

★ The Houghton Star ★

What JV sports and every-day library access have in common

Stephen "the student" Woolsey, *staff writer*

They don't exist. A few months ago, the Houghton College community was informed of a decision by the administration to cut junior varsity athletics. The goal was to more efficiently fund an effort to increase enrollment from 1,250 to 1,400. The presentation of certain statistics has proven to be provocative of debate and strongly felt opinions among adults young and old. For example, the fact that \$5.8 billion dollars are spent each month funding U.S. military efforts in Iraq alone might easily ignite a political debate (Military.com). One statistic will quickly spark frenzied discussion among students on campus and, while being in no way factual, is still not to be too hard to believe:

Every ten seconds, one of the approximately 1,250 students attending Houghton will complain that there is nothing to do here but study.

You may ask, "Why, if we are trying to attract an additional 150 students to Houghton, would we take away yet one more channel of extracurricular entertainment?" Closing out the first year in many without JV

sports, the predicted results can more accurately be weighed against the actual effects of this choice.

Last year's administration required that a certain amount be cut from the athletics budget, much like the substantial cuts that occurred across campus in all areas. Jobs were cut and many vacant positions were not refilled. Athletic Director, Coach Lord, explained that the funding for Houghton's athletic program is significantly below the average of other NAIA schools across the country. Compared to the average NCAA division 3 school, Houghton's budget is even lower, and when compared to other institutions within our conference, we are in the bottom half with some sports, the bottom quarter with others. While this in itself raises some questions, it proves that the decision to cut JV sports last year was the superior alternative.

At first glance this hurts the athlete who desires a competitive level of sports, but is unable to dedicate the time required by a varsity team and unexcited at the prospect of riding pine all season. While it has been noted that the costs of outfitting a

varsity athlete are greater than that of a JV player, this is fairly irrelevant in the grand scheme of things. Varsity teams have only modestly increased the size of their rosters this year. A great deal less expansion occurred than was expected. As a matter of fact, the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics just recently passed a revision of school policies on travel roster size to make room for players coming up from JV and to provide an incentive to coaches to bring more players. "I'd love to see us be able to expand opportunities to participate both at the varsity and JV level", Lord noted. "We didn't want to drop the program." The intramural program has been augmented over the past year, and some sports have a competitive 'A' and a more recreational 'B' division. While participation in intramurals has increased over the past year, the actual reason for this remains unknown. Most likely, it is the combination of the aforementioned change in approach, the appointment of a new intramural director, and the dissolution of the JV sports program.

The equivalent alternative to JV sports is the club team. Student-athletes are responsible for raising

and running their own club teams. Since club teams are not funded by the school, they rely entirely on their members' resolve to find the resources. If a group of athletes went all out to fund-raise, they could set themselves up relatively well (as compared with Varsity teams) with uniforms and team equipment. Depending on their level of determination, they could end up better off than they were when the JV program was in place. Lord emphasized, "We [the Athletic Department] still feel that the small savings didn't offset the benefits to [students] financially and in terms of participation." The Athletic Department has and will continue to be supportive of any student-led efforts to start and maintain a club team. Club teams are allowed and even encouraged to rent college vans for travel to competitions.

The athletic office has several resources that can help aspiring teams find competition, communicate with other schools, and find facilities. There are several advantages and disadvantages to this. Certainly, this is a great opportunity for aspiring coaches.

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First annual H.E.L.P Day a success

Hillary Gunning, *staff writer*

The administration was concerned that their H.E.L.P. Day on March 21st this year might be perceived as condescending or presumptuous, but by all accounts the response from the students was overwhelmingly positive. Sarah Vasiliauskas, a student selected to assist on that day, was in the center of the action, fielding questions and comments at the main desk. "I don't think the students felt taken advantage of, even though we were strongly encouraged to participate," says Sarah. "Our involvement was appreciated and valued, rather than expected or made to be a requirement."

In fact, of the 248 students who responded to the survey circulated a few days later, 83% rated

their overall experience as positive with 45% giving the highest rating of "excellent." 93% of responses favored the offered presentations, and 87% were very pleased with the organization of the day. Many individuals mentioned a feeling of community during the day, and no wonder with the immense turn out and enthusiasm expressed for the event, along with the opportunity for students from different departments to intermingle. One senior captured the feeling in a survey response saying, "Starting the day off with breakfast with my friends in the campus center and then that wonderful morning chapel session were the best parts of my day. It was nice to have a day where I saw all of my busy Senior friends and got to share this somewhat sad but also exciting part

of my life with [them]." And students weren't the only satisfied participants. The presenters were delighted to have the time to share their knowledge with their students, and faculty members found the extra time for their advisees to be very helpful.

The primary criticisms of the day seem to be timing and focus. Several students complained that the schedule was too packed, with little allowance for other activities or for attending all of the sessions they were interested in. Others objected to the concentration on upperclassman issues such as interviewing for jobs and nurturing a personal spiritual life after college; one student explained that, "HELP day was extremely beneficial for upper classmen, but many underclassmen were not as interested in it

because most of the topics were ones they didn't really have to start thinking about yet."

The heaviest and most frequently issued protest, however, related to the placement of H.E.L.P. Day in relation to course selection. The committee's apparent attempts to coordinate all of the events evidently backfired, as they received dozens of assertions from both students and faculty that the event should have taken place days or even weeks before course selection was scheduled. Only First Year student course selection was scheduled for after H.E.L.P. Day; Sophomores and Juniors had to start that very day, and Senior course selection started two days before H.E.L.P.

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Neoliberalism is the new communism

Inti Martinez, *editorialist*

This term, neoliberalism, is practically unknown in the US, even though this country, at least in theory, is a champion at it. Economic liberalism was seriously formulated by Adam Smith and it entails relative freedom from state intervention on any type of monetary transaction and investment. Neoliberalism is the modern reformulation of this economic theory and it also emphasizes economic freedom in the context of capitalism; limited state investment in social programs, fiscal austerity, free markets, privatization of public companies and respect for private property are all key components of neoliberalism, at least in theory.

America is one of the freest nations in the world—especially socially and economically. Economic freedom is very helpful for persons who want to start a new business or expand their already existent ones. Oligopolies, dominators of a given market, tend to be a threat to this economic freedom, however. Corporate welfare in America, like anywhere else, is a growing trend that needs to stop. The ties between the state sector and Big Business have strengthened dramatically in the past quarter-century, shaping America's economy to look more like state capitalism and less like the free-market capitalism that it promises to all.

