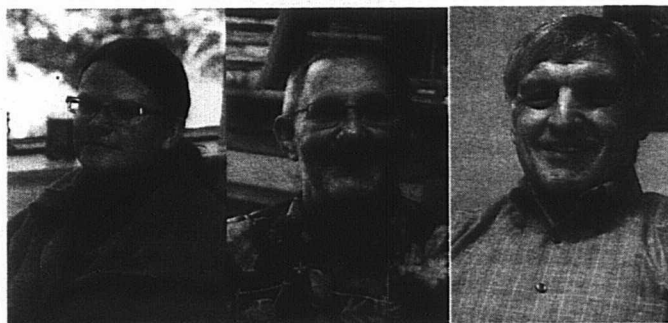
Aaron Routhe, Assistant Professor of Sociology, is excited to participate in Houghton's new emphasis on creation care, also called environmental stewardship. Routhe directed the South Pacific Creation Care program, which he describes as an "interdisciplinary Christian social and environmental justice study-abroad program for students from the U.S. and Canada." He is married to Ginny Hoskison-Routhe '97 and they currently have two young boys.

John Rowley, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, moves to Houghton with his wife, Rebecca who is currently completing the newly-founded Masters of Theological Arts program. He completed his Ph.D. this summer through Cornell University on the synthesis of biodegradable plastics. Rowley believes that Houghton's goal of shaping its students into

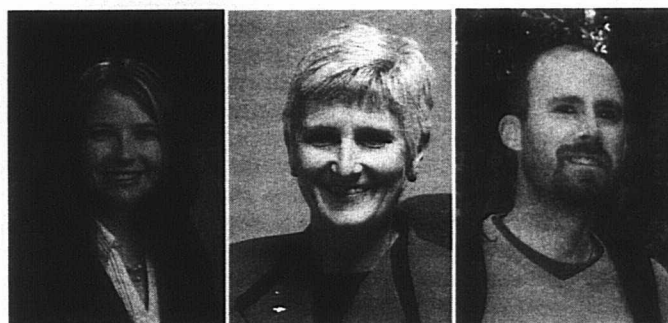
scholar-servants is worthwhile and attainable. He loves "being able to help students learn and explore the laws of the natural world" and enjoys spending time rock-climbing, backpacking, and biking. The Rowleys, who are both Houghton alumni, have a four-month-old daughter, Jenn.

David Stevick assumes the position of Director of the Library and Information Resources. He has spent the last six years of his life working for a tribal college on a Native American reservation that includes parts of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah. Moving back east to be closer to family, he was interested in Houghton College as he is a deep believer in the value of a liberal arts education shaped by a Christian worldview. He has a great appreciation for the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, whose poetry that "makes [him] think that there is a God, and He is good."

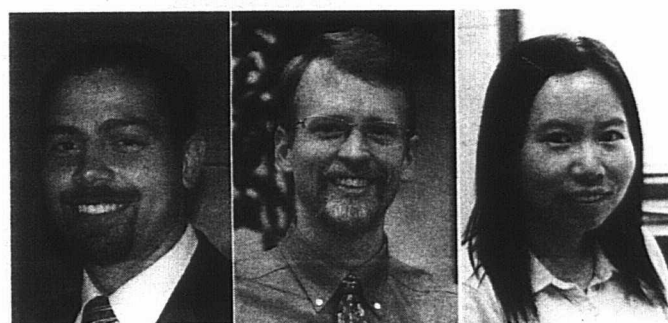
Assistant Professor of Math, grew up in China and came to the United States to do graduate work. Yu says that this experience has given her an appreciation of and empathy for people from many different cultural backgrounds. She appreciates "the friendly, genuine, and caring faculty, staff, and students" of Houghton. "Growing up in an atheist country makes God's grace in finding and saving me all the more precious," she said, "And it also gives me a heart for saving the lost souls." 



Professor Lisa Arensen Professor David Kinman Professor Max Malikow



Professor Jamie Potter Professor Lois Ross Professor Aaron Routhe



Professor John Rowley Professor David Stevick Professor Yu Yan

Photographs by Timothy Chen

Pictures of the nine new Houghton College faculty members.

## Recently Renovated Writing Center Open for Business

By Laura Jackson

Last Friday afternoon upwards of forty people trickled into Chamberlain Center, room 101 for the grand opening of Houghton College's newly renovated Writing Center. According to a forthcoming brochure, the Writing Center seeks to help any student—despite major—who wishes to improve his or her writing and "better understand matters of purpose, focus, structure, audience, and voice." Put simply, the center exists to support students as they research for, outline, and execute academic and personal writing.

David King, a senior who worked in the Writing Center last year, emphasized that the goal of the center is not to criticize students or their work. He said of conferences, "You read people just as much as you read their paper; each interaction is different. You figure out how to work with the writer and the text to produce the best paper possible."

