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What A Weekend!

What about "BOB"?

Jenn Gregg

Winter weekend festivities were continued Friday night featuring an evening of music, coffee, and fun. SKA music was provided by BOB, a band from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The music was so enjoyed by students it almost caused them to break out dancing... but they were quickly reminded they were in the NAB, a building very much *on campus*.

The set up crew did a great job transforming the NAB to make it more appropriate for the coffeehouse. Holding the coffeehouse in the NAB allowed students to enjoy the music from the all floors and provided ample space for the many refreshments to be

served. Houghton even went gourmet for the occasion offering biscotti with the coffee.

Jill Herman kept students in the spirit of the weekend by handing out prizes to those who could remember such silly tunes as the "Different Strokes" theme song. Herman coordinated the coffeehouse along with recruited family members and staff

and seemed happy with the product. She was impressed with BOB and their effort to proclaim the gospel message and their desire to serve the Lord in their entertainment. Overall, the event provided students with a relaxing and entertaining break from studies and a good time seemed to be had by all.



Dessert Theater Banquet

Michelle Wingfield

Almost 250 students attended the Winter Weekend's innovative Dessert Theatre Banquet catered by the Old Library. The theatre banquet, featuring a fairy tale motif, was held Saturday night in the dining hall culminating an exciting weekend.

Along with entertainment provided by Dr. Gaerte's Readers Theatre class, the student body was prepped for the following SPOT with plenty of caffeine and sugar. Erich Asperschlager, who played the "painted jaguar" in "The Beginning of the Armadillo" piece said he was pleased to perform before such a "good audience." Despite the aroma surrounding Mark VanderHaar in "The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales," a work adapted by Rigel McKee and Mike Bittner, the coffee was "excellent" by general

consensus. Of course all-you-can-eat gourmet Old Library selections including the Berry-Berry Torte, Chocolate-Chocolate Torte and Peanut Truffle were a splendid success. Attendee Melissa Hoyer was delighted by the evening's "great company" and the "fabulous" desserts.

As part of their preparations for Winter Weekend, Jill Herman and Beth Wester began planning the Dessert Theatre Banquet in November as a unique alternative to the traditional Sadie Hawkins Banquet hosted this year by East Hall. Wester was pleased with the dessert banquet and the entire week, adding that "S.G.A. was really supportive." She particularly cited the involvement of Kristen Engnell, Laura Judge, and Kristen Cook who willingly helped with many details.



See Spot Laugh



Sarah Cummings

As part of tradition, this year's Winter Weekend festivities were concluded with an episode of SPOT, hosted by Liesl Shultz and Tammi Krikorian. The evening's entertain-

ment began with a video presenting their battles to achieve their ultimate goal - to go to Sidney. The following skits and talents included a gifted hand bell choir, once and twice chewed food - Chinese style, and an appearance by The New Kids on the Block.

Reactions to the SPOT ranged from applause to skepticism. Positive feedback came about the hard work and effort that was put into planning the evening, and many enjoyed SPOT as a whole. At the same time, concern over the appropriateness of the some of the skits was evident among many Houghton students. Clearly, it can be difficult to please an audience without offending someone. But are there certain standards we should expect our stu-

dents to uphold? And if so, how do we decide what is and is not "acceptable" on a Christian campus?

Though we all come from different religious and denominational backgrounds, most of us carry with us a common belief in Jesus Christ. Christ demands that we live and act separate from the world if we are to call ourselves believers. Separate can be interpreted two ways. Do we cut ourselves off from the world? (well, it's hard, not to - we are at Houghton). Ideally, being "separate" means that we are *distinguishable* from the world.

In all things, we are called to conduct ourselves worthy of the Gospel of Christ (Phil. 1:27). If visiting perspec-



tives or families of students were here during Winter Weekend, it is possible that some received a distorted understanding of what Houghton College aspires to represent.

NEWS

Dr. David Shenk Speaks in Chapel



Adria C. Willett

"I believe that it is harvest time all around the world," said Dr. David W. Shenk last week during the annual Chamberlain Lecture Series. In two chapels, an evening lecture, and several classes, Shenk addressed the response of the Christian faith to the religions of the world.

