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"We are a faith-based liberal arts college" Rebranding Triggers Student Reaction

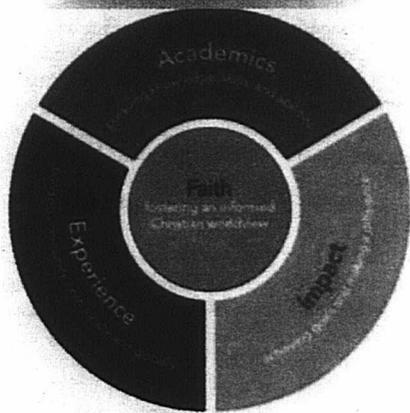


IMAGE COURTESY OF HOUGHTON
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

BY COURTNEY COIRO

With this year's Homecoming celebration appeared several strange angular designs on various sidewalks around campus. The new Houghton logo has emerged in many places and is just one aspect of the new marketing strategy the College is employing. Another facet of this branding is the use of the phrase "faith-based college," rather than "Christian college," in materials created for prospective students.

A campus-wide e-mail was sent out Oct. 21 listing

and detailing several of the reasons for the new language. The hope is that the term "faith-based" will attract a wider range of prospective students to Houghton, mainly by eliminating some misperceptions about the meaning of the word "Christian." As the relationships with prospective students further develop, Admissions will have "the opportunity to explain what Christian means at Houghton."

This e-mail was the first time many students were informed of the switch, although select students

had already been appraised; workers in the Admissions office were updated before the start of classes, and nine days prior, President Mullen addressed the SGA Senate about the new term. The same e-mail announced a forum that will be held Nov. 9 with President Mullen and Sharon Meyers to address any student concern.

This plan has already been enacted in mail sent to prospective students. A piece entitled "Where are you going?" specifically

Branding cont'd on page 3

New Vision Week: Following Christ in a Pluralistic Society

BY OLIVIA BUTZ

New Vision Week has been a part of Houghton's spiritual life programming since the 1940s, focusing specifically on world missions and evangelism and is currently organized and directed by Global Christian Fellowship (GCF).

The week seeks, among other things, to celebrate the Lord who is sovereign over all nations, represented by the "parade of nations" in which flags from countries affiliated with or represented by the student body are paraded through the Chapel. It is also a time to re-affirm Houghton's identity as part of the global body of Christian believers.

Each year, a theme is selected around which the week is framed, this year's being *Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life*, exploring what it means to follow and serve Jesus in a pluralistic society. This year's most prominent guests, who also spoke in chapel services throughout the week, were Peter Koropatwa, an SIM missionary serving in Toronto, Canada; and Jay Smith, a missionary with the Brethren in Christ Church, who engages in apologetics with the Muslim population in London, England. Wednesday's chapel service, facilitated by Islamic Studies faculty member Don

Little, involved a presentation and discussion of the changed lives these two men have seen in their contacts with Hindus and Muslims, respectively.

"We need to be deeply grounded both on the Word of God and the beliefs of other religions if we want to effectively engage lost people," said Kyle Gregory,

Wycliffe Bible Translators and WEC International, set up informational tables in the Campus Center to encourage the students to research available options for short and long-term missions and participated in classrooms pertaining to their expertise.

In addition, the organizers of New Vision Week put

and further conversation regarding the need for and use of apologetics to defend the Christian faith and the reality of Jesus in today's world.

In addition, the New Vision Week planning committee set up seminars with the chapel speakers, including a coffeehouse held Monday, during which speaker Peter

the validity and usefulness of such a method of evangelism.

Erika Harlow, junior, in regard to the planning of New Vision week, said, "We wanted this New Vision Week to equip us students to better live in this pluralistic world gently and unashamedly sharing the truth of the gospel."

As for the particular speakers selected and invited, the committee "chose our two speakers, Peter Koropatwa and Jay Smith, because they are daily engaged in apologetics as they witness to those following different religions," Harlow added.

The goals and programming of New Vision Week are in line with what is described within the goals of the Intercultural Studies Major, but are also applicable to the campus as a whole: a desire to "link today's shrinking global community and exploding global human needs with Houghton's vision and students' passion," according to Houghton's website. It is an expression of our founder Willard J. Houghton's desire to be used by God to fix up the world. New Vision Week seeks to remind the Houghton community of its commitment to share and work for the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. ★



PHOTO BY GRETCHEN REEVES

Students take part in one of the several discussions held during New Vision Week.

freshman. He also said that he wanted to connect with Smith, whom he said he considers of high caliber, and added that he thought it was "incredible that we can have him here, and [he] hope[s] lots of students [took] advantage of this opportunity."

In addition to these guests, a myriad assortment of representatives from missions agencies, such as

together a series of workshops Thursday morning, drawing on the above resources, as well as the on-campus faculty. The individual workshops offered addressed compassionate ministries, specifically human trafficking, personal evangelism, prayer for the world, witness through music and culture, lifestyle witness in the workplace and athletics,

Koropatwa shared about his encounters with his Hindu neighbors in Toronto, and a discussion of engagement with South Asian cultures and religions held Tuesday. Jay Smith gave a lecture Wednesday evening addressing the question: "Is there a need for apologetics and polemics in engaging with the Muslim world today?" and exploring

Engaging the World

Silent Indifference: What Can We Say in a Broken World?

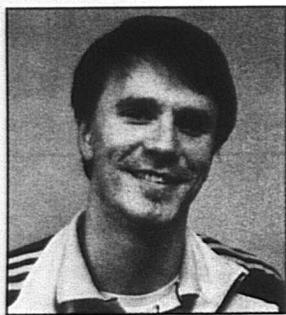


PHOTO BY DANIEL PEIXOTO

BY CHRISTOPHER HARTLINE

What kind of organization protests at the funerals of fallen soldiers returning from Afghanistan and Iraq claiming that their deaths are God's punishment for America's acceptance of homosexuality? What kind of organization has children holding signs that say "God Hates Jews" and "God Loves Dead Soldiers" at protests? What kind of organization has a ticker on their website, godhatesfags.com, that counts the number of "people whom God has cast into hell since you loaded this page?" That would be a church: Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas, to be exact.