As in past years, one-on-one

conferencing remains the primary focus of the Writing Center.

conferencing remains the primary focus of the Writing Center. A typical conference takes about twenty or thirty minutes and allows time for the tutor to read the writing in question, discuss it with the author, and make suggestions about possible improvements.

Laurie Dashnau, the department's academic writing specialist, is responsible for hiring and training the center's five tutors. This semester the Writing Center will be staffed by sophomore Arkor Kollubah; juniors Cameron Gayford, Candace Wilkinson, and Laura Jackson; and senior Krista Hurley.

Dashnau has been dreaming of better facilities and increased tutoring hours since she came to Houghton in 2000 and even more so since being appointed Writing Center director last year. This year the center has been repainted and outfitted with a new bookcase, work station, file cabinets, and furniture. Funding for the renovations came from the Office of the Academic

Dean.

Additionally, the Center will be purchasing "some of the latest books and DVDs in the fields of writing and tutor training" as well as a computer, which will enable electronic copies of papers to be revised online and allow tutors to direct students to helpful online resources.

While she recognizes the value of the renovations, Dashnau emphasized, "New resources notwithstanding, our best [asset] is our tutors!" In hiring this semester's five student workers, Dashnau considered a wide variety of criteria, including their academic backgrounds, interpersonal skills, and past work experience.

A passion for the writing process was also important. Kollubah, for example, applied for the tutoring position for a number of reasons. "I enjoy reading the works of other students and pointing out the merits of a paper and ways that a paper may be improved," he said. "Also, I want to learn more about the craft of writing from [the perspective of] an editor, whose goal is to help the writer appreciate his or her own work."

Elise Speiser, a junior who has stopped by the Writing

Center frequently during her time at Houghton, encourages students to take advantage of its services. "Knowing I have that resource allows me to relax when putting together my early drafts because I know can bring them to the Center and have another person proofread my work before I turn it in," she explained. "[Hearing] another person's thoughts during the editing process is always helpful, and the Center is always readily available."

The Writing Center is open between 3:00 and 5:00 pm Monday-Friday and between 6:00 and 8:00 pm Monday-Thursday. It will also be open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. While students may visit on a first-come, first-served basis, a sign-up sheet is available outside Chamberlain 101 for those wishing to sign up for conferences in advance. Students should bring a printout of their writing as well as the assignment description and grading rubric, if applicable.



## Kowalczyk All-Time Leading Scorer for Women's Soccer

By Luke Sanford

Last Saturday senior Bethany Kowalczyk broke the Houghton College all-time scoring record for women's soccer with goals number 83, 84, and 85 of her Highlander career. Led by Kowalczyk's hat trick, the Highlanders were able to roll over Carlow 7-0, securing 6 goals before the half. Regardless of her personal achievement, Kowalczyk was quick to give her teammates recognition. She gave note to Hannah Swift, senior forward who assisted on all three goals, and former Highlanders such as Cassandra Mills and Bridget Toth who provided leadership early on in her career. "I have been blessed to play alongside many quality players in my career here at Houghton," she stated.

Kowalczyk tied the previous record held by Heather Shear and Heidi Gugler last Saturday against Hannibal-La Grange with her 82<sup>nd</sup> career goal. Gugler had set the record of 203 career points (82 goals, 39 assists) in 1999, which is now replaced by Kowalczyk's 205 points (85

goals, 35 assists). This record is even more notable considering the nearly career-ending knee injury that she suffered her junior year. However, Kowalczyk worked hard to get herself back so that she could once again lead the Highlanders on the field. She scored 29 goals in both her freshman and sophomore seasons and earned numerous honors, including AMC Player of the Year and NAIA Region IX Player of the Year, both of which she reclaimed her junior year. Tallying 21 more goals during her junior season, Kowalczyk continued to build a reputable career. She had to sit last season out after surgery to repair her injured knee but is back strong, already adding six goals in five games this season.



Photo by Stefanie Swanson

**The Cross Run, a new tradition.**

The team currently stands at 4-2, with Tuesday's match against Notre Dame concluding a four

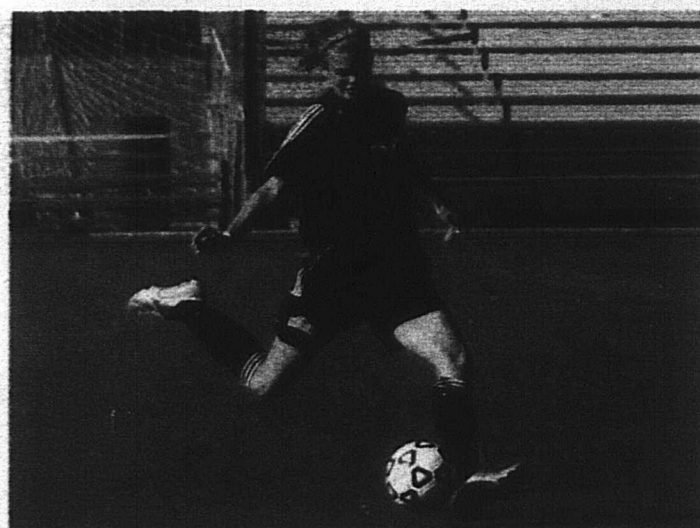


Photo by Mike Wise

**Kowalczyk topped charts last Saturday with the 85th goal of her career.**

game winning streak in which the Highlanders scored 19 goals. Freshman goalie Erin Asquith has performed like a veteran in the net giving up only two goals in her first six starts as a Highlander.