"In the beginning, GOD," said Shenk in his first address to the student body, from Genesis 1-3. He pointed out the astonishing revelation of God, which is a radical contrast to other religions. During the course of the day, Shenk de-

cided to shift his topic slightly. So, in the evening lecture, he discussed the worldview and cultural layers of the African traditional religion as a case study on how the Gospel connects with culture. "When Jesus is communicated, you see, Jesus himself begins to bring that transformation," concluded Shenk. In the Thursday chapel, Shenk discussed Islam and how the Gospel can be communicated to Muslims. "The Judge has entered into the courtroom and has taken our place," said Shenk.

Shenk has served 18 years in administration of home and overseas missions of the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions. In addition, he has lectured in the department of philosophy and religious studies in the Kenyatta College of the University of Nairobi. Shenk received his bachelor's degree from Eastern Mennonite College and his Ph.D. in anthropology and religious studies from New York University.

In his introduction of Shenk, President Chamberlain noted him as "a genuine scholar and practitioner of missions." While living in East Africa, Shenk encountered most of the world's religions and ideologies. Shenk was involved in religious education curriculum development and textbook writing in Nairobi, and he has written six books.

Interfaith dialogue interests Shenk particularly. He believes it is "a special Christian vocation." He collaborated with a team in the production of Christian-Muslim dialogical study materials,

which are now being translated into seventeen languages. He also frequently visits mosques to discuss truth and faith. His basis for dialogue comes from the theology of incarnation, where God's revelation is fully human and fully divine. "In Biblical faith," says Shenk, "God converses with Adam... He uses human form and idiom."

Shenk and his wife, Grace, recently accepted a call back to "the field." Shenk will be serving as the academic dean for Lithuania Christian College. "We felt the time would come when we would want to be re-involved. This is the right fit, I believe," said Shenk.

"I believe there is a needful place for North Americans," said Shenk, referring to worldwide missions. During the lecture series he hoped to stir many hearts towards the task with the reinforcement of the power and joy of the Gospel. "[It] is a revolution so radical that words cannot express the wonder of it all," he said.

SGA Report

Seth Taylor

Much ado was made of the allocation of the \$48,000 from the new Student Project Fund. The committee responsible for the allocation, after sifting through the many good ideas that were submitted, chose to purchase a complete high-power sound system! The system is being bought from New Life Electronics out of Rochester and is costing us about \$20,000 for the whole package. The system includes 8 subwoofers, 4 dual 15' speaker towers, five power amps, and a 24 channel mixing board. We also have purchased new mics, mic stands, cables and a few other needed items. The system is comparable if not better than the system used by "The Waiting" when they visited Houghton last semester. It has a total combined output of over 7,000 watts with the combined system being able to handle up to roughly 17,000 watts. We hope to be getting the system by the end of March and plan to be using it by mid April. It will be used in the gym, chapel, campus center, and possibly even outside for special events on campus. A major unveiling is hopefully going to be held in the Chapel building sometime near the end of March or early April.

What about the rest of the
(Continued on page 6)

SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY: JEFFREY R. MOORE

Oliver Gingrich

The new Assistant Professor of Business, Jeffrey Moore, has led anything but an average life. Before coming to Houghton in September, Moore spent much of his twenty-eight years living, studying, and working in places such as France, England, Germany, Switzerland and Romania. While in the process of finishing his doctorate from the University of Nice, France, he has settled in Houghton with the goal of, among other things, passing on to young students some of the knowledge he has gained working abroad.

Moore grew up in France, where his parents served as missionaries. However, he moved about quite a bit in his early adulthood, attending high school in Ger-

many and Bible school in England. Although he did attend several years at Whitworth College in Washington, his time in America was fairly brief. While doing graduate work in France, Moore was approached by a man interested in developing a school for business in Romania. Moore accepted the job, and, with the help of World Vision and the Nazarene Church, he began a successful school. The Small Business Institute focused on providing Romanian Christians with the skills they needed to start their own businesses, including bed and breakfasts, radio stations, milk delivery services and more.

Moore spent a total of approximately five years in Romania, engaged in a number of other responsibilities in

addition to the business school. While working as consultant for a number of foreign companies, he contributed to businesses in countries such as Bosnia, Bulgaria, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic.

Since coming to Houghton, Moore does admit to experiencing some culture shock. However, he is happy to be here and eager to offer his business knowledge. Moore sees parallels between the economic condition of Allegany County and that of Romania, and he would like to see Houghton College play a role in helping the community develop. He has personally seen in Eastern Europe how business can be used as an evangelical tool, and he would like to duplicate that here.