Oct. 6, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case of Snyder v. Phelps. Albert Snyder was the father of Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder who was killed April 3, 2006, in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Speaking about his son, Albert Snyder said, "He was a hero and he was the love of my life." The Westboro Baptist Church, as they have been doing across the country for years, organized a protest to take place at Arlington National Cemetery during the funeral of Matthew Snyder. As is their custom, they held signs saying "God Hates Fags," "God Hates America" and "God Loves Dead Soldiers."

The Snyder family filed a civil lawsuit against Fred Phelps, the "pastor" of Westboro Baptist Church (that, incidentally, is composed almost

exclusively of his extensive family) for defamation, invasion of privacy, and intentional infliction of emotional distress. A federal jury ruled in favor of the Snyder family and awarded them approximately \$11 million. Phelps and his team of lawyers (all of which are his children) appealed the ruling and a federal appeals court overturned the original ruling stating that this action was protected by the First Amendment as speech. This appeals court went so far as to order the Snyder family to pay the legal fees of Phelps and the Westboro Baptist Church, an amount totaling \$16,510.

The Snyder family appealed to the Supreme Court and the Court heard oral arguments Oct. 6. They now must decide on the legal question: are there any limits to free speech as granted in the First Amendment? There is legal precedent to side with the Westboro Baptist Church, such as a case where a Neo-Nazi group was allowed to parade through a Jewish neighborhood in Illinois. But there is also precedent to side with the Snyder family, such as cases that limit speech in which individuals are singled out for the purpose of intentionally inflicting emotional pain. There is no way of knowing for sure how the Court will decide, or when it will announce its decision. But in all likelihood, the decision will be announced between February and June 2011.

For those of you who are interested in the case or curious about the people involved, don't go to the website of the Westboro Baptist Church. That will only further their cause. Go to www.matthewsnyder.org, and you can find out information on the case itself, on Matthew, and on the ordeal his family has endured.

As I read through articles on this case and thought about what I should say, I literally did not know where to start, but I'll do my best. My father is buried at Arlington National Cemetery along with presidents, generals, diplomats,

and fallen soldiers from every war in American history. The fact that the Westboro Baptist Church would use this hallowed ground for their own purposes of satanic vitriol is an abomination and an affront to everything this country stands for, not to mention personally offensive. Every hero buried there did more good in one day than every member of the Westboro Baptist Church has ever done or will ever do.

What they do or do not believe in is not worth discussing here. A quick search of Wikipedia resulted in a list of individuals whom the Westboro Baptist Church has targeted after their deaths, including Ronald Reagan, Princess Diana, Chief Justice William Rehnquist, NFL star Reggie White, Sonny Bono, Heath Ledger, Jerry Falwell, and fallen American soldiers. Enough said. I would hope we can all agree on the revolting nature of their speech and actions and move on so as not to give them the time and publicity they want. A more important discussion concerns our reactions and actions. What do we, as Houghton students, perched in our tiny hamlet in the hills, do about a story that seems so distant and so intangible?

I know what many of you are saying to yourselves right now, "Wow, those are terrible things to say. I'm glad I'm not like the people at that church. They might be downright evil. I'm glad Houghton isn't like that." A recent poll on the Star website asked people what they thought of the chapel speaker, Andrew Marin. 46% of respondents said, "I think we should stop talking about homosexuality." There's a scene in the movie *Boondock Saints* in which a priest says "We must all fear evil men. But there is another kind of evil which we must fear most, and that is the indifference of good men." So if the Westboro Baptist Church is evil, what does that make the 46% who think homosexuality isn't worth talking about?

The only reason groups like the Westboro Baptist Church and

fundamental leaders like Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson (both of whom have claimed that 9/11, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and natural and economic disasters are God's punishment for America's acceptance of homosexuality) are able to voice their deplorable rhetoric concerning homosexuality is because free-thinking Christians have remained silent on the subject creating a vacuum happy to be filled by your friendly neighborhood homophobe and his cult-like church of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Times like these are when institutions like Houghton should be more willing to discuss the issue of homosexuality, if only to move the debate from fringe groups like these to a more reasoned setting. But instead, what do we get? When informed that the Soulforce bus would be visiting campus in March of last year, Vice President Sharra Hynes stated that the College did not ban the Equality Riders because "given the nature of Houghton's campus, it can't be closed easily due to the country roads running through it." So let me get this straight: Houghton is a college that advertises its diversity and inclusiveness, and we allowed a group with a differing point of view to visit campus because we were literally incapable of stopping them. Another proud moment for Houghton College.

How about instead of allowing them to come because we can't stop them, we invite groups like Soulforce to campus so that we can actually interact about the issue in a serious way. How about instead of bickering over why a statistic was allowed to be printed in the Houghton Star, we think about what the statistic was actually saying and what Andrew Marin said in his three-day visit to campus. I think everyone on campus deserves at least that. And if we, as a college, are incapable of doing that, then we're no better than the Westboro Baptist Church.

The World OUT There

BY DEREK SCHWABE

Man Arrested for Washington D.C. Terrorist Plot

A man was arrested earlier this week over a plan to bomb Washington D.C.'s mass transit system. The U.S. Department of Justice reported that Farooque Ahmed, 34, of Ashburn, Virginia, had conspired with people he believed were from al-Qaeda in an attempt to assist in terrorizing the Washington D.C. metro area. Officials took Ahmed into custody Wednesday, charging him with attempting to provide material support to a designated terrorist organization, collecting information to assist in planning a terrorist attack on a transit facility, and attempting to provide material support to help carry out multiple bombings. If convicted, Ahmed could face up to 50 years in federal prison. He had conducted photo and video surveillance of the D.C. metro system.

Aid Arrives for Indonesian Tsunami Victims

The first wave of foreign rescue workers arrived Wednesday at isolated Indonesian islands in response to a disastrous tsunami that flooded the region Monday night, killing hundreds. Aid workers and supplies were air lifted to the obscure areas, after sea and weather conditions prevented contact efforts for over a day. The tsunami was triggered by a magnitude 7.7 earthquake that struck approximately 13 miles beneath the ocean floor. Still, more than a dozen isolated villages have yet to be reached by intervention teams. Weather difficulties continue to prevent aid workers and volunteers from continuing the search for the missing by air. At present, nearly 1000 individuals have yet to be accounted for.

photos courtesy of www.usaid.gov and www.arts.gov

Buffalo "City Semester" Coming Spring 2011

BY HANNAH JENNINGS

This year's addition to the list of off-campus programs might come as a surprise to some: Students, welcome to Buffalo. Spring 2011 is the launch of Houghton's new City Semester program that combines hands-on and classroom learning. The structure and setting of the program make for an opportunity for students to gain real-world work experience while still being a student.