In addition to ability, one thing the women are not lacking is depth in number: the Highlanders have a 33-person roster this season. The high level of attention Coach David Lewis has drawn to the women's soccer program is equaled by his standards; Lewis not only seeks out solid players on the field, but also women of character outside of soccer. They routinely assemble for times of team-building such

as "Testimony Tuesday," an opportunity for players to share their spiritual journeys with one another in small groups. This and other traditions, such as the Cross Run during preseason, aim to foster growth and community within the squad early on. "The purpose is to promote openness and vulnerability within the team," says Buszka. "Even though there are a lot of us, we are unified."

The Highlanders look to carry on their winning record as they travel to Walsh University on September 20. Their next home event is on September 27 against Point Park University.

## Campus Store's New "Local List" Promotes Local Buying

By Margaret Boecker

"The Local List," a directory of local goods and services is now being sold in the Campus Store. A small green booklet compiled over the summer, "The Local List" is a compilation of faculty and staff-recommended services within 30 minutes of Houghton (with the exception of several specially-marked listings).

"The Local List" is meant to open up the community to nearby resources that might otherwise go unknown. Resources such as The Bicycle Man in Alfred, operated by internationally known cyclists Peter Stull and Keith Von Der Heyde, and the Pine Grove Country Store in Freedom where customers can buy fresh eggs and cheese provide specialized services to the community.

Susan Bruxvoort Lipscomb, Professor of English, managed the project, collecting recommendations from faculty and staff with the intention of putting together a handbook that lists locally owned, independently operated services. The cost of the book is 75 cents, but its contents lead to savings in money, gas and time, not to

mention healthy products and a bridge connecting members in the Houghton community to their neighbors in Allegany County.

"When we buy from people locally we are supporting our neighbors," Lipscomb theorized, "and to support our neighbor is to love our neighbor." She commented that one of the best ways to do this is to support the local economy. Over the summer, Lipscomb envisioned a list of local services that would be a reference mainly for new faculty and staff at the college. She asked all

faculty and staff to submit names of local services that have been useful to them, the criteria being that they must be independently owned and within 45 minutes of Houghton. The result was a collaborative list of tried-and-true services available

nearby.

Residents of Houghton—through word of mouth and extended time periods—develop resources of trustworthy local services, but for newcomers "it can be very frustrating," as Lipscomb put it.

The contents of "The Local List" are categorized alphabetically and include services that range from appliance repair to wool, with farmer's markets and firewood being among those tucked in between. Not only is it a tool for people who are new to the area, but also a resource for those who wish to support local businesses—and, in many cases,

save money doing so.

Some students have already discovered the "hidden" resources in the Houghton area. Junior Clara Sanders regularly shops at the Amish-run Pine Grove Country Store in Freedom for its bulk grains,

spices and homegrown vegetables. "I know the products haven't come a very long distance from where they were grown," she said. "It also supports local farmers and establishes ties with the Amish."

Though the booklet is geared toward new faculty and staff, it also contains many useful resources for students. Those coming from outside of Houghton may find it to be especially helpful; however, even local students find it to be enlightening. Junior Wes Dean, who grew up in Fillmore, commented that he had never heard of many of the services found in the book. Seniors who have spent the past four years in the area are also largely unaware of them: "I had no idea that all these services were right around the corner," remarked Allison Beck. Fellow senior Melissa Hardick agreed: "This is very convenient. Who knew all these great markets existed?"

In addition to "The Local Book," the Houghton College Campus Store has begun to carry select local products including handmade soap and pottery. The hope is that knowledge of these resources will promote awareness and support of them.





# John Waller Interview Reveals True Motives Behind Music

By Jody MacDonald

John Waller, a contemporary Christian artist, will be performing at Wesley Chapel tonight at 8 p.m.

The *Star* decided to interview him prior to the concert: with a long list of accomplishments, one might expect an interview with Waller to be dominated by nods of agreement at the mention of traditional music milestones. He has had Billboard recognition, radio support and high-profile collaborations. These achievements, however, are secondary in view of his ultimate purpose as an artist. In the following interview, Waller illustrates the heart from which his music is derived.

**STAR:** In learning about your life and career, I've seen a definite journey unfolding. What are your influences, both musically and spiritually?

**JW:** Well, it would be easiest to start from the beginning. There was a moment at which I realized that music is what I wanted to do with my life, and in fact God was calling me to do it. I always loved to sing from the time I was young. Having grown up in a musical family, I had an innate love for it.