Large corporations are bailed out by the US government each year, under the rationale of maintaining a healthy economy and high employment rates. Billions of tax-payer dollars are dumped into subsidies that chiefly help the rich and the powerful. Newer businesses wanting to enter a given market are prevented from expanding to compete and surpass the current market dominators—all thanks to the state-sponsored American oligopolies. Thousands of businesses start up each year and thousands of businesses shut down as well. Political conservatives berate economic assistance given to the poorest Americans, but jump with glee as they support corporate welfare.

In 1991 the top 1 percent of households owned 38.7 percent of corporate wealth; in 2003, the same group owned 57.5 percent of it—and the trend keeps growing. Middle-class America is slowly shrinking, according to reports by the Brookings Institution, with an average of 28 percent of metropolitan Americans being part of this group. The low-income club is growing at a pace of more than one million members per year. We constantly hear the US economy is

strong and roaring—but, for whom?

All the excitement and propaganda about production growths in Corporate America intend to make average persons believe their pockets are full and their tummies are satisfied. With about 39 million Americans living under the line of poverty and 15 million living in abject poverty, it seems ridiculous to rejoice for quarterly growths that mainly benefit Corporate America.

The practice of neoliberalism is tied to this increasing level of inequality and is a threat to democracy and long-term national stability. Senators—a majority of them, millionaires themselves—and representatives are supposed to be the voice of the American people, but tend to be prevented from doing so by their connections with Corporate America. Lavish gifts from lobbyists undoubtedly shape the way most congressmen and women vote, regardless of how unbiased they intend to be. Most of the high-level officials of the Bush administration have at one time been top executives at large corporations. With such connections it seems naïve to believe that public and foreign policy will not primarily benefit Corporate America. Maybe I'm just a conspiracy theorist.

In the US, more than \$300 billion are budgeted each year for research and development of technology intended for government use (e.g., health care, defense, space exploration). Later on, this technology ends up in the hands of Corporate America at relative low costs. In return, Corporate America sells these technological products (e.g., pharmaceuticals, computer products, vehicle technology, cell phones) to all of us while enjoying great profit margins.

In theory, neoliberalism claims equal economic rights and obligations for all, big or small. In practice, the poor have fewer rights and more obligations, while the rich corporations, as legal persons that they are, have more rights and fewer obligations. This is mainly caused by the strong connections between the state sector and the private sector. According to Max Weber, economic power does not necessarily equate political or social power. However, with the increasing level of inequality in America, democracy and social freedom can be hijacked by the child of neoliberalism: corporate despotism.

You might feel that you live a decent life and that your welfare is not threatened by the rise of inequality and corporatism in America, but in the long run this feeling might change.

-COMMUNISM

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The Star staff would like to remind readers that Editorials are opinion based and therefore slanted by nature. Opinion also opens itself up for challenge, so write responses! But make sure they question the writer's stance, not our reason for publishing.

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS!

Guidelines for letters to the Editor:

Letters to the Editor must be signed, denote which articles they are in response to, and should not exceed 500 words. Send all letters to the Editor-In-Chief, Lindsay Yandon via STAR@houghton.edu. All letters are subject to editing at the discretion of both the Copy Editors and the Editor-In-Chief. Letters are due on Monday at 5pm, one week before the next issue. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Letters that exceed 750 words can be sent in the form of a response column and will be printed as an article but should not exceed 1,500 words.

Student response to "Apocalypse now?"

Jamie Kulick, *editorialist*

The article "Apocalypse now?" claims to be written by concerned students with no intention of personally affronting ROTC personnel. Yet, the article has managed to not only affront ROTC personnel, but students with friends or family involved with the military and students with no connection to the military at all. I can understand the expressed concern of the writer(s) that the American populace, including the Christian community, has an appearance of entertaining an apocalyptic mindset, through which they view today's current events. Though this mindset is a cause for concern, it is not something new and unique to today or current events. It has been thought that WWII or the Cold War were apocalyptic events. Yet, we are still here. It is part of human nature, I believe, to create a connection between large events and the apocalypse. So, why is there now such an issue about apocalyptic thinking and why is ROTC taken on the role as the only group available to which scorn can be directed?

Also, I can understand why there might be a concern with ROTC having a larger presence on Houghton's website. These concerns are valid and understandable. What causes the affront to so many by this article is the degree to which the disregard

Apocalypse Now?: response from a concerned student

Amy Labzentiss, *editorialist*

I'm sure by now everyone has read, or at least heard about, the article regarding ROTC funding on campus that appeared in the last edition of the STAR. Congratulations to the author(s) for creating such a stir with your concerns. However, I am afraid you may have only crippled your own case. After reading the article carefully through several times I am still having trouble connecting the first half regarding the apocalypse with the second half regarding ROTC's presence on campus. Somewhere there was a gap that left me trying to make any sense of the argument.

for our fellow Christians in ROTC is taken.

The writer(s) express a desire to maintain a Christ-like atmosphere here at Houghton. Yet, how is denying fellow Christians a chance to receive a Christian education Christ-like?

On another point, how can there ever be a strong Christian influence in the military or the government without starting at the micro scale? By having Christians within the military causing "a positive impact on their immediate environs," the people within those environs who are affected will go on to affect others and thus the movement will grow. Are we to deny this possibility just because a large affect is not seen now? Are we to send fellow Christians into the military environment without the benefit of a Christian education? Moreover, what would it say about the people here at Houghton if we no longer allowed ROTC to continue? Would it say that people here at Houghton are incapable of incorporating patriotism and a Christian lifestyle? These sentiments that are strongly anti-ROTC give a cause for concern. Perhaps the full ramification of those written words should have been more carefully considered before being submitted for publication. Unless, perhaps, an affront was the true motive of the article? ★

You lost me when you arbitrarily connected the apocalypse to the Iraq War and the War on Terror. There are fanatical religious groups who are screaming these wars are signs of the end of the world, but this was also the case with Vietnam, World War II, World War I, and so on and so forth back through history. Good against evil has existed since man fell into sin in the Garden of Eden. Hitler was an evil man, so are you suggesting that we should have ignored his persecution and massacres, that we should have, as Christians, endorsed turning a blind eye to the sufferings of millions for

-CONCERNED

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Response to "Apocalypse now?"