A Charming Week

Tim Ritchey

A "lucky" week awaits the music-lovers in the Houghton College student body. On Tuesday, March 17, (St. Patrick's Day), CAB will be running a coffeehouse in Presser Hall with performances by the Shenanigans and Fantasy Mission Force. The music will range from acoustic to electric, encompassing a variety of styles to satiate the tastes of the pruned and pointed to the experimental and eclectic alike. And this event is absolutely free! This concert is an incredible opportunity for a study break, or, for those men swimming against the prevailing current in the streams of Houghton College's "social" fabric, date.

Soon thereafter, on March 20 at 8 P.M. in the Houghton College Chapel, CAB will be hosting some big names in the Christian music genre: The Waiting, Sixpence None the Richer, and Sarah Masen. Cost of admission is \$8 for advance tickets and \$10 at the door. For a later issue of The Star, I am attempting to line up an interview with Sarah Masen. For now, I will tell you that The Waiting gets played twenty-four hours a day at Stone House by a certain J_G_. Mrs. Nash from Sixpence just had a child, and according to N_M_, Sarah just released a new album. At this time, I lack the information necessary to make anything other than an aesthetic judgment on each of these artists. But in a few weeks, I will hopefully be able to divulge some information beyond biased opinion.

"Basketball Bash"

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Domestic and International News

Allen Hollenbach

If you have been following the newspaper headlines lately you are well aware that the reports from Washington have been, to put it mildly, less than favorable. The many halls of our nation's capital have been filled with talk of scandal at the highest level of the government. The source of the gossip and questioning is the allegations of sexual misconduct filed by former White House intern Monica Lewinsky against President Clinton. The accusations against our President coupled with the possibility that Lewinsky was told to lie in court have made us all wonder what set of morals is guiding our government. Perhaps the most disturbing notion concerning the entire incident is that it appears that scandals such as this are increasingly becoming the norm in the upper echelons of Washington. President Clinton is one who has especially found himself bogged down in questions of legitimacy and character. His two terms in office have already been tarnished with such scandals as Whitewater, the claims of one Paula Jones, and the investigation of DNC campaign fundraising. All this nonstop finger-pointing begs the question: is anything good happening in Washington D.C.? My answer is simple: most definitely. Although you must often go looking for

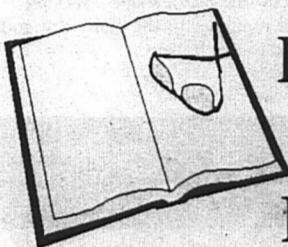
it, there are numerous encouraging events that occur each day in our capital. The fundamental problem is that we are often unaware of such events due to the fact that it is the "bad news" which grabs the headlines. To prove the veracity of my statement I turn to a news event which you probably didn't hear much about following its occurrence: the President's Prayer Breakfast.

The President's Prayer Breakfast, which took place several weeks ago in Washington, is an annual event which has occurred since the days of the Eisenhower presidency. The President has always been in attendance. The gathering is sponsored by the Senate Bible Study, a group composed strictly of US legislators who meet on a weekly basis. In addition to the formal "breakfast" component of the event, there are also additional meetings and discussion throughout the designated two day period. Those in attendance at this year's gathering included various heads of state, ambassadors, business and media representatives, President Clinton, VP Al Gore, and the Reverend Billy Graham. One hundred and sixty countries were represented.

The primary purpose of the Prayer Breakfast is to help people understand what God is doing in Washington, to let

others know how He is working in the lives of our nation's leaders. Speakers during the two days included Florida Senator Connie Mack, Kansas Democrat (and member of the International Relations Committee) Tony Hall, and Congressman Steve Largent. Other prominent legislators involved were Congressman Mike Doyle and Congressman Zach Wamp. Senator Mack spoke during the breakfast itself. In front of 2500 of the world's most influential people the Senator gave an in-depth account of how he came to know Christ two years ago and the subsequent work that God had done in his life. Senator Largent spoke at the closing dinner concerning what it meant to be an ambassador for Christ. Both speakers made it clear that they, as well as the other legislators involved, were a part of our government because that is where they believe God wants them to be, and not for any type of personal gain. This is indeed a refreshing thought. With all the talk of political indecency that frequently dominates the headlines, we often wonder where God is in Washington. Be assured: He's there and He's changing lives. We may not read about Him on the front page of USA Today, but He is still there working behind the scenes. One of the defining moments of this