When I was 18 years old, I was driving to college and I turned on the Christian radio station here in Atlanta and a song by Steven Curtis Chapman came on the radio called 'His Eyes.' The song really moved me in a way that no other song had before, and I knew from that point on that it was what I wanted to do. I wanted to make the kind of music that would penetrate the hearts of people the way that my heart had just been moved. I wanted to be that kind of man, the kind who God could speak through, and use music to bring truth into people's lives. I wanted to bring healing, God, and the reality of God into people's lives through music.

**STAR:** From what I understand, your purpose seems focused on

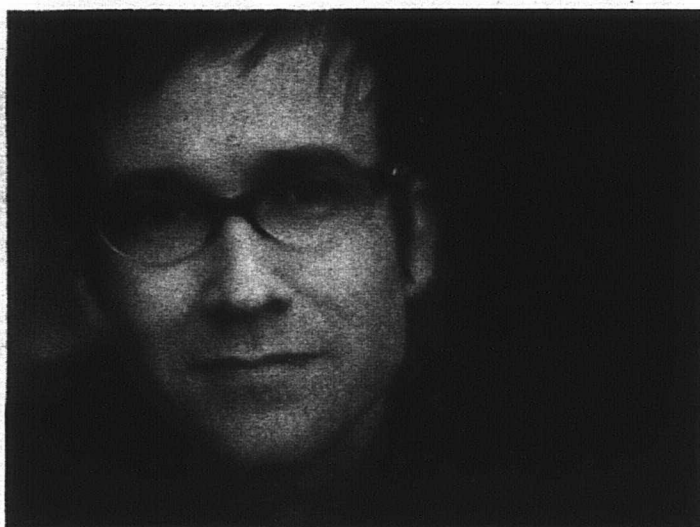


Photo from Houghton College Website

Christian artist John Waller is set to perform at 8pm tonight.

investing in people. Is this reflective of your live shows?

**JW:** Absolutely. There is enough music out there for the purpose of entertaining people. Myself, and the guys who play with me, we're not the best musicians in the world or the most talented people in the world. If people want entertainment, they can get it anywhere; when we show up to do a concert, we know that they need more than that.

People need someone to love them, someone to invest back in them and to speak truth into their lives for where they are in that moment. I pray before each concert that God would give me something that is fresh and relevant for the people who are there that night - not just a canned message that I say every show in hopes of moving them. I hope to speak to the people who are there because they need to connect with God, and that's our purpose for being there: to connect them once again or perhaps for the first time with God.

"I wanted to make the kind of music that would penetrate the hearts of people the way that my heart had just been moved."

**STAR:** Being a Christian, have you had to redefine traditional direction and success as the music industry defines it?

**JW:** I think that in the music industry, success is determined by record sales and radio play. That's something that from time to time, as a human being, I struggle with. At this point, I am by no means a platinum artist, or even a gold artist. That's the bottom line for the industry, and I'm in the industry, so obviously I want that. Record sales mean influence - it means a lot of people are hearing the music and being affected by it.

To me, success was when I got an email recently from a woman who lost her 22-year-old son to a car accident a few years ago. She was struggling with the grief and hurt associated with the loss. One day she was listening to the radio and heard "The Blessing" and it became her life song; one that brought healing. She asked me permission to put part of the lyrics on his grave marker.

When I read that, I looked at my wife and said, "That is success." It had an eternal impact on a family, and...that's the kind of success that lasts forever.

I mean yes, I want to sell records and have my songs played on every radio station. I would be a liar if I said that it didn't matter to me, and it does matter to me. I've had to battle with my motives like anyone else as to why I want that. I have to keep giving it back to God on a daily basis.

**STAR:** Your new album "The Blessing" appears to be the product of a number of very difficult life experiences, including your battle with depression and your release from it. How did this influence the songwriting process?

**JW:** I battled depression for 20 years, and in a miraculous way, God healed and delivered me from all of it, including medication. This was about five years ago. I had struggled with it for most of the 18 years that I've been doing music. During that period, I was solo for three years and with According to John for six or seven years. A lot of times I wrote from a place of despair, asking a lot of questions but not quite getting the answers. I didn't really have the answers.

When God set me free of depression, I realized that he called me to a ministry to release people who are in captivity. In order to have a ministry of setting the captives free, you really have to be free yourself.

Five years ago I was ready for God to release me, right before I turned 33 years old. I thought that was interesting. People said that I should look in the bible for the men whom the Lord promoted in some way in their early thirties, and the kind of ministry they went into. It was a very significant time when God released me from that. Now my songs really flow from a different kind of place - one of victory instead of defeat.

## LIKE CLOWNIN' AROUND?

*If you do, we need your help!*

We are looking for volunteers to be clowns at the HOMEcoming PARADE and FESTIVAL on October 1st from 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Interested?