Robert F. Danner, *editorialist*

It seems to me that there are a couple of issues that stand out from what I have read. The lightning rod issue seems to be the money issue. Let's deal with that one first. A bit of history might be helpful. At the time I arrived at Houghton College, students paid tuition and on top of that they paid a fairly sizeable student activity fee. Often, that arrangement caused confusion. A student arrived at college thinking that the price was \$X, and discovered that the price was \$X plus the student activity fee. (More accurately the problem was with the student's parents who had to pay the bill.) So, in the interest of full disclosure, the college decided to roll the student activity fee into tuition, but reallocate that portion of tuition for the same purpose as the student activity fee. That is where essentially all of the money comes from to fund the SGA and its many activities. Several years ago, the SGA decided to be more deliberate about how this money was allocated to student groups, so it started a chartering process. A group with a worthy purpose could apply, and be chartered, and with the charter came the privilege of requesting SGA funds. The students in ROTC formed themselves into a student group, as was the case with a couple dozen other groups, gained a charter (approved by

SGA), and requested money (as did other approved groups). So if you're thinking that this is a problem with the college faculty or administration playing funding games, think again. This is a student government issue. You folks in SGA created this situation, you approved the groups, and the money that is allocated.

A couple more comments on the money issue. While ROTC is both a group of people enrolled in some common courses, they are people who, when they come together around a common worthy purpose, have a legitimate basis for becoming a student group. Just look at one aspect of their group, the color guard. There is no other group on campus that is so structured to carry out this activity. The color guard represents ROTC, Houghton College, and Houghton's students well on campus and in the public arena, with the potential of making the college known in venues that other college groups never touch (military funerals, parades, etc) In the past couple of years the color guard was selected to represent us at the opening of a professional basketball game in Cleveland. SGA funds to support the ROTC group in its color guard mission are very appropriate, from my view. However, here is where I differ with some of my current ROTC colleagues. I have been told by ROTC cadets and some of the others of you

who have corresponded with me that the money allocated to the ROTC student group was being used to fund the travel of individuals (to class at Saint Bonaventure). I want to be clear that I believe that is an inappropriate use of that money. SGA money, in this vein, should be spent to further group purposes, not benefit individuals in any chartered group, including the ROTC group.

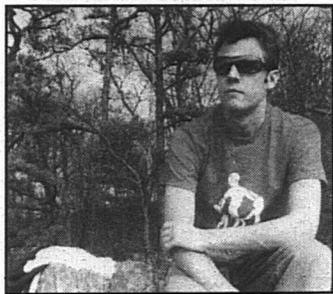
Let me finish the money issue. Several of you have referred to these amounts of money as huge or large. They are not. They are relatively small amounts of money in the total scheme of things, albeit large in the SGA context. But they should be spent wisely, and that is the real issue. Someone said to me in an email that ROTC does not benefit Houghton students generally in a financial sense. I beg to differ. Currently we have 9 students in the student body on ROTC scholarships. Multiply 9 times current tuition and you'll discover how much money comes to the college. For every dollar of ROTC money coming to Houghton College, there is a dollar of college need-based money for some other Houghton student. That is a huge advantage to the student body.

Another issue is the presence of ROTC on campus and the level of its presence. First question is does ROTC fit on a Christian college campus? Does it fit on this campus? For 2000 years there has been a tension in the church on the war and peace issue. Equally passionate Christians on either side have not resolved these issues. That tension should make us all more

humble about the positions we take on these sensitive issues, and we should be careful when articulating our position that we do not demean those holding opposing views. The college and the denomination that owns it allow individual freedom on these issues. From its beginnings in the early 20th century, the ROTC educational process has been shaped around a comprehensive liberal arts education, with some military courses as complementary. A well educated person to serve as an officer in the armed forces of our country is the goal. So if you think that ROTC is trying to take over the college curriculum, think again. History is not on your side. ROTC's educational goals are clearly consistent with those of the college. Since 1979 when the first Houghton student joined ROTC there have been 41 Houghton students commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants in the U.S. Army. Three more this year. Do the math. That does not even average 2 per year. The probability of ROTC getting out of balance, particularly in time of war, is miniscule. We should be proud of those who have chosen to take their Christian witness into the milieu of the armed forces. Their moral fiber and witness is much needed, if, and it is a big if, their position on the war and peace issue allows them to serve. Another ROTC issue for your pride. In the past four years five Houghton ROTC cadets have been selected for an educational delay to attend seminary and then enter the Army as chaplains. So why is that important?

-RESPONSE
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Kerouac, France, and Lil Jon



Alec Gilfillan, *guest columnist*

Few would argue with the statement that music plays a crucial role in our lives. At the very least, even the most cantankerous skeptic would concede that music can, at the right moment, represent something as large as an entire culture or movement. Just as Jack Kerouac put a face on the beat movement or how Hunter S. Thompson beautifully compared the failure of the 60's counterculture movement to a wave breaking and rolling back, our music speaks for us whether we want it to or not.

From musical genius to tone deafness, humans are born with music all around them. I started playing music at the age of 10. I've never shown supreme proficiency in my playing and my pitch has never been close to perfect, but to this day I still love music. Every aspect of music is awe inspiring. Everywhere you go, you see music.

You see people creating music, enjoying music, and living in their music. And despite what some may believe, music is not limited to what is being played on the radio, the television, or even at the opera. No, music wraps around the globe, interacting with each of its listeners no matter how remote they may be. Even here in our little community at Houghton College, there is music to be made and experienced. Ask local artist Steve Woolsey or local composer Robert Potterton III, and my guess would be that they will tell you that music is not only what is on MTV.

Recently, I had the blessing of spending a semester in Cannes, France. I would like to think that I fully appreciated music before traveling there but I know deep down that I did not. Before I went, I understood the power of music locally, here in our country and in our culture. Just looking at some of the arguments people have about music can show you its power here. The closest friends can ruin a car ride with spats over the genre of music or the volume. Even scarier, churches have split over what types of music to play. Globally speaking, it's hard to understand the power that we have as Americans. I met people in France, Italy, and Germany whose English vocabulary was limited to "50 Cent" and "gangster." It was no surprise to me because one

of the local radio stations in Cannes named "Vitamine" played 50 Cent almost every other song.