Houghton professors Charles Massey and Cameron Airhart will be directing and teaching the City Semester courses. The required courses cover a range of disciplines: history/political science, urban ministry/psychology/sociology, and integrative studies. However, the learning experience is individualized because each student will be able to set up an internship in his or her chosen field, which could potentially attract students with a wide range of majors and interests.

According to Airhart, "[Buffalo] is an ideal city for our purposes, for it has a significant history, a vibrant culture, continuous ethnic and racial diversity from its founding, and a diversified economy that has been alternately prosperous and depressed. It is an 'everyday' American northeastern city, exactly the kind of city that most Houghton students will work in."

In order to utilize some of the resources Buffalo has to offer,

Houghton has established several formal partnerships with different organizations in order to guide students in their searches for internships. The program is designed to target upperclassmen that have an idea of what career they want to pursue so they can take advantage of the work experience. More so than others, this program is focused on selecting students to best represent Houghton. The off-campus programs office is aiming to enroll 12-15 students for the spring semester.

Tim Chen, Houghton graduate and a representative to the program's planning committee, described the advantage of living and studying in Buffalo as "particularly good, because it is close to Houghton and you don't have to spend too much money. Buffalo is a good place to make connections and get internships that you couldn't get in Houghton." Also,

City Semester utilizes an environment that offers students a setting to test the theories and education they have learned at Houghton, as well as the down-to-earth nature of Buffalo that makes the transition from hamlet to city all the easier.

Studying, living, and working in an American urban setting, according to Airhart, is advantageous because of its growing relevance to our lives.

"Very few Houghton students come from the most densely populated urban centers we usually associate with the word 'city,' yet these urban

zones are the traditional centers of finance, politics, and the arts, and are the most culturally, ethnically, racially and economically diverse places in the nation," Airhart said. "On city streets, in coffee shops, parks, and grocery stores, people from different background and experiences rub shoulders daily, and out

of these constant encounters have emerged new cultural trends and new ideas that have shaped our society and economy. This dynamism is drawing people, especially young people, back to the urban core, and many Houghton graduates have already moved to cities such as Buffalo."

Rebekah Miller, a 2010 Houghton graduate, spent a semester completing an internship with the Buffalo Chapter of the American Red Cross.

"It's a great place to get your feet wet and get involved. In big cities, you don't actually get to start working. You'd be pouring someone's coffee," said Miller. The growing number of Houghton students who have connections with Buffalo through contracts with AmeriCorps and self-constructed internships have been crucial in identifying the beneficial and unique qualities Buffalo has to offer Houghton students.

Further, Airhart emphasized the program as an important part of a liberal arts education. "Why not come and spend a semester learning about the geographical location where most of God's human creation resides?" he said. "Maybe you should take a semester away from the natural beauty of Houghton and come see Buffalo's human beauty. After all, when God made the world, He said it was good. But when He made humans in his likeness, He said it was very good."



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM CHEN

The City Semester program will offer courses covering a range of disciplines.

Branding cont'd from page 1

references "Houghton's faith-based liberal arts education." It also mentions chapel, but the word "Christian" does not appear. Other pieces do mention Scripture and pursuing one's "God-given calling," along with developing or deepening one's faith. The homepage banner of Houghton's website still reads "Christian liberal arts" and includes the more specific "Christ-centered" ways of Houghton in the mission statement, which is located at the bottom of each webpage. Another piece of literature called "Take the First Step," reads, "We are a faith-based liberal arts college."

A letter outlining prevalent student concerns was presented to the Senate by Garrett Fitzsimmons, senator, during the Oct. 26 meeting. Authored by Joshua Wallace, Erin Bard, seniors, and Kyle Johnson, junior, and co-signed by over 40 students, the letter expressed students' "unease" regarding the change in how the College is now looking to be presented. Four main concerns were expressed: Those involved believe the term is "inappropriate and misleading," as Houghton is "specifically Christian" and should not represent itself as otherwise. Secondly, those outside the college

may view this change as "distancing ourselves from Christianity." Thirdly, attracting a different group of students may have the unintended effect of "changing or diminishing the Christian character" of the student body. And lastly, evangelical Christian prospective students may similarly "self-opt out," which references the campus-wide e-mail, based on the perception of "faith-based" as not explicitly Christian.

Many students choose to attend Houghton "because of its open and clearly stated Christian heritage and beliefs," the letter reads. It ended by expressing the feeling that "the College acted without the necessary student consultation" and expectation for "concerns to be taken seriously by the College so that we may work together towards a resolution that will be acceptable to all parties."

In response, the Senate established an ad hoc committee to investigate student concerns and draft a resolution reflecting the general consensus. A time limit was set, so the resolution must complete before the Nov. 9 forum.

Fitzsimmons will chair this committee, joined by fellow senators Theodore Janney, Austin Rudd, Emily Rinehart, and Jamie Donnan, Commissioner of Finance. A poll, which is already in preparation and was made mention of by a couple

of senators, will soon be sent out to the student body to assist with this research. The committee is intended to open dialogue among students.

Jocelyn Matuszkiewicz questioned whether this move was premature, given that the forum has not yet taken place. SGA President Zachary

Adams affirmed that he thought these concerns came from "incomplete knowledge."

Joshua Wallace explained that this was an opinion on materials already being distributed and that recipients, such as prospective students, do not have such an explanation available. ★

QUIZ

If you think you have been sexually harassed at Houghton, who should you contact to get more information and find out about your options?

- A. Oprah. She's taking her audience to Australia, after all.
- B. Stephen Colbert. He's keeping the fear alive.
- C. Don't tell anyone. We don't talk about those kinds of things at Houghton.
- D. Betsy Sanford. Her office is in Fancher Hall, a short walk away.