Contact Phyllis Gaerth via e-mail at [Phyllis.Gaerth@houghton.edu](mailto:Phyllis.Gaerth@houghton.edu)



## Sessions Open to the Public

**Thurs. Sept. 25**

7:15 p.m. Opening Evensong Service

8:00 p.m. Lecture—John Witvliet

**Fri. Sept. 26**

11:00 a.m. Chapel with John Witvliet

4:30-5:15 p.m. Vespers

**Sat. Sept. 27**

10:30 a.m. Communion Service

Students are welcome to attend any workshops without charge, but are asked to register with Susanna Thomforde-Garner by e-mail. A complete list of workshops may be found at <http://www.houghton.edu/events/worship-conference/workshops.htm>





## It's the End of the World As We Know It (And I Feel Fine)

The latest headlines in physics research are being made by a project that is both groundbreaking and controversial, but probably not world-ending

by Mark Yuly

At 4:28 on Wednesday, September 10, the first beam of protons was injected into the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland. Most physicists are hailing the event as a milestone, but not everyone is applauding. Many people fear that this event could trigger the end of everything. Perhaps the violent proton collisions produced by the collider might create mini-black holes that will devour the Earth. Perhaps "strangelets" might be created, a type of particle which theorists predict (if they exist) might change matter into another form called "strange matter." Maybe a "vacuum bubble" might be produced or magnetic monopoles that could make nearby protons begin to decay. It's so serious that Walter Wagner

and Luis Sancho, a lawyer and an author, respectively, teamed up to file a federal lawsuit on March 21 in Honolulu in an attempt to stop CERN from proceeding.

It's easy to understand why people are afraid — the LHC has been described as the biggest machine in the world, and it will turn out the highest energy particles ever made by man. It accelerates and collides protons in a 27-km circumference ring lined with 9,300 superconducting magnets, each cooled to -316 °F. When they collide, the protons are traveling at 99.99% of the speed of light and have an energy of 7 teraelectronvolts. The beam can temporarily create temperatures 100,000 times hotter than the core of the sun, and could bore 40 meters into a block of copper in microseconds. Stopping these proton beams requires a 10-ton graphite beam dump enclosed in 1,000 tons of steel and concrete.

The LHC, described as the biggest machine in the world, will turn out the highest energy particles ever made.

As the scientists at CERN point out, however, there is really no need to be concerned. Even though these are unprecedented energies for artificially produced particle beams, by the standards of the universe they are rather humdrum. The earth is constantly bombarded with particles, called cosmic rays, whose energies far exceed those that can be produced in the LHC — in essence, God is performing the same experiments as CERN only on a much larger (albeit uncontrolled by man) scale. In fact, there is a specialized field of astronomy called gamma ray astronomy, which is devoted to observing these events. Black holes and other cataclysmic predictions have never materialized in these identical cosmic ray collisions.

Scientists built the accelerator in part to test theories about the origin of the universe and its structure and development. Because these collisions are so energetic, they are in some respects similar to what universal conditions would be like in a big-bang scenario. When physicists apply the laws of physics to the universe as a whole

they can, in effect, "run the movie backwards" to see what the situation would be in the universe at earlier and earlier times. What they find is that the universe is expanding as if there was an explosion in the distant past, which they call the big bang. Everyone admits, however, that this theory is only as good as the laws of physics that are used to run the movie backwards, and the theories we have presently break down at the highest energies. By performing experiments using the LHC, physicists hope to test the standard model of particle physics, currently the best theory for how matter behaves at these extreme energies. One prediction they hope to test, for example, is the existence of a never-before-observed particle called the Higgs boson.

So rest easy. The world won't come to an end today, at least not because of the LHC. Then again, today was just the injection of one beam into the accelerator — the first real collisions won't be for a few months.

Mark is a professor of Physics at Houghton College.

## Are We "Closing the Curtain" on Theater at Houghton?

Music and art continue to flourish on an academic level at Houghton, while the theatre arts are now largely student-led and avocational.

by Megan Little

Why does it seem that Houghton has placed such a low priority on drama? Drama doesn't differ much from any of the other expressive art forms. Like writing, it attempts to communicate ideas, evoke emotions, and change the way people think about themselves and about the world. Like art, it presents itself in a visual way—bridging the gap of imagination and imprinting itself in the visual memory of its viewer. Like music, it creates an audible atmosphere that delights and entertains.

In some ways, drama goes above and beyond these artistic genres. Like a sport, drama is about teamwork. A play cannot go on if actors do not learn to work alongside each other, to listen to instructions from their directors or coaches, and to deal with occasionally challenging relationships. Actors learn volumes about themselves as they open themselves to criticism and step into the shoes of the character they play.

Aside from those interested in entertainment and personal development, there are students who are interested in drama as a career. Some students may aspire to be professional actors, and others may want to teach drama or direct plays in their churches or their communities. There are also many aspects of a production other than acting that employ people and train

them for real life tasks. There are set and costume designers, sound and light experts, makeup artists, managerial positions and many other career paths in the world of theater.