I know that some of us might be quick to point out that 50 Cent should not represent America overseas but the truth of it is that we do not have a choice. Our music defines us as Americans. All of our music, from John Williams to John Mayer to Lil Jon, is who we are. My point is that we cannot ignore our culture. When we forget our brothers and sisters that live thousands of miles away that call themselves Americans too, we run the risk of ignorance, racism, and sexism. The recent firing of Don Imus reminds us of this. Liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and other American ideals should be displayed by our musicians, our politicians, and our leaders. Unfortunately, the opinions of Don Imus represent America as well. They serve as a cold reminder that America is not perfect, that we have a dark side and a dark history.

At this point, you might be wondering what Don Imus and music have in common. The answer is that the words of radio show host and the lyrics of a song are both extremely powerful. They are not simply words, in fact, they represent us. T.S. Eliot wrote:

For most of us, there is only the

unattended

*Moment, the moment in and out of time,
The distraction fit, lost in a shaft of sunlight,*

The wild thyme unseen, or the winter lightning

*Or the waterfall, or music heard so deeply
That it is not heard at all, but you are the music*

"While the music lasts."

That last line is what inspired me to write about how powerful music can be. Can we really be music? How can we hear music so deeply that we do not hear it at all? Though I would love to ask T.S. Eliot to explain, I am pretty sure that I would not understand his answer. Is being the music limited to only those that play it? When I play shows with my band, is that being music? We have to believe that the answer to those questions is "no." Truly, I believe that we are always music. Madonna sang:

"Music makes the people come together, Music mix the bourgeoisie and the rebel."

If meeting a Swiss man in Europe that learned English from listening to rap music isn't enough proof to show how powerful music is; I leave you with the argument that anything that both Madonna and T.S. Eliot agree on is probably worth considering. ★



THE *Curious* SAVAGE

Johan Patrick's entertaining and whimsical comedy, *The Curious Savage* will serve as the Final drama production of the semester and is one that you surely don't want to miss. The plot centers around Mrs. Ethel Savage, a widow who has become quite rich in part to an endowment left by her husband. She wishes to put the money to good use, while greed causes her stepchildren to send her to a sanitarium to, "bring her to her senses." There she stumbles across victims of social rejection; men and women who simply cannot find their place in the world. Mrs. Savage becomes their cure while outwitting her vain stepchildren in leading them on a delightful pursuit. The final scene reveals dreams realized and hope restored.

Who: Features a cast of Cana Roth, Jason Fisher, Casey Bellafaire, Eric Stevenson, Kristen Speiser, Jared Wright, Drew Burke, Natasha Perry, Katy Drohan, Lindsay Hansen, and Nathan McLachlan.

When: April 19, 20, and 21 with three evening performances at 7:30 and one Saturday afternoon matinee at 1:30.

Where: Tysinger Auditorium at Houghton Academy.

How: Tickets go on sale Monday at lunch and sales will continue throughout the week.

\$\$: Reserved seating at \$5.00 per person.

Student response to "Apocalypse now"

Sally Amthor, *editorialist*

Houghton ROTC is the straw man that the authors use to criticize a mindset they find offensive. While I find the apocalyptic rallying for war just as offensive, the authors go too far in branding the Armed Forces of the United States as an apocalyptic war machine determined to wipe evil from the face of the earth. Also, the jump from censure of apocalyptic language to censure of Houghton ROTC is even more inappropriate and ridiculous. You might as well liken the Boy Scouts to the Nazi Youth.

Furthermore, while the author claims that a Christian presence in the military is important and can have a positive impact, the article states that, "this presence has very little impact on how militarism-as-patriotism is experienced in America..." and such Christians would, "play a very limited role in shaping an American foreign policy

that is consistent with our concepts of love, mercy and peace, as we read them in the Christian tradition." This is self-contradictory. Either Christians in the military can have a positive influence within the military, or they can't. I believe they can, and do.

The author states, "We want to make it clear that this is not a personal attack on the members of ROTC." I disagree. By connecting Houghton ROTC with apocalyptic war-mongering, the author disparages the men and women who are members of this organization. By saying that Christians in the military can make little headway in promoting the faith within the Armed Forces, and by further noting that, "many ROTC members have joined this group to reap the benefits of getting a college education or to continue a family tradition," the author invalidates ROTC members, especially

-STUDENT *continued on pg 5*

EARTH WEEK



April 23-27th
Sponsored by: HEC, GCF, ESA,
CAB, and the Lecture Series

Look for more info to come!

"Armchair Apocrypha" by Andrew Bird



Eric Stevenson, staff writer

Andrew Bird has been around the music scene for ten years now, and he's been around music for his entire life. He was trained in the Suzuki method, which strives to create "high ability" and beautiful character in its students through a nurturing environment (if you're a music major and don't know that, for shame!), on the violin. Later, he graduated from Northwestern University in Illinois with a bachelor's degree in violin performance. All in all, he's got chops. Go to youtube and search for "Andrew Bird Good Faith Church" and you'll see what I mean.

This is Bird's third solo release (fourth if you count his self released album back in 1996, but we won't) and was highly anticipated after 2005's beautiful "The Mysterious Production of Eggs" which despite its odd title, enhanced his audience a great deal. "Armchair Apocrypha" is an extension of that success. This

album does have a sense of commercialism built in to it, especially considering what Bird is capable of. It sometimes seems like he's holding back on his songwriting and could really show his skills if he wanted. Sure, it has its impressive moments, and I don't mean to say that the songs are boring, dull, or anything around there, but I would love to hear him rip the violin apart like he's proven he can do in the past.

But don't let that keep you away from this album. It is good. Very good. Bird's voice is commonly compared to the likes of Thom Yorke or Jeff Buckley, which as you all know is a lofty comparison to make. I don't think he reaches the caliber in his voice of those two artists but he does sound great. If his voice was a beer, some may call it "Jeff Buckley Lite." But regardless, he's one of the best whistlers I've heard, which is a unique and welcome component to a few of his tunes.

His pop songs on this album range from very playful material ("Plasticities") to the less playful and downright indulged in sorrow ("Cataacts"). The flow and sound of the album follows what the title implies: a mix of the everyday things with the religious and extraordinary. This theme hasn't been absent in his past works but here it's much thicker. He even has a song for all you history buffs out there ("Scythian Empires").