Look for the answer on page 4

300 Wins and Counting for Coach Lewis

BY BRIAN PRESHER

"Respected", "Christ-centered", and "servant" are just some of the words players on the Houghton women's soccer team used to describe their coach, Dave Lewis. One crucial word was left out however, and that is "winner." On Sept. 14 Coach Lewis, who is an all-time career wins leader in NAIA women's soccer history, led his team in a win against Walsh University, propelling his career win total to 300.

After 20 years as the head women's soccer coach at Houghton, he has piled up some impressive statistics. Coach Lewis has compiled an overall record of 306-65-24 and a winning percentage of 82% as of their last game against Point Park University on Oct. 23.

Coach Lewis has built a distinctive program at Houghton, advancing his teams to the NAIA National Tournament 10 years during his career, along with 16 American Midwest Conference titles. He also accumulated individual awards; he is a six-time winner of the NSCAA NAIA Northeast Coach of the Year and a nine-time winner as the Conference Divisional Coach of the Year.

Despite all these achievements, Coach



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

Coach Dave Lewis instructs Kaylin Bull and Carolyn Tomlinson, seniors and members of the women's soccer team.

Lewis is quick to give credit elsewhere. In regard to the attribution of the success of his programs, he simply said, "God has blessed us beyond measure; we have had some great young ladies that are great students and great soccer players."

Off the field, Coach Lewis is heavily involved in sports ministry and this

continues to be one of his true passions. He has led five different teams on missions trip all over the world, including Australia, Ethiopia, the Czech Republic, Brazil, and Costa Rica.

Senior captain Kaylin Bull has been one of many players who have been truly impacted by Coach Lewis' love for

sports ministry.

"Before I came to Houghton, I had not heard of sports ministry. Coach Lewis has taught and instilled in us that we can use something like soccer to show God, not only in the United States, but all over the world," said Bull. "Coach's passion is evident in his heart for the Lord and has been blessed as a result. It shows he strives for success, but brings in great girls that will not compromise what the team has already been able to do together."

Even with this amazing milestone of wins reached, his record has continued to grow. Since Coach Lewis's 300th win, the women's soccer team has not skipped a beat. The women's soccer team had a very convincing win and added quite a few goals to their total with their last game against Point Park University: a 7-1 win led by Jen Hudson's 4 goals and 2 assists. This most recent win brings the team's record to 10-4-2 and conference record to 7-1-1, which is impressive for second in the conference. They have also upped their total goals for their "Score for Water" campaign to 16.

The women's soccer team will be playing Robert's Wesleyan at home tomorrow at 2 p.m. ★

Taking Advantage of the Artist Series

BY MONICA LORD

Out here in Houghton, it is easy to despair once the realization that everything is at least forty minutes away has set in. Do not surrender to this deceptive notion; it is simply a gut reaction to the sudden lack of an age spectrum and redundant grocery stores in our community. The truth is that Houghton gives its students some valuable free opportunities that many of us have never experienced before. One of these priceless prospects is the Artist Series. Bringing in artists from all over the world, Houghton's Artist Series offers students a chance to experience professional music, dance, theatre, and art at absolutely no cost - something that cannot be found anywhere else.

In its extensive history of over 75 years, the Artist Series has featured some of the most celebrated musicians and artists, including Percy Grainger, Rosanna Lhevinne, Josef Hoffman, Elly Ameling, Roberta Peters, Jerome Hines, and many others. The list of artists is also international, involving artists and groups from Europe and Asia. Earlier this semester, the Ortlip Gallery featured a collection of prints and paintings by landmark 20th century artists Marc Chagall and Ben Zion, whose works are proud possessions of famous museums worldwide, and coming up in February is the Beijing Guitar Duo.

Robert Galloway, professor of piano and music history is the Director of the Artist Series. Professor Galloway

organizes the Artist Series events, "working through the labyrinth of campus calendar, artists' calendars and tour itineraries, and a limited budget", as he aptly described it. He begins organizing the line-up of the Artist Series in December for the subsequent school year, so it is still too early to tell who will be bringing a sack full of cultural enrichment and international talent for all the good girls and boys of Houghton for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Just this past Saturday, the Syracuse Symphony alighted on Houghton's campus for an evening concert. Helping the Symphony set up was a group effort, with numerous management staff and assisting students arriving early to unload stands, chairs, stools, instruments, and noise deflectors from the Symphony's semi-truck (all of whom stayed late past the performance to load it all up again.)

The Symphony performed an all-Russian program under their conductor, Daniel Hege. Glinka's *Ruslan and Ludmilla* Overture launched the concert; a flashy showpiece from an opera, it highlighted the Symphony's speed and dexterity while raising the audience's spirits. Next came Prokofiev's *Classical Symphony*, an unexpectedly light and refreshing piece for the hefty, dense sound typical of the 20th century Russian composer. Preceding the intermission was *A Night on Bald Mountain* by Mussorgsky, filled with chilling scalar motifs in the upper strings and ominous growling from the bass section - the perfect soundtrack to a power outage on the Houghton College campus, or perhaps

an accurate musical correlation to some of the stages of development to which the ever-lovable "Houghton rock" has been subjected. The concert concluded with Tchaikovsky's 4th Symphony, a monumental work embracing the eternal nature of fate in life.

Nikki Jordan, a graduate student of the Greatbatch School of Music, and Artist Series assistant, said the Symphony was "very tight, and fun to watch as well as listen to, [and had] a great sense of ensemble, which is always harder to establish with a larger group

of musicians." The Syracuse Symphony was a splendid example of the level of quality that the Artist Series promotes and engages on the Houghton campus.

So instead of rummaging around for that precious \$1.25 to spend at Java in order to have something to do, remember that another segment of the Artist Series is always right around the corner. Check out the upcoming show *Jest* which opens Nov. 20 in the Ortlip Gallery or come watch the Beijing Duo in February--two unique experiences for which \$1.25 is not even required. ★

Answer to the Quiz on page 3:

D. Betsy Sanford.



Betsy is Houghton's Sexual Harassment Officer. Her job is to help students, faculty, and staff, understand their options for taking action to stop sexual harassment. Options may include initiating a formal or informal process or taking no action at all.

Her office is on the first floor of Fancher Hall. She can be reached by email at betsy.sanford@houghton.edu

Gaining the World: Is Zuckerberg a Rich Man?