With all of the benefits of drama, it seems odd that there is only a small "communication minor with a concentration in theater" at Houghton. Other liberal arts institutions, such as Gordon College, have Theatre Arts departments. Gordon's program produces three to four shows annually, exploring major theatrical genres and utilizing both well-known and new works. According to their website, they seek to prepare students "for a life of service and leadership in theatre settings from the commercial and non-profit to the school, community and church."

Until recently, Houghton's offerings in theater arts have included the annual opera, and two plays directed by Bruce Brenneman, formerly an English professor. The student-run Shakespeare Players also put on a performance almost every semester.

Dr. Brenneman's plays have been excellent by all accounts, but he has now retired, and no one has yet been found to replace him. Brenneman himself would like to see the theater program continue. In an e-mail interview, Brenneman advised a one-step-at-a-time strategy, strengthening the minor before considering developing the program

to include a major. He writes that the minor needs "to be strengthened and expanded into a true drama minor," and that to do this would "require a theater hire whose expertise is in the technical side."

Dr. Wardwell, Associate Professor of English, is generally in agreement about this. He encourages the school to "think big but take small steps." Our culture, he explained to me, is heavily influenced by drama, and not only in the traditional theater sense. Films and TV shape culture and, most clearly seen in public figures, the line between "what people act

like and what they are is not to be distinguished." Instead of investing thousands in a big, new theater, he suggests constructing a makeshift theater out of an already existing space. He would like to see one person brought on specifically to facilitate the drama program while existing professors contribute by teaching on the theater arts.

I have already presented a list of benefits that drama can have for individuals. However, Houghton is not only about individuals—it is also about community.

A play is a community affair. This is something that Dr. Wardwell feels particularly passionate about. He says that when reading a play,

there is a sort of community between the reader and the author. Then, once the cast is selected, there is the community of the cast, which expands to include the crew. These communities spend intensive time together and share the joys and hardships of their corporate work. When the play is performed, the community expands again, and the play is like a gift the performers give to the audience, which is unwrapped

and discussed by the widest community, possibly even people who did not see the play.

And on this broad level, a play can be at its most powerful, as it influences the

thoughts and conversations of the college and greater community. For example, one of the Shakespeare Players' goals of producing "Measure for Measure" is to invite the Houghton community to think about the timely themes of marriage, hypocrisy, and the divide between public and personal life.

Let's not allow this conversation to end here, however. Let's start small, dream big, and be creative. Every semester new students arrive with a passion for drama, and we should have something substantial to offer them.

Megan is a sophomore at Houghton College.





## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

We would like to begin by congratulating the Star staff for writing articles and expressing opinions that are strong and provoke the reader to think about important issues. What we'd like to comment on today is in regards to last week's articles, "The Demonization of the Styrofoam Cup" and "Going Trayless: Who Cares?" What concerns us most is the vilification of students and faculty who sincerely make changes in their lifestyles aligning with their philosophy of conservation, or what's worse, ignoring the fact that these people exist in our community.

In regards to the Styrofoam article, in no way do we feel that styrofoam has become a scapegoat, because there have been many environmentally-responsible institutional changes, such as the options for eco-friendly materials in the campus store, the use of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) in all buildings, and alternative ways to provide napkins in the cafeteria, etc. Not only does Styrofoam have a negative impact on the planet by taking 500 years to break down and made out of non-renewable resources, but Styrofoam can also have a negative impact on the human body when its chemicals easily transfer into our bodies from being heated or ripped. Styrofoam contains refrigerants, chlorofluorocarbons, and carcinogens but it is not made of pure evil but it is something which we choose not to use, promote, or be exposed to.

When it comes to the four-week trayless experiment, it had been evaluated that the best way to conduct the initiative would be to start the school year sans-trays as to eliminate the shock of taking them away mid-semester. This would also get a fresh perspective from incoming students who have not experienced the cafeteria with trays for unbiased feedback. Before this initiative was finalized, faculty, staff, and student representatives were involved in the process.

As a community, the no-tray project can be something we all do together. The same goes for the elimination of (or alternatives to) Styrofoam. We can talk about "living green," but by taking something away from the whole campus, all of us can work together in being more aware. We have rules at Houghton to help us (no alcohol, open hours, etc.) and even though the rules can be frustrating, we can see the value of them if we think about it. It is the same with Styrofoam and trays. As Christians, we are called to take care of the blessings God has given us; among those is the earth in which we live. We should applaud the college for taking a proactive step to help us be better stewards. Instead of viewing this as a "corporate mandate," we should view the College as trying to

### From the Editors' Desk...

## Rethinking (and actually reading) the Community Covenant

We've all signed the new Community Covenant - but do we actually know what we've all agreed to?

by Micah Warf

"What is Houghton College like?" I posed that question to many different people while I was weighing my options for higher education and trying to balance a multitude of marketable factors, including academic strength, tuition cost, and the relative weekly frequency of "tuna surprise" in the cafeteria. The answers I got came from several viewpoints - enrolled siblings, other students, alumni - and all of them were positive and enthusiastic. These answers were always good to hear, but invariably these eager Houghtonites would then drop their voice to a lower, more candid tone, and lean in as if about to disclose a sensitive piece of personal information. "You do have to sign a paper saying you won't drink or smoke," they would say - prohibitions on sex were, I suppose, a given.