year's President's Prayer Breakfast came at the close of the aforementioned speech by Steve Largent. Much to the surprise of all in the audience, towards the end of the Congressman's remarks a small, unassuming man walked uninvited up onto the platform. A bewildered Largent, unsure of why no security had responded to the man's actions, continued to the end of his speech. Finally the man tapped the Congressman on the shoulder and asked to share a couple of words. Not knowing exactly what course of action to take, Largent consented. The man stepped behind the podium and introduced himself as a Jewish Rabbi from Melbourne, Australia. He then proceeded to share how he had learned more about Jesus Christ during his stay in Washington over the past three days than in his entire life, and that he had decided to accept Christ as his Savior. He then related to the audience that his decision would most likely cause both his congregation and wife to abandon him upon his return home. As the conference room fell completely silent he stated that: "I don't know where the Lord is taking me—and I'm not sure I want to go there—but I have now dedicated my life to Jesus Christ." As I said before, be assured: God is in Washington....and he's changing lives.



Houghton College Bookshop

For many years, Houghton College has wanted to gain a better "presence" in the Rochester area, and the recent purchase of a used bookshop in the downtown can fulfill that desire. The Houghton Book Shop is run by a staff of 30 knowledgeable, book-loving volunteers, and all of the books are donated—so Houghton will not only gain recognition in Rochester, but will also gain extra income for its Annual Fund.

The Houghton Book Shop was purchased from Bryn Mawr College, whose own Rochester area alumni ran effectively for 23 years. The bookshop "recycles" donated books that start at prices below a dollar for paperbacks to \$3 to \$4 for hard covers. Houghton College is in the process of deciding about some other features that may be included in the shop, including Houghton students' art work, but these ideas are still forming.

The Houghton Book Shop is located at 147 State Street, just two blocks from Kodak headquarters. Its hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11am-2pm. For more information, talk with Barbara Bates at 567-9336 or stop in and visit with one of the volunteers.

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Chamberlain Lecture Series Essay Contest Winner! Will You Go?

Dana Norton

I can remember the night I made the decision. All week I had been listening to missionaries who both challenged and intrigued me. Then, on the last night of my week at Hartland Bible Camp, they posed the question: "Would you be willing to go wherever God sent you?" With the memories of exciting missionary tales still whirling in my head I made up my mind and silently prayed to God, making a commitment with all of my nine-year-old heart: Yes, I would go.

Ten years later I found myself on the corner of a crowded sidewalk, my large, green suitcase in hand. Huffing and puffing, I struggled to keep up with my family as they twisted and turned through the bustling streets of Amman, Jordan. Mercedes taxis honked incessantly to warn pedestrians, find customers or simply voice frustration. My right arm ached with the weight of my luggage, but I continued, afraid I might become lost in the kaleidoscope of long swishing robes and bright rechecked keffiyahs if I stopped.

Laboring, I hoisted my suitcase up a long flight of a cement stairs until we reached a tall, white, metal door. Debbie, a missionary friend, stepped through the door into a small courtyard. Latticework crossed above our heads, a framework for coiling vines that dangled languidly like drizzles of icing on a warm cake.

Debbie gently ushered us into the white, cement building where she lived. The interior was dark, chilly and sparsely furnished. A small lounge dot-

ted with the, plastic, lawn chairs was off to my right. To my left sat a round wood table, upon which we placed cameras and newly made purchases, creating a jumbled heap of material wealth.

My footsteps echoed on the cold tile as I followed Debbie into her bedroom, awkwardly dragging my suitcase. Rapidly scanning, my eyes noted her simple living arrangement. A tidy, wrinkle-less bed crouched against the left wall, accompanied by a humble wood nightstand, where lovingly placed framed pictures of family and friends smiled from behind glass. Against the right wall, a modest wood desk resided, under which a hard metal chair folded its hushed feet. I thought of my dorm room and was chagrined.

"Make yourself at home," Debbie said softly while smiling.

I smiled back, struck by her ease and hospitality. Wow, I thought to myself, *this is home for her. Every day she comes back to this small, chilly, sparse, one room home.* Somewhere in the back of my mind I heard a faint whisper. *Home. She can't really call this home can she? I mean, sure it could be home for a short week of maybe a month, but for more than that? Home? Isn't "home" a carpeted, multi-bedroom, vinyl sided, manicured, establishment complete with a garage and dog?* The whisper came again. I frowned, my forehead creasing in thought. I felt the beginnings of a headache.