BY CHRIS WINKENS

One of the great and glorious aspects of the movies is their ability to transport us to another place and time, whether it be to the futuristic dystopia of Christopher Nolan's *Inception* or the ruggedly charged 12th century of Ridley Scott's *Robin Hood*, but rarely does a film, like *The Social Network*, hurtle us uncontrollably into the present. And there are few topics that encapsulate our present culture more so than Facebook. As a matter of fact, the advent of Facebook is quite phenomenal in every sense of the word; however, like most of the conventionalities of life, it has been adopted by the masses as quickly as coffee or Christmas shopping, until people are hardly aware that there was a time when these things did not exist. Facebook is now a part of our lifestyle, a part of our vocabulary, a part of our daily ritual, although until ten years ago, nobody could have conceived of its existence. It is a true and utter phenomenon.

That fact alone makes the prospect of a film divulging the creation of such a phenomenon worthwhile and *The Social Network* has the special advantage of not only possessing that unique subject matter, but the opportunity to draw the curtain on the man behind the network, Mark Zuckerberg, a virtual Wizard of Oz for the next generation.

Zuckerberg, the founder of

Facebook, is portrayed in this film as a brilliant, cocky maverick who seems to be preternaturally determined to invent something that will shake the world and is willing to step on whomever it takes to achieve those goals. On the surface he is portrayed as a bully, but in spite of his arrogance and bullying behavior, I found myself rooting for him. From the initial scene when he is conversing with a particular girl whom he likes but is clearly unable to communicate with, this other layer of his self is disclosed: a lonely, self-conscious misfit who will do anything to fit in, including crushing those who would accept him. And the surprising fact as the film evolves is that by the end, when he is more wealthy and famous than he could have possibly dreamed of, he still seems like the lonely, awkward misfit that we met in the beginning. In many ways, Mark Zuckerberg is the King Solomon of his generation, desirous of acquiring everything only to find in the end that he still lacks the one and only thing he wanted in the first place – in his case acceptance and a relationship – which is really the ultimate irony of the man who created the biggest social network on the planet.

So in the end we begin to see that this film is really a human interest story that uses the history and phenomenon of Facebook as simply a backdrop to portray the lonely, intense life of a genius. In that sense the film is a success, as both an entertaining biopic and a keenly incisive character study with a stellar performance by Jesse Eisenberg



photo courtesy of www.awardsdaily.com

as Zuckerberg and a good supporting cast that made the relationships seem uncontrived and quite believable. The screenplay by Aaron Sorkin and the directing of David Fincher provided both witty, sharp dialogue and a steady, gripping pace that kept me wanting more.

The greatest scene in the film, however, involves no dialogue and takes place in England during a rowing competition. Filmed in semi-slow motion, Edward Grieg's famous "In the Hall of the Mountain King" plays in the background... truly a superb piece of film-making. But oddly enough, one of my favorite parts of the film was the closing credits, in which they played the Beatles song "Baby You're a Rich Man" from their oft-neglected album, *The Magical Mystery Tour*. Not only did

I enjoy hearing such an obscure gem from the Beatles opus, but it really seemed to sum up the movie so well:

"How does it feel to be one of the beautiful people? Now that you know who you are, what do you want to be?"

I have heard that the *Social Network* could be a defining movie of this generation. Well, I would not go so far as to say that this is the *Easy Rider* or *Saturday Night Fever* of 2010, but it does possess a sort of arcane relevance, which makes the assertion somewhat plausible. Whether it will stand the test of time remains to be seen, but while you're waiting for that verdict, I would highly recommend going to the see the film. I think you will be pleasantly surprised. ★

Flautist Finds Herself in High Demand

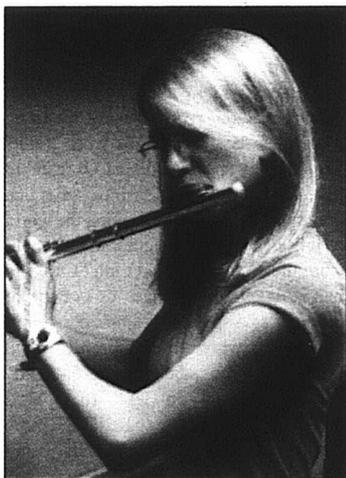


PHOTO BY DANIEL PIEXOTO

Music Major Rachel Smith practices.

BY SARAH HUTCHINSON

On the evening of Nov. 11, The Greatbatch School of Music of Houghton College will be presenting a collaborative concert entitled *EraMeisters* featuring the delightful sounds of the various branches of musical performance, ranging from instruments and voices

as well as both group and individual recitals. One such recital will feature soloist Rachel Smith, who will be playing Aram Khachaturian's "Allegro con fermezza" from his *Concerto for Flute* with accompaniment played by the Houghton Philharmonia.

"I really like the fast, technical kinds of pieces," Smith said. "The Khachaturian piece is one of my favorites."

Originally written for the violin and later arranged for the flute by renowned flautist Jean-Pierre Rampal, "Allegretto con fermezza" requires careful musicality and adept fingers for the fresh, bright, and piping melodies typical of Khachaturian compositions. However, what could be perceived as a challenge is not daunting to Smith, who has been heavily involved in the music department since stepping foot on campus three years ago.

Indeed, one of the striking qualities about Smith is her dedication to the music department at Houghton.

"I knew this was the right college the moment when I came here; I could have auditioned at a conservatory but Houghton was the place for me," she said, citing the high quality of the music department and, especially, the Christian atmosphere.

Currently, Smith is the principle flute in Philharmonia, plays the

piccolo in the Symphonic Winds, and is member of a new woodwind quintet called "Harmonie en Bois," which translated means "Harmony in the Wood Instruments." Due to her extensive activity, passion for music and the effort that she puts into her studies, Smith is a student that Dr. Brian Casey, director of orchestral activities, described as "highly motivated in the flute world."

Besides being involved at the music programs on campus, Smith has also performed with her flute at ensembles around the area. This year she will be performing in the Southern Tier Symphony, a regional, semi-professional orchestra that plays three concerts in the course of the season. On Oct. 30, the group will be giving a concert entitled "Music is Singing" at Wesley Chapel. Listed on the program is Bach's "Cantata No. 147" which the group will play with the Houghton College Choir, as well as "Symphony No. 1" by Beethoven and "Gloria" by Poulenc.