This record has more than enough heart and melody for the entire class to go around. I'm sure many will use this as a soundtrack to times of happy solitude. ★

"300 Official Film Soundtrack" by Tyler Bates

Eric Stevenson, staff writer

I can only hope that any guy reading this has seen the recent box office hit "300." As for you women, if you can stomach a lot of blood flying and can appreciate the best cinematography since the Lord of the Rings movies (and a love story in the mix!), then I hope you've seen it too. Sure, this R-rated action flick isn't for everyone, but it is a wonderful piece of art. Yes, I just called it art. It is.

Behind every great movie is a great soundtrack. Rarely does this not happen. Tyler Bates really hits it out of the park with this one. Though, it is only fair to mention some controversy that came about because of his soundtrack. Apparently, some think he stole bits and pieces from Elliot Goldenthal's soundtrack to the movie "Titus" in 1999. But that's only in about 2 or 3 of the 25 tracks on the album (26 if you get it from iTunes), so whether he stole it or not, there are still at least 22 original tracks and hey, that's pretty good. So screw all that copyright stuff and just enjoy the music. The best tracks aren't even the ones that they say he stole.

Anyway, Bates takes full advantage of an orchestra, but not through the entire thing. In fact, he seems just as prone to use electric guitar as much as a strings section. In tracks like "Fever Dream", you're almost taken back by the wall of sound the chugging guitars make. But then you listen to "Come and Get Them" and it's pure orchestra. Yet, it all fits with the same mood and feeling of the album and film. In either case, the choir accompanies both in different songs and oh, the power! Distinctively made of all men, the choir belts out something in some other language (or really weird English words) with force and meaning. Even though you don't know what they're saying, you can relate to the passion vividly.

The percussion is also something to be considered as well. It's very earthy and raw, as if the mighty Spartans are beating their chests in rhythm. Bates has used lots of noises that aren't made by drum kits and timpani. I really wouldn't be surprised if he actually used trees and logs to beat on.

The soundtrack by itself is fantastic, but remember that it is a soundtrack and was specifically made for a film. That's where it's true beauty shines, when it mixes with the visuals. But as pure music, it's impressive, grand, creative, and expansive. ★

-CONCERNED

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fear of inducing the apocalypse when we had the ability to intervene? With great blessing comes great responsibility. Furthermore, we believe in a God who is in complete control of everything that happens in the world. If this is true, how can any of our human actions work to bring about the apocalypse outside of God's all-perfect plan?

However, the issues of tying the Iraq War and the War on Terror to the apocalypse are not what I am interested in addressing in this response. Rather, I would like to focus on the argument against ROTC's presence on campus.

ROTC has followed every procedure and requirement under the Bylaws of the SGA Constitution in order to achieve and maintain club status, and are therefore eligible for Type I funding (funding allocated to student clubs on a semester by semester basis). Other requirements for maintaining eligibility for funding according to the bylaws include; "The organization must publicize meetings and activities, coordinating with the student program office", "Organization leaders are encouraged to participate in SGA and student programs sponsored leadership building activities", and "The organization must have a sound structure that will provide organized leadership and a means for the organization to survive the graduation of its members".

ROTC does publicize meetings and activities through its website, and is working to further this publication by seeking to gain more advertisement on the Houghton College homepage and by listing ROTC courses, which have always been open to all Houghton students regardless of their ROTC status, in the master course list published by the Academic Records Office.

Not only does ROTC openly advertise and welcome any student on campus to join in, it has also made an effort to "participate in SGA and student programs" as required by the Bylaws. Two members of ROTC, Benjamin Groen and Matthias Williams, were recently elected as SGA general senators. This effort to be more actively involved in student leadership activities is something not seen from many of the other clubs on campus, and it is an excellent example:

As to the requirement that "The organization must have a sound structure that will provide organized leadership and a means for the organization to survive the graduation of its members", I don't think there is any debate about the fact that the United States Military purposefully designs its training programs to produce only the best of leaders.

There is no doubt that logistically ROTC has every right to continue functioning as an active club on campus and is without question eligible for student funds - student funds which are allocated and approved by the SGA senate. Furthermore, ROTC has been making ample

effort to include any other students on campus who may be interested in benefiting from their leadership training courses, discrediting the argument that ROTC is only benefiting a select body of students. Anyone on campus may benefit from ROTC should they so choose. (N.B. - The (word deleted) complaint, "But I don't want to benefit from it so it should not be funded by student tuition" holds no water here. If it did there would be no campus clubs. I could choose to take advantage of Paddle Sports, which is funded through my tuition money, should I so chose. But I don't. I have no interest in it. But that does not mean I think it should be eliminated from eligibility for student funding.)

Regardless of ROTC's rights logistically speaking, there are still students who object to ROTC on a moral basis. This is a legitimate concern, and certainly one to be openly discussed. However, attempting to link ROTC to the apocalypse and sending those written arguments to the school newspaper is not the way to convince people of your views. ROTC went through the channels set in place to gain funding. If you don't agree with Houghton funding ROTC then those same channels are available to you to try and change it.

I want to emphasize that many of the opinions in opposition to ROTC's presence on campus are based on perfectly valid and logical arguments. There are also questions as to how ROTC should be funded structurally speaking, but these are logistical questions which are not limited solely to ROTC, and in fact apply to many of the groups on campus who receive funding. In this respect, we need to pay attention to other very similar circumstances rather than picking on ROTC because it involves the armed forces. My concern is that you are replacing concrete discussions with passionate sentiment and expecting people to react positively to your requests. If we are to accomplish or change anything it must be through reasonable discussion and a sincere respect for differing views. ★

-STUDENT

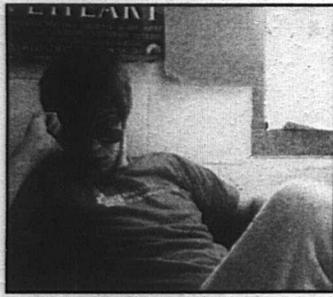
continued from pg 4

those who may have signed up for another reason: namely, because they desired to serve their country (which, unfortunately, may include serving in a war).

May I remind the author that the reason we are able to speak out in print is indirectly but very strongly linked to the service and sacrifice of men and women who believed they could make a difference by joining the military. Without them, and sadly, without some bloodshed, we would not have the freedom to express our beliefs, concerns, and disagreements.