Coming out of my reverie I heard my family politely chatting with Debbie. "No heat?" my mother inquired.

"No, I just have a little space heater. I put it in the bathroom in the morning to warm up the room because the water never gets hot." Debbie said, her eyes crinkling at her invention.

"Wait a minute, I thought panicked, no hot water? The humble, sacrificing life of a missionary suddenly didn't look as glamorous as it did when I was nine. Chilly floors, sparse rooms, and cold showers were hardly my idea of comfort, let alone the loneliness which inevitable must set in. The whisper now became an audible question: "Will you go?" I grimaced, shifting from one foot to the other. The memory from Hartland Bible Camp came flooding into my mind with paper cut sharpness. The question came again; "Will you go?" My mind flipped and coiled producing countless excuses, all of which were flimsy and frail, but I made them anyway.

"I'm hungry," my brother Marc said.

The rest of my family agreed and we left the white, bare building in search of food. My thoughts trailed closely behind.

Men, young and old, hung out of windows above us as we descended the wide cement stairway down to the busy, littered street. Children stared up at us, mouths open, and I thought how much they looked like little dolls with dirt smudged faces and tattered clothes, playing with cardboard boxes and empty tin cans. *How many dolls do I have?*

The eight of us made a white serpentine line as we wove in and out of the countless pedestrians while avoid-

ing the cars whizzing past us, missing us by mere inches. The aroma of strong, black Turkish coffee fanned out from the crowded shops in waves, assailing my unaccustomed western nostrils. Dotting various storefronts were men, smoking nargyles and talking loudly in Arabic.

Suddenly a blaring wail split the air as a Mullah delivered the call to worship over the resounding PA system. I watched in fascinated curiosity as men and women began to finger their beaded prayer chains while silently praying. A continuous stream of Arabic assailed our ears as the Mullah's voice rose and fell in passionate cadence.

They are so lost, I thought to myself. Can they not see you God? Do they not realize? They do not know, came the answer. I sighed heavily. Matthew 28:19 echoed in my mind. The Mullah continued. *Lord, I have to do don't I? They need someone to tell them about you.* An elderly man crossed in front of me, fervently fingering his prayer chain. *I must be obedient despite any cold shower, chilly floors and cultural barriers I may face. What is my comfort compared to a life?*

Three days later, while gazing out the oval window of the 737, I surveyed the sprawling city of Amman, Jordan. Pointing high in the air were dozens of crescent moon, standing above the domed mosques which dotted the city in an irregular pattern. The sunlight glinted off the metal shapes, serving as a bright reminder of the many lost and my need to reach them.

More World News . . .

Jim Roberts

(Pristina, Yugoslavia) Police in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province killed 20 ethnic Albanians according to the state-run television station. Declaring its outrage, the Clinton administration responded to the reports by reimposing sanctions that had been withdrawn as a reward to Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

(Lima, Peru) From Guyana in the north to Chile in the south, farmers, fishermen, manufacturers and retailers along South America's Pacific coast are feeling the effects of this year's damaging El Nino. Floods and mudslides are wiping out crops across the continent and extreme drought along the Atlantic coast are destroying farm fields in Venezuela and Colombia. The financial effects are "disastrous" in some parts of the continent, says economic researcher Robert Gay. Meanwhile, El Nino is sending produce prices climbing in the USA.

(Washington) The 38,000-strong U.S. military force will stay in the Persian Gulf region "for the foreseeable future," Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Thursday. Bacon said the troops would remain until Iraqi compliance with the U.N. Security Council agreement over weapons inspections had been tested.

(Colombo, Sri Lanka) At least 30 people were killed and more than 300 injured when at least two bombs, detonated by a suspected Tamil guerrilla, exploded in the business district of the Sri Lankan capital, officials said. At least three children from two schools in the area and two police officers were among the dead. There was no immediate claim of responsibility but a police official said "it definitely looks like the work of the Tigers." The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are the main separatist force on this island nation. More than 51,000

people have been killed since a civil war began in 1983.

(Washington) By a one vote margin, the House approved a bill allowing Puerto Ricans to vote on whether to become the 51st state. The bill would set up a three way vote in Puerto Rico before the end of 1998. Voters would choose whether they want to remain a self governing U.S. commonwealth, gain statehood or become an independent country. A similar bill is pending in the Senate, where supporters are expected to push for quick approval.