"To be selected for this group is an honor," said Dr. Casey.

Smith's musical interests also extend beyond the flute. She has been studying conducting and earlier this month Smith had the opportunity to conduct "Sketches and Bagatelles" by Bela Bartók for the Philharmonia concert on Oct. 9. The piece featured four works from three

separate collections that were originally written for piano but later transcribed for strings. Hungarian-born composer, Bartók, based his music on Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak folk tunes and the pieces reflect their eastern European influence and traditional music of that area.

"It's a great piece to work on with alternating styles," said graduate student and member of Philharmonia Stephanie Stabley. "[Smith] does really well with conducting and the group worked well with her. The performance was fantastic."

Smith is looking to attend graduate school after completing her degree in flute performance next spring and although she is excited to further pursue her music education she will miss Houghton. "The music department is so supportive, especially in the flute section. We are able to play for each other and help each other out," she said.

Eventually, Smith hopes for a career involving the fields of teaching, performing, and conducting, but above everything else she devotes her performances to God.

"People ask me if I get nervous but I don't," said Smith. "I give my performance to God, play my best for the judges, and God gives me a sense of peace." ★

Self-Government and the Vote

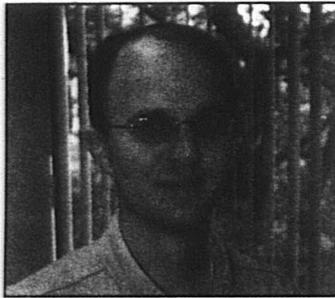


PHOTO BY DANIEL PEKIOTO

BY PETER MEILAENDER

Voting is arguably the central civic act in our democracy. It is the right and privilege of every citizen, the one form of democratic participation readily available to all of us, even those with little time for or interest in more extensive forms of participation. Yet voting is a more ambiguous phenomenon than it first appears. We like to congratulate ourselves (and rightly so) for having gradually expanded the right of suffrage, recognizing the claims to citizenship of ever more people: first non-property-owning white males, later African Americans and women. From a more ambitious democratic perspective, however, an emphasis on the mere act of voting can appear a watered-down form of civic participation, by which a small percentage of citizens—often less than half—every now and then speaks up to choose which set of more privileged members will rule us all for the next few years. Perhaps in a more vigorous democracy, citizens would do more than occasionally pull a lever.

Voting is sometimes thought to be pointless for another reason also. I have been told of a quite famous political economist who never voted because, he argued, his vote actually made no difference, so that voting was irrational. Probably all of us have at one time or another heard someone explain the decision not to vote by saying, "Why bother? One vote doesn't make any difference anyway." In a sense, of course, this is true. It would be a remarkably rare set of circumstances in which we could identify any particular person's vote as having decided an election. Even in a very close race, so many random factors intervene—bad weather, sick children, a need to stay late at the office—that any one person's decision not to bother voting is surely canceled out by a collection of other random events. There is even a sense in which voting does not actually "work." Scholars have demonstrated that there is no reliable method for aggregating voter preferences in multi-choice elections. While the math to prove this is beyond me, the basic idea is straightforward enough: If a majority of voters prefer candidate (or policy) A to B, and candidate (or policy) B to C, then...it need not necessarily

follow that a majority also prefers A to C. Put simply, when there are more than two choices, there is no way to determine what the voters "really" want. Still, it would be a mistake to be overly cynical about the act of voting. It may be a modest form of political participation. But it is unrealistic to

expect most people to devote lots of time and energy to politics when they are busy enough just trying to hold down a job, pay the bills, and raise the kids. As political philosopher Michael Walzer has pointed out—chiding his fellow socialists for their impatience with citizens who sit around on their duffs for months and then suddenly voice their anger at the ballot box—the proper response

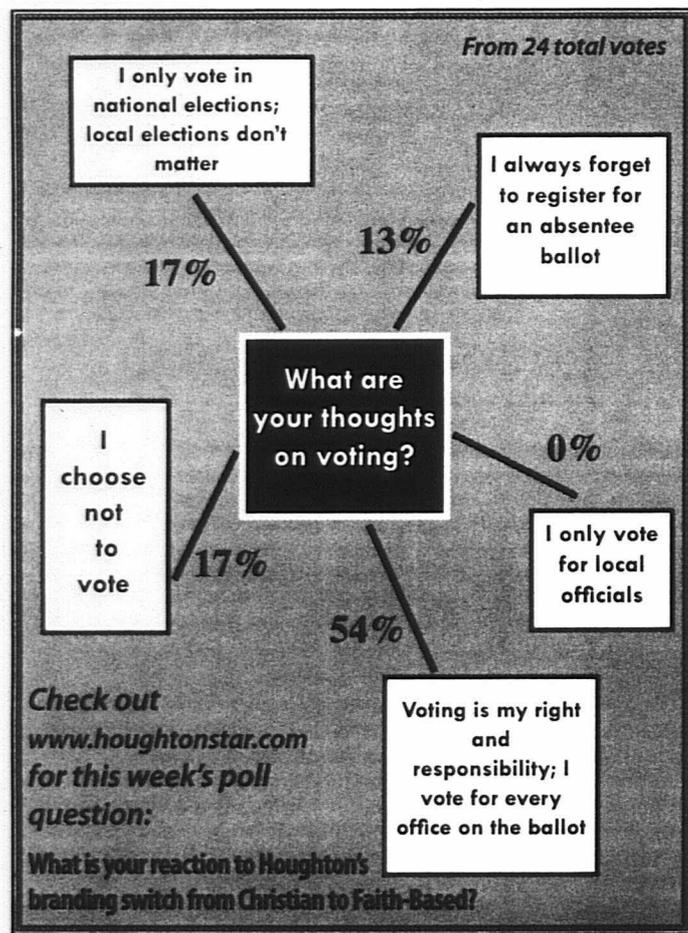
in some sense that my single vote does not make a difference. But the real outcome of that logic is to eliminate elections altogether, since if we all followed it, all elections would end in a 0-0 tie. As for being unable to aggregate voter preferences reliably... so what? The lack of a perfect voting procedure does not mean we should eliminate voting; it just means that creating a decision procedure is itself a political choice (as anyone knows who has attended a few committee meetings). Despite its imperfections, voting remains central to democracy. It is an opportunity to select our representatives, choose among competing political programs, and hold our governors accountable. We may criticize it, but we cannot do without it. As Alexis de Tocqueville—liberal democracy's greatest theorist—argued, self-government is hard work. It requires effort and action. Hence the greatest temptation (and danger) for democratic citizens is to enjoy equality without guarding it, to retreat into the pleasures of private life and abandon the public sphere to an ostensibly benevolent state that promises to relieve us of the necessity of governing ourselves. But, of course, those who are unwilling to do the work of governing themselves will inevitably be governed by someone else. Citizens who cannot even muster the effort of voting will get what they deserve.