Overall, I find the author's extrapolation of ROTC emphasizing the apocalyptic mindset utterly ridiculous and offensive. ★

War is a four letter word *(not literally, but you know what I mean)*



Marc Smithers, columnist

When I was a child, I went to Sunday School. This is the place where Bible stories come to life through the magic of felt boards. This is where we memorize John 3:16 until we are blue in the face. But most importantly, this is the place where we learn the songs that lead us towards salvation. I would not be where I am today without my pals "Father Abraham" or that wee little man "Zacchaeus." One of my favorite songs as a kid was that classic, "I'm in the Lord's Army (Yes Sir)." I challenge you to find another song that captures the human condition more than this tune does. You get to pretend as though you're flying in a plane: "zooming over the enemy," and also make cool gun sounds: "shooting the artillery." What could be better?

But do we believe that the Lord really has an army? Or, perhaps a question that seems to be burning

on our campus, what does God think about war?

It seems that the current trend in Christianity is to view God as a type of Mr. Rogers character. He always has a smile on his face, a neighbor to show kindness to and a button-up sweater to wear. And while it is awesome to serve a God who has humbled Himself so much to be a servant to all, is there nothing triumphant and powerful about God anymore? Yes, God did create the butterflies and rainbows. Those are awesome and peaceful things. But this same God invented volcanoes and tornadoes and thunderstorms. These are powerful and anything but peaceful. God is untamable. Yet, we try to tame Him and put him in this box labeled "Things That Aren't Dangerous."

Look at the Old Testament. God led the Israelites into battle many, many times. I really don't think there's any argument against that claim. God sent David in to kill Goliath. God sent Joshua to destroy Jericho. But since Jesus came and said that we should turn the other cheek, this apparently cancels out any warlike characteristic of God, correct? Somewhere in the Bible it says that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. This means, to me, that, just like yesterday when He saw war as justified, today, there may be times when battle

is also needed. God's wrath didn't suddenly disappear from His nature. It's there just as it has been there and just as it will be there.

With that said, do I believe that it is justifiable for a Christian to be in favor of war? Certainly. But never as a first resort. This is the problem I see with the current views on war. Like many issues, people see it as black or white. You are either in favor of war, or you're in favor of peace. But it's not that simple. Those in favor of war seem to see Pacifists as these people who would never lift a finger because peace is their bag and instead of shooting a cannon, they put a flower in it and the world is made happy because we gave peace a chance. Those in favor of peace seem to see those in opposition as people who seek out battles in their everyday life, who own guns and regularly shoot at pigeons and defenseless animals because they simply can.

Here comes the amazing revelation. Being a Pacifist doesn't mean that you are defenseless. Not being a Pacifist doesn't mean you seek out war. What should matter most to us as Christians should be our first inclination, which should always be peace. Jesus said blessed are the peacemakers. We should always seek out a peaceful solution. But, Ecclesiastes 3:8 reminds us that just as there

is a time for peace, there also is a time for war. Whenever that time comes, it should be sought out prayerfully because war should be a last option. But the thing to remember is that Jesus isn't coming back as a helpless baby again. Instead He's coming back as a conqueror. And a battle will be fought.

The reason why I don't take a Pacifist type of view on war is because I feel like I have a very uneducated view on war. I live in Northern New York, far removed from any major war that has ever been fought. So it'd be easy to call myself a Pacifist because I see so much potential for peace. People are reasonable and peaceful to some extent. But what if someone came into a neighboring town, raped and kidnapped all the women? How could I sit back and be peaceful? I believe that we, as Christians, are called to defend the poor and helpless. (I'm not calling women poor and helpless, but you see what I'm getting at here.) Now it's unlikely that this situation would happen today, but I think you understand what I'm trying to say.

I'm not saying that you shouldn't be a Pacifist. But I am saying that it's unreasonable to expect everyone to be a Pacifist. The very clichéd quote by Edmund Burke fits very well as my closing line - "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." ★

Summer enjoyment vs. summer employment



Jimmy Dutton, columnist

Remember when summer was fun? I do. Like every young little scrapper, my eagerness for the final bell on the last day of school could only be matched by my excitement on Christmas Eve; both of which constantly reached "foaming-at-the-mouth" status. I remember prancing out of school like the giddy little school boy that I was, singing at the top of my lungs "no more homework/ no more books/ no more teacher's dirty looks." It was hilarious. Then when I finally got home I would begin the summer-long torment of my parents who just loved the fact that their energetic little bundle of joy was going to be home all day every day for the next three months.

Contrary to popular belief I did actually go outside when I was a child. In fact, I spent hours a day riding bikes, exploring in the woods, swimming, playing sports, and other cliché summer activities. Consistent with popular belief I also spent a lot

of time indoors watching television. It didn't matter to me what I was doing, though, because I thought that summer was the best thing since the Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers, and they're pretty hard to beat. Just ask Goldar and Rita Repulsa.

Only cool people will get that reference.

Little did I know as I spent my summers running around my yard pretending to be a dinosaur that they wouldn't always be so much fun. I had no idea what was coming. I was naive. I was ignorant. I was dumb. I was cute. But that's beside the point.

My first job experience was at Top's Friendly Markets as a cashier and cart boy. I was so stoked when I first got it because I thought I could finally have my own money and would no longer have to ask my parents for the sweet greens. My hands shook as I opened the envelope to my first paycheck. It was for a whopping 90 dollars. I was rich.

Much to my dismay getting a job turned out to actually be work. It was hard, especially on sunny days. I can't believe they expected me to be jammed into a grocery store all day. People weren't very friendly at Top's Friendly Markets as I was scanning their items. I was friendly anyways though and that wasn't easy because I was doing it while listening to "She Thinks My Tractor's Sexy" over and over and over. And over. I started to wonder why he liked the fact that a woman thought a tractor was sexy.

Aren't they usually covered in manure? Why does she find manure sexy? I'd advise him to steer his tractor clear of that whacked-out cowgirl.

Anyways.

After getting yelled at by customers a few times as a cashier and scratching a couple of cars as a cart boy I quit. I was mortified by my first work experience, and was inclined to never again get a job. Thus, the day where I cease to ask my parents for money still hasn't come.