Personal beliefs on behavior aside, I was happy to go to a campus where I wouldn't be walking through clouds of cigarette smoke, and to stay in a dorm where I wouldn't have to watch a cadre of misguided fools stumble in, slurring and swearing, in the early hours of each weekend. So I enrolled at Houghton, and when the covenant was sent to me for my pre-matriculation absorption, I glanced through it, my eyes falling momentarily on the alcohol and smoke portion, put down my beer, and dutifully signed it.

Now, two years later and well into my Houghton education, I've read the document for a second time with a more curious and focused eye. It's made me realize a few things: firstly that I had never actually read the entire document before binding myself to everything in it with my signature. For some reason, I hadn't considered the Community Responsibilities contract to be that important. I wasn't

planning on sleeping around or boozing at college, so I figured I'd be fine just skimming it and scrawling my John Hancock on the bottom before sending it to Student Life.

This brings me to a second thing I realized in my re-acquaintance with the Community Covenant, as it is now called: while I'm still not nipping into the woods with a baccy pouch after exams, I break Houghton rules nearly every day. When I fail to show love to my neighbor, I am breaking the covenant. When I consider myself above others, which happens far too often, I am breaking the covenant. When I have an overly materialistic attitude, an impure thought life, or submit to feelings of jealousy, I violate the body of beliefs I have agreed to uphold.

Who knew? I was under the impression that there wasn't much in there besides the classic Christian don'ts. In fact, there is much more. There are two problematic mindsets I have had in regards to the Community Covenant, and I'm willing to bet they're fairly common among the members of this college. The first is one of ignorance - viewing the covenant as only a peripheral document that Student Life might use to beat rule-breakers over the head.

The second mindset is one of downright dislike or rebellion: "Obviously, Houghton is just trying to take the fun out of being a college student. We're adults. We have the freedom to make choices for ourselves. They have no respect for our personal standards, and they treat us like children."

I believe there's more to be said to such people than the usual, "Well, you didn't have to come to Houghton...." Ignorance and rebellion are both less than ideal ways to view what should be a more central and respected part of being at Houghton College. We've

all got our names on a copy of this document somewhere in a drawer on this campus. We signed up to act in a certain way so that we could be a part of this place - maybe we should actually know what that entails. Read it over attentively, and figure out what this community purports to be about. Or shred the copy with your name on it and leave. Houghton. Either way, think through it - get an idea of why you're here, and what kind of people you're casting your lot with.

And secondly, once you've read the covenant, maybe you'll think about it as more of a freeing document, and less of a brief survey of all of the ways that Big Brother Houghton will intrude on your "rights". The covenant's stated purpose is to facilitate "an educational environment that honors Christ, follows biblical principles, builds loving relationships, and develops whole Christians who will be active in serving Christ." If you're honest with yourself, are you really out to push a contrary agenda? I've tried to justify the argument that the covenant is excessive, but after studying it again, I have found nothing extraneous or harsh. It's a very solid and well-written explication of what it means to live as a Christian in the midst of other believers. It has respect for a broad range of variation in belief and behavior, and doesn't ever say that drinking or dancing contradict scriptural teaching. In fact, actual "rules" comprise a very small part of a document that places equal emphasis on both practical regulations and spiritual values, such as honesty, hospitality, faithfulness, and stewardship. If there is a better way to run a Christian college than by asking the members to adhere to the teachings of Christ, I'm all ears.

*Micah is a junior Philosophy major at Houghton College and serves as Commentary Editor for the Star*

lead by example. It is the personal responsibility of each student, staff, and faculty member to do their part in becoming more environmentally conscious in thinking and active in participation. This can include walking instead of driving, turning off unnecessary lights, double-siding at the print center, etc.

Yes, lots of people claim to "go green" out of a trend, however, we feel that the small steps that we are able to take by discontinuing our use of trays or Styrofoam still make a difference. It is inevitable that everyone will leave behind a carbon footprint; what we desire is to make it the smallest footprint possible

- Rachel Thomas, Shannon Merriam, and Alexandra Volk, Class of 2010

### 2008-2009 STAR Staff

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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](mailto:STAR@houghton.edu).