So get out there and vote on Tuesday.

Dr. Meilaender is a professor of Political Science

The greatest temptation (and danger) for democratic citizens is to enjoy equality without guarding it

to inattentive voters who rise up at election time (think Tea Party) is not to criticize them but rather to listen to their complaints. A Rousseau may dream of some idyllic Spartan age where citizens lived solely for the polis, but liberal democracy has rejected the level of coercion (and the slavery) that made such single-minded public devotion possible. The claim that voting is irrational is similarly unpersuasive. It may be true



Letters

to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Last week an all-campus e-mail contained this sentence: "Because Christian means many different things to many different people, using faith-based allows Houghton to introduce itself to prospectives without engendering misperceptions."

I would be happier if this were merely silly and not, also, insidious.

Three points: First, if this change in wording succeeded in clarifying, it would not require explanatory e-mails and forums on the "Houghton Brand" in order to correct our own first impressions, to help us see what is not obvious to us but is supposed to be obvious to those who are easily confused by a complicated word like "Christian."

Second, trading a species label for a genus label never clarifies. "Beagle" says more than "dog," which says more than "mammal," which says more than "animal." If you're trying to market your puppies you don't advertise, "Mammals for sale." But maybe, though they are looking for horse, they might take a liking to my puppies! Right.

Third, the word "faith" within the Christian tradition is a precious word, and

the more recent use of it as a generic label for any and all religious world-views is, I've come to believe, a secular, post-Christian, perversion. This use has become necessary in some quarters to overcome church and state issues and to avoid offence when offering material relief to non-Christians. In its fully Christian use, the word "faith" is full of very specific content. It refers to the unique and divinely enabled belief that God is in Christ Jesus redeeming the world to Himself and the willingness to stake ones entire life on that revealed truth. Christian faith is unique; it is dangerous to think of it merely as a species of a broader genus.

Hence, when the aforementioned e-mail calls the adjective "faith-based" a "broader (but no less true) word selection," I think something more than a public-relations error is being made. Truthful? No. Or, I pray not.

-Carlton Fisher
Faith-based Philosopher
Member of Houghton Wesleyan
Weekend Gathering
Featherless Bi-Ped

Dear Editor,

Monday night a facebook group calling themselves "Domestic Diva" exploded. Its purpose seems to be to uphold the idea that women being submissive housewives as Biblical.

From the Editor's Desk

Some People Without Brains Do an Awful Lot of Talking, Don't They?



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY ERIN CARR

Brace yourselves: This Saturday, Oct. 30, our generation's most esteemed sources of "news" on television, Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert, are holding dueling rallies at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Not only a response to Glenn Beck's "Rally to Restore Honor" which took place at the end of August, but also to the recent frenzied outbursts and activism present at various rallies and Tea Party events, Stewart's "Rally to Restore Sanity" and Colbert's "March to Keep Fear Alive" intend to draw crowds from across the political spectrum, all with the unifying element of respectful disagreement and, most importantly, sanity.

Stewart announced his "Million Moderate March" on an episode of *The Daily Show* earlier this month, and summed up the rally's goal on a banner emblazoning the text: "Spreading the timeless message: Take it down a notch for America." He stated that while 70-80 percent of the population would be able to deal with the

inevitable personal and political conflicts of life fairly reasonably, the remaining polarized minority is continually the center of attention. "We have seen these folks - the loud folks - over the years dominate the national conversation on our most important issues," he said. Quickly cut to a newsreel compiled of interviews, talk shows, and rally coverage: "The Republicans want you to die quickly if you get sick" (U.S. House meeting); "Obama is destroying this country" (Fox News panel); "Are you listening?!" (Lady Gaga screaming at the top of her lungs).

What about these 70-80 percenters? he asks. Apparently, they are just too busy; and besides that, this rational bunch might simply "lack the theatrical flair necessary for today's 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week news media. You *may* have an assault rifle, but you don't think it's appropriate to bring to a rally filled with your unarmed citizen brethren." Makes sense to me....

This is a gathering for those who don't have time for rallies - for those who don't fall in line politically or ideologically, but merely want to regain a sense of balance in the American mindset. Stewart exhibited some sample signs constructed for the rally, with slogans such as "I disagree with you, but I'm pretty sure you're not Hitler" and "I'm not afraid of Muslims/Tea Partiers/Socialists/Immigrants/Gun Owners/Gays... But I am scared of spiders."

"You may be asking yourself, 'But am I the right type of person to go to this rally?'" he said in efforts to attract people to the event. "...The fact that you would even stop to ask yourself that question, as opposed to just, let's say, jumping up, grabbing the nearest stack of burnable

holy books, strapping on a diaper and just pointing your car towards D.C. - that means I think you *just might* be right for it."

Colbert's "countered" Stewart's rally the same night with his more comical fear-based march, dismissing the tendency towards rationality and jesting, "Need I point out that 'reason' is just one letter away from 'treason'?"

"America cannot afford a rally to restore sanity in the middle of a recession. Did you even consider how many panic-related jobs that might cost those of us in the fear industrial complex?" Again, straight to the alarmist newsreel packed with clips including: "People across the country are afraid," "running scared," afraid of the future," and "freaked out!" Colbert playfully followed, "Why do you think so many news shows are sponsored by Depends?"

The Comedy Central duo's witty jokes and satire, however, are calling attention to the profoundly discontented state of our nation. In a recent article entitled "The Dysfunction of American Politics" (www.realclearpolitics.com), Robert Samuelson argues that one of the main reasons Americans are currently so unhappy with the government is that its practitioners no longer concern themselves with the true purpose of politics: conciliation. "[Politics] doesn't narrow our differences; it exaggerates them."