(Antwerp, Belgium) Continued attacks against immigrants, the growth of far-right parties and a recent European Union poll in which one in three surveyed admitted to being "quite racist" or "very racist" have led some European leaders to fear the worst for the union of Europe for the twenty-first century.

(Washington) U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher told a House subcommittee that thousands of Americans who had blood transfusions years ago will receive letters warning they may have been infected with hepatitis C. This strain of the disease causes a serious liver infection that often shows no symptoms for years.

(Miami) Nearly broke and racked by fraud and corruption, some are calling Miami a municipal "banana republic." A Miami state judge decided to throw out the results of the last mayoral election over vote fraud. The lingering question in this city of 375,000 is who's in charge? Both Mayor Xavier Suarez and Joe Carollo, who lost his post to Suarez in November, claim to be running things. The City Commission which will decide who will serve as interim mayor until the new election in May has put off its decision until next week.

(U.S.) Hackers tormented thousands of computer users across the country this week with an assault on Microsoft's Windows NT operating system that shut down computers momentarily. The attacks caused computers to crash, but there were no reports of any computer data being lost or stolen. Microsoft downplayed speculation by some that the attack was related to chairman Bill Gates' appearance before the Senate Judiciary Committee to address allegations of monopolistic strategies.

(Chicago) In a case that could strike a powerful blow at the anti-abortion movement, the National Organization for Women asked a federal court jury to force militant anti-abortion leaders to pay for damages caused in clinic attacks. The lawsuit, filed under the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations law, names as defendants: Operation Rescue, the Pro-Life Action League and three of the league's top leaders. The civil lawsuit accuses the defendants of waging a campaign to shut the clinics through fear and violence.

(Washington) Pockets of water and ice have been found beneath the moon's surface, but scientists are unsure if astronauts could use the relatively small deposits as a "filling station" on future missions. The discovery was made by the Lunar Prospector spacecraft. NASA officials estimate there could be up to 330 million tons of ice dispersed across thousands of miles of lunar surface, mostly in the polar regions. Finding water on the moon could boost tentative plans to establish a permanent lunar base - easing the need to send water from Earth and helping to produce oxygen.

(U.S.) The Senate Judiciary Committee approved a proposed amendment to the Constitution to allow organized prayer and other religious expression on public property, including schools. To become law, the proposal would have

to be approved by two thirds votes in the House and Senate and by 34 state legislatures.

(New York) In a victory for Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, a federal judge has ruled New York City can force most X-rated sex shops to move out of residential areas. Giuliani has made moving the sex shops out of residential areas a priority in his campaign to improve the quality of life in New York, but a number of business owners have criticized his plan, saying it will drive them into bankruptcy. They say many of the areas where they're being told to move aren't viable business sites.

(Brussels, Belgium) After a shootout and a 12 hour standoff, police arrested seven Algerians suspected of belonging to an Islamic militant group blamed for massacres in Algeria and bombings in France. Interior Minister Johan Vande Lanotte said the seven belonged to a European based support network for Algeria's Armed Islamic Group, which is blamed for massacres in Algeria that have killed hundreds of villagers at a time in their fight to install a strict Islamic regime in Algeria. One of those arrested is also believed to have played a role in a 1995 bombing on a Paris subway that killed eight people.

(Beit El, West Bank) Israel has uncovered a large cell of the militant Islamic group Hamas that operated from Jordan and carried out several deadly attacks in Israel, the government said. Five Palestinians suspected of belonging to the cell, including a policeman, have been arrested by the Shin Bet internal security agency. The cell was involved in at least 10 attacks on Israeli targets, including two deadly suicide bombings in Jerusalem last year, the army said. Hamas has carried out more than a dozen suicide bombings in Israel since 1994.

Something To Say...

Subjectivity in Christian Moral Theory

Aaron Noll

The assertion that humans can never attain complete knowledge of true Christian morality often makes believers uneasy. An individual who theorizes that all moral theories are subjective, and therefore likely to be at least partially false, is usually not very popular in the Christian community. Many Christians erroneously call this person a relativist; that is, one who believes that morals themselves—not moral theories—are subjective and relative to culture and personal preference. It is the former assertion—all moral theories are subjective—that I will argue for in this article.

It seems likely that objective morality exists. Since man's composition, desires, and nature are generally uniform for each member of the race, it is not difficult to imagine that there exists a code of laws somewhere