# artist: OF THE WEEK:

## ERIC HOLBEIN

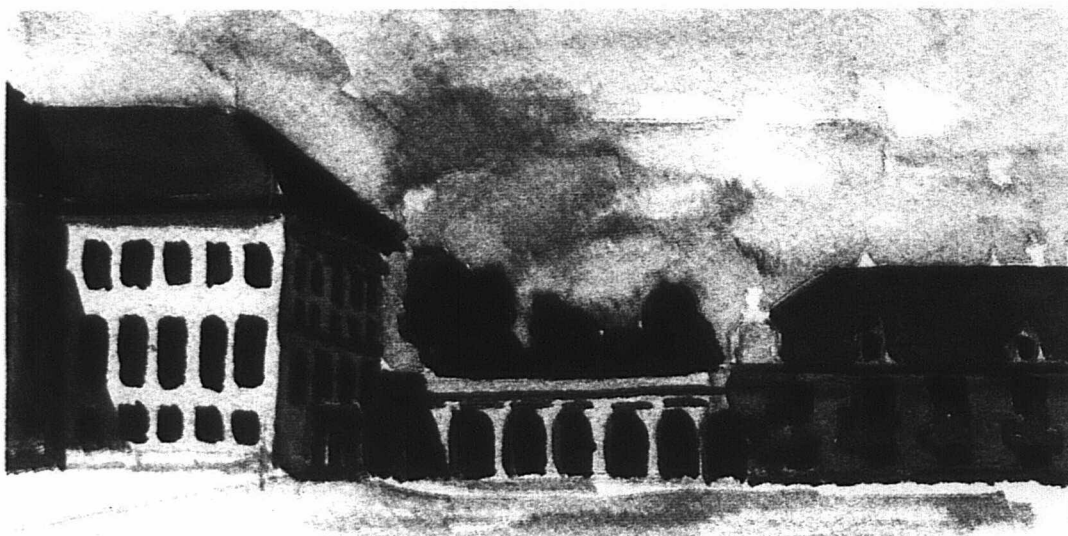
### Notes from the artist:

I once heard a very successful painter describe himself not as an artist, but a "shape manipulator". This struck me as very profound. That's all I am: a shape manipulator. I wield line, color, shape, and value to (hopefully) produce something that is pleasing to the eye. This process of filling a visual void with something that is aesthetically pleasing can be quite difficult, frustrating, and even intimidating. But I find the reward to be very worthwhile. I feel that it is always worthwhile to pursue our God-given interests and abilities.

*Eric is a senior Art major with a concentration in Painting.*



*Rooftops of Melk, watercolor*



*Holbein*  
© 2008

*Schönbrunn Palace, watercolor*

## FROM *the* ARCHIVES

By Heather Hill

As we progress into the semester, it is always rather fascinating to ask ourselves and our newly acquired friends why we came to Houghton in the first place. For some, the question expands to demand why we have chosen to stay here in the second place. Scheduling issues begin to cloud our horizons, friendships to demand, and brains to start cramping a bit—and of course, the weather is slowly becoming frigid. So why Houghton?

Back in 1916, the Star took up this very question.

While the lack of dancing and other such hilarious social functions themselves may no longer be claimed by Houghton

as one of its finer points and cited as a reason to come to the college, many of the more integral aspects of Houghton may be said to remain the same today: the belief in "true democracy" where "the opinions of others are respected" and "good will" prevails, the unique relationships students can have with the faculty as they work together toward "spiritual and intellectual" development, and the goal of producing "complete" persons, who can serve in the "home, church and state" as "efficient Christian men and women who love truth."

### Why come to Houghton?

*Excerpts from an editorial in the Nov. 15, 1916 Houghton Star.*

We do not consider it at all mere "happenstance" that students come to Houghton Seminary. True, Houghton is not a school like most other schools, and if it were, it might as well close down business and send its students to those schools that are winning the plaudits of the world. But we believe we have something

here that "those other" schools do not possess. Let us consider what those "somethings" are, and then we can answer the question, "Why come to Houghton?"

...It is in the days of high school and college work that we construct the framework of our life career. Gladstone well said, "It is not the information we imbibe, but the habit of thought, mind and life we acquire in this formative period that counts most toward success. Certainly you can get information from any institution of learning, but do you always acquire the right habits of thought, mind, and life that are the ear marks of the educated individual? True education gives this because if its appreciation of the principles set forth in the Bible...Straight, clean cut, holiness colleges and seminaries have a real mission in the world..."

One of the greatest curses of the modern college is the continual round of hilarious social functions, the main feature of which is the dance, continuing into the morning hours.

Oh, no, not only is the participant slighting his school work, ruining his physical and mental powers but he is committing the greater crime of wasting his time. We remember that the greatest thing the prodigal wasted was his time.

We would not discard the social life of man, for a certain amount of elevating, mirthful and sympathetic social intercourse is quite fitting and proper. God made man a social being but desires him to be ruled by reason and conviction.

Houghton has no use for the senseless nothings that entice the flippant school lad. It believes though in true democracy; where the opinions of others are respected, where good will ever seeks to prevail and the cast spirit is a nonentity; where faculty works hand in hand with student for his spiritual and intellectual good. Houghton seeks to produce a complete man, giving to the home, church and state, efficient Christian men and women who love truth.