One of the most important factors in our political estrangement, he says, is the moralization of politics on both the right and the left. "Idealistic ideologues campaign to 'save the planet,' 'protect the unborn,' 'reclaim the Constitution.'

When goals become moral imperatives, there's no room for compromise. Opponents are not just mistaken; they're immoral. They're cast as evil, ignorant, dangerous, or all three."

As isolated from current political events that I allow myself to be, I can't help but attest to this notion. Americans pry into politicians' private lives for dirt (how many sex scandals can you count off the top of your head?) and more often than not, allow votes to be emotionally driven, or at least affected. Look at the large evangelical backing of politicians like Mike Huckabee or former President George W. Bush - undeniably, much of their support related to personal image and oldtimey, patriotic, restoring-the-faith connotations. And to what exactly do we attribute Sarah Palin's popularity and success? Someone, please tell me.

It seems that Americans are so disgusted with political corruption that they are more willing to mold politicians into national saviors whose intentions line up exactly with their moral ideals than to keep in touch with reality. Once you have created a hero out of a candidate (see: Barack Obama), understanding of conflicting opinions is impossible, and disappointment is all but inevitable.

The call of Stewart (and, in a way, Colbert) for rationality is especially needed in this time where emotionalism and passion rule the day.

Erin is a junior Art major

However, what was absolute horror on my part when discovering such a group existed turned into absolute grief in realizing the larger issue here: that people think this is not a big deal.

I would love to give a shout-out to Colleen White who I believe amicably presented her disagreement of the group. But for those that continue to insist that the group "is just a nice gesture" or that we should "worry about bigger problems in life" I stand amazed. What this group represents is, quite frankly, one of the biggest problems in life.

My argument does not fall with the girls wanting to bake cookies. My argument falls, in fact, with the commenters' dismissive disregard of the very movement which allowed for the group themselves to attend the college they are at today.

It is a problem when students do not understand the brevity or preciousness of basic human rights. The women's rights movement (feminist) was put in place to ensure that women could entertain the fullest extent of their GOD GIVEN gifts and ambitions. It has ensured that more than 50 percent of Houghton's population is here in fact. One might remember that our very president is a woman. It is insulting to have Houghton's name connected to a group that so nonchalantly dismisses the struggle of women for generations. It is a problem when we have become so ingrained in our lives

that we forget how incredibly blessed we are to have the rights we do. I am here, as a woman to receive my education.

I have no doubt that the women of "Domestic Diva" did not fully understand the can of worms they were opening when they created such a group. But in light of so many commenters' implying the women should not be held accountable I felt compelled to address the fact that such a group existing is a problem, however unintended it might have been.

-Sally Murphy, Class of 2011

Dear Editor,

For the sake of clarity, Houghton is not "restructuring" the London FYHP. The process under way will replace the London FYHP with an entirely different program that does not involve a full semester residential experience in London (at least according to previous statements by the administration). Discussions about what that program will look like are ongoing, and to my knowledge no decisions have been made to date. The replacement program will represent a financial "improvement" on the previous program only if it proves to be just as attractive to incoming students and costs less to operate. If it is a little less attractive by as few as three or four students a year, it will not save

any money, even if the cost of the new program is significantly lower than the cost of the London FYHP. Also, while no replacement program has been approved, one outline of a replacement does not in fact reduce "the investment of faculty" in the program. It appears to involve exactly the same investment of faculty resources per student credit hour delivered, while increasing the size of the program

from the student perspective (from 16 hours to as many as 24 hours). Again, to my knowledge, no decisions have been made about the contours of a replacement for the London FYHP, so it is impossible at this stage to say anything definitive about its advantages or disadvantages relative to its predecessor.

-Chris Stewart, professor of philosophy

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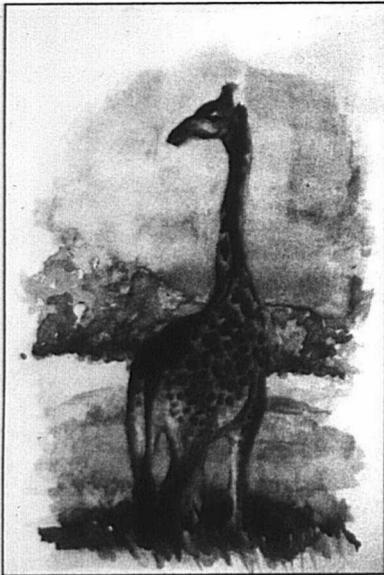
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Untitled, watercolor

ARTIST of the WEEK Kendra Inglis

A note from the artist:

"A line will take us
hours maybe
Yet if it does not
seem a moment's
thought
Our stitching and
unstitching has
been nought."

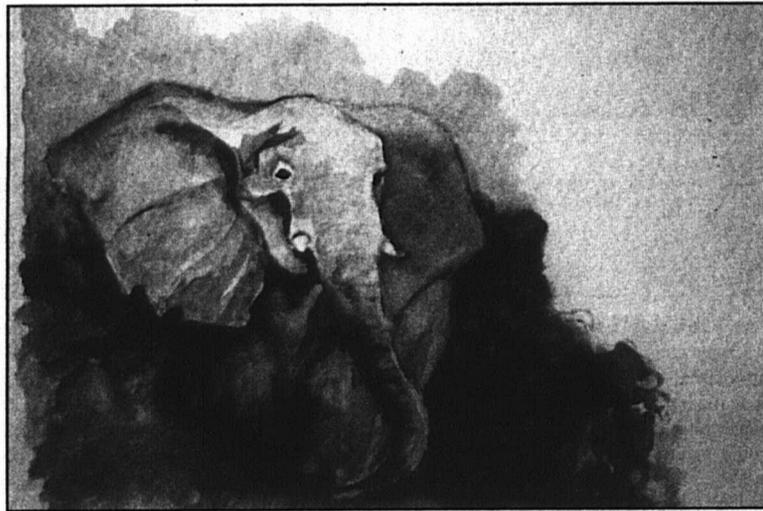
W.B. Yeats



Untitled, photo



Untitled, watercolor



Untitled, watercolor

sudoku CHALLENGE

Prize: *Leroy Townes and the Lonestars* album!

Last week's winner of the Sudoku challenge was Will Stowe! Please come by the STAR office to claim your prize.

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

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