College students are stuck in the middle of a financial transition. We don't have the security of living at home anymore, and yet we don't have a significant source of income either. So where does most of our money come from? Summer. Employment. For my past two summers I felt a lot of pressure to get a good job that would load me up with mad cash yo, and once again I'm feeling the same pressure as the summer slowly approaches. We need summer employment! We need to save this money so that we can use it for various things throughout the academic year. If we don't, we're screwed. How can we expect to be popular if we don't have any money?

I almost regret summer now that I'm in college. Yeah, I said it. My summers of enjoyment were ruined by the strains of employment (Ha! I'm a poet and I didn't even know...this...to be true...-it).

Every summer I am forced to leave all of my school friends to go home to a boring town and work

through nice days with a bunch of strange people that I don't even know. When I stated this fact to my parents they said (with a little too much enthusiasm) "Welcome to the real world." It's like they've been waiting years to tell me that.

I couldn't imagine spending the rest of my life doing the jobs I've had over the summers. Not that they're particularly bad jobs or anything, they're just not me. They're not what I like to do. They kill my soul.

But if there is one thing that I have learned from these experiences it's that I am glad I am getting a degree in what I have a passion for. I was told at one particularly well paying job I had that students would often drop out of school so that they could continue to work there. They told me I would be back too. It was at that moment that I swore that I would never drop out of school to get a "quick-cash" job. My degree and working for a career that I will enjoy were important to me. Will I get that-career? I don't know for sure, but I think I'm on the right track.

I've also come to respect people who can get out of bed daily and go to an un-enjoyable job just so that they can support their family. There is nothing that is more honorable than putting your loved ones before yourself, and that's what they were doing.

After saying that I must also point out that some were only doing it for the beer money. ★

Buffalo Sabres: playoff preview

Ben Tsujimoto, sports writer

The accolades have poured on Buffalo like the April snowfall. With their shutout victory over the Washington Capitals, the Buffalo Sabres captured the franchise's first 'President's Trophy,' the prize awarded to the team with the most total points. Also, by crushing the Capitals, Buffalo established a new franchise record with 53 victories and tied the total points record with 113. Due to the club's recent success, Peter Keating of ESPN the Magazine declared that the Sabres were the top team in his 'Ultimate Standings,' a tool that ranks teams from all four primary professional sports. Keating writes, "Buffalo ranks No. 1 among all Big Four pro franchises in giving fans the most back for the emotion, money and time they invest in their teams" (ESPN the Magazine). Winning these prestigious awards is not sufficient to satisfy the dreams of crazed Sabre fans, however; no one will be content until Lindy Ruff hoists the Stanley Cup in June.

As the top seed in the Eastern Conference, the Sabres hold home-ice advantage throughout the playoffs, beginning with their first round match-up against the New York Islanders. Led by former Buffalo coach Ted Nolan, the Islanders narrowly made the playoffs by winning the season's final four games, capped off by squeaking past the New Jersey Devils in a shootout on the final day. Backup goaltender Wade Dubielewicz earned 'NHL First Star' honors this week after taking over for Team USA goalie Rick DiPietro, who suffered back to back concussions within a span of two weeks. "Ricky's trying to come back but right now, our whole focus is on the guys we have here," Nolan said. "Dubielewicz is playing great, so right now it looks like he'll continue to play. We can't focus on the injured players, we have to worry about the guys we have" (ESPN.com/nhl). Regardless of who crouches between the pipes, the Islanders face a daunting challenge in the fast, deep, and skilled Sabres.

The late-season arrival of two key players, however, provides a glimmer of hope for the Isles. Center Alexei Yashin, known for his playoff meltdowns with the Ottawa Senators, returned to form by posting 50 points in 58 games after missing months with a right knee injury. At the trading deadline, the Isles broke the bank for winger Ryan Smyth, a proven playoff scorer with tremendous leadership ability. Alongside Yashin and Smyth are two potent wingers; Jason Blake led the team in regular season goals with 40, while former Sabre Miroslav Satan remains a goal-scoring threat. Despite finishing in the upper half of the NHL in goals per game with 2.93, New York ranks in the bottom tier in shots allowed per game, revealing a weak defense. Brendan Witt and Sean

Hill provide toughness on the blue-line, but their lack of speed is often exposed. Without the sure glove of DiPietro, the Islanders will continue to rely on the largely unknown Dubielewicz. How long will his good fortune continue? With the Sabres firing a flurry of shots at him, do not expect the same results in the playoffs.

While the Islanders limp into the playoffs without their starting goaltender, the Sabres enter the post-season at full strength. The recent returns of winger Maxim Afinogenov, center Tim Connolly, and defenseman Toni Lydman have come just in time for a playoff push. Connolly, after missing the majority of the past year with post-concussion issues, lit the lamp in his first game back and hopes to revitalize a struggling power play. In order to overcome the loss to Carolina in last year's Eastern Conference Finals, the Sabres' defensemen need to stay healthy. Heralded off-season acquisition Jaroslav Spacek has not established himself at the power play point position as Buffalo had envisioned, but Henrik Tallinder, Lydman, Brian Campbell, and Teppo Numminen form a solid, if unspectacular, defensive corps.

If the Sabres are to lift the Cup in June, they will rely on relentless offense that wreaked havoc on opponents during the regular season. With six twenty-goal scorers, the Sabres averaged over 3.5 goals per game. Second year forward Thomas Vanek, a spectator on the bench during much of last year's post-season, devoted himself in the off-season to becoming a two-way player. The results have been fantastic; not only did Vanek strike for 43 goals, but his plus/minus of 47 led the entire NHL. With all-world goalie Ryan Miller protecting the net, the Sabres are the favorites to claim Lord Stanley's Cup; only four opponents and sixteen victories stand in the way. ★

IN THE FINAL ISSUE...

the STAR sports section will include profiles on graduating Houghton athletes, including statistics, highlights, and quotes. Keep an eye out for this upcoming article.

-JV continued from pg 1
managers, and physical educators to put to practical use their classroom knowledge of these areas. Early interest in a men's club soccer team led to a meeting with the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics last spring, and the approval of several policy changes that would ease the introduction of such a squad. By the time the fall arrived, however, the early interest had faded. The men's JV soccer team did have a few practices but no outside competition. Women's club soccer experienced a similar fate. Such a lack of drive to see this initiative through calls the basis for complaints into question.

This is just one more example of the necessity of Houghton students to make their own fun. It's true that the admissions office, coaches, and first-year honors committee members will probably have to put forth a more concerted effort at convincing prospective attendees that Houghton is full of things to do. We'll have to be satisfied with the Citgo's selection of cinematic adventures, and it should also be emphasized that all movie selection should be made prior to 10PM. On the bright side, the gym will remain open on Sundays, and the library will not. ★

-COMMUNISM

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When communism once promised to deliver equality and prosperity to all people, Russia, China, Cuba, Vietnam and other countries jumped on the wagon of communism. Later on they realized that all these promises were bogus due to the inherent inefficiencies of the economic system. Under 20th century communism, state power was unhindered, paving the way for authoritarianism and totalitarianism. Under neoliberalism, corporate power is practically unhindered and is paving the way for more corporate abuse and impunity. The tools of intimidation under totalitarianism were jailing, torture and mass murder. Corporatism is more subtle: It subdues the population into rampant consumerism through massive advertisement and skewed portrayals of success and beauty. Corporatism seems to ignore that limited business competitiveness and strong ties with the state will all backfire in the long run.

Thankfully, the American public is not stupid. Seventy-six percent of Americans believe too much power is concentrated in the hands of a few companies, a sentiment that has not changed in the past twenty years. Sadly, only few Americans put their beliefs to work by fighting corporatism.

Lest America become a Mexico or a Brazil (two countries macro-economically rich, but with one of the highest levels of economic inequality in the world and with weak democratic institutions), start to oppose the unfair state support for large corporations: Buy smart, vote smart, live smart. How has neoliberalism hijacked most Latin American economies and, in turn, increased dramatically the

amount illegal immigrants flooding into America? Stay tuned for more... ★

-RESPONSE

continued from pg 3

In the entire Army, nationwide, from more than 1,100 colleges and universities, in that same period there have only been 60 cadets selected for this program. Houghton has nearly 10% of the total. Amazing for a college our size. With this kind of history and record, there should be no fear that ROTC will become too predominate, so a "larger presence" in a website is probably an inconsequential issue in the total perspective.

A personal note. I have come to love and respect the Houghton student body over the years, and, in retirement, I miss the contact I had with you. I have often said to friends that the student body as a group never disappointed me, and I am sure you will not as you come to some well considered decisions on the issues that began this discussion. ★

-HELP

continued from pg 1

Day. If a major function of the event was to facilitate faculty course advising, the criticism leveled against this aspect seems justified.

On the whole, however, the evaluations from students, faculty, and administration are positive and encouraging. The contributions of all the members of the H.E.L.P Day committee - Tim Nichols, Greg Bish, Marge Avery, Diane Galloway, Phyllis Gaerte, and Daryl Stevenson - should be appreciated and valued. And the vast company of H.E.L.P Day advocates can look forward to the next of what will likely become an annual occurrence in the life of Houghton College. ★

Event ★ ★ ★ Advertising

Please send any campus event bulletins to the Editor via

STAR@houghton.edu.

Remember we print bi-weekly. So we need to know as soon as possible about your event if you would like it included.





fern at little river



monarch on echinacea

Michael Humphrey, guest photographer



Students, Faculty and Staff submit your photography and title (any subject, color photos are preferred but if you have a black and white shot that will knock our socks off, please submit it!) along with a 100 word bio/explanation of the photo and camera info (make, mega-pixel, etc) to Star@houghton.edu

Submissions can only be accepted in a digital format, we prefer 4 megapixel or higher for quality purposes and photos must be your own work and submitted unedited (except for basic contrast, cropping and red-eye adjustments).

STAR SHOTS

THE HOUGHTON ENQUIRER

Nation's Snowmen March Against Global Warming

JANUARY 25, 2006

WASHINGTON, DC—Braving balmy temperatures and sunny skies, millions of scarfless snowmen and snowwomen gathered in cities across the world Tuesday to raise public awareness about the heavy toll global warming is taking on their health and well-being. Joe Centigrade, president of the Advocates For Beings Of Frozen Precipitation, spoke at a mass rally Tuesday on Washington's National Mall.

"The unseasonably warm winters of the recent past are a clear indication of a real environmental threat to humans and their frozen simulacra," said Centigrade, his coals arranged in a frowning pattern. "As snowmen and snowwomen, we accept the inevitability of melting, but the actions of man are causing us to evaporate well before our time."

Centigrade told the slowly melting snowcrowd that as recently as 15 years ago, the average life span of a snowperson built in late December was three weeks to a month. Today, that same snowperson has an average life span of two weeks.

Centigrade also recounted stories of once-jolly snowmen unable

to keep their carrot noses in their fast-melting faces, and of others who were made of only two undersize segments.

"In many regions of New England today, there's not even enough snow on the ground to make snowballs, much less a torso," Centigrade said. "Instead, some snowmen are stuck together with slush and leaves rather than pure, white snow. We must take steps now to end their suffering."

Bearing signs with such slogans as "You Can't Build A Snowman With Rain" and "Winter = Life," the crystalline-ice protestors, many of whom had chartered refrigerated tractor-trailers and ice-cream trucks to travel to the mass protest, complained that popular stereotypes about snowmen obscure and trivialize the crisis.

"Humans sneer at us, 'If you want to stay intact, go to the North Pole and live with Santa,'" said Susie Flakeman, a Thunder Bay, Ontario snowwoman waiting in line with hundreds of others to use a Porta-Freezer. "But less than one-half of 1 percent of us ever receive that honor. Most of us end up victims of the scourge that almost killed Frosty: man-made climate change."

Some scientists refuted the snowbeings' claims regarding global warming.

"Throughout history, the earth has endured periods of temperature fluctuation," said Dr. Harley Morrison, a biochemist who has advised President Bush on scientific issues. "Also, there have already been several major blizzards throughout North America this season alone. I made a snowman myself, and he lasted for several weeks."

"Those of us who remember the Icelandic anti-heated-sidewalk riots of the 1980s know that the powers that be despise and fear snowmen who fight for their rights," Centigrade said. "They'd rather kill the messengers than face the fact that our ecosystems are changing irreparably. We're prepared to stay in D.C. as long as it takes until Congress agrees to listen to our demands."

Before he could conclude his remarks, Centigrade's face slid off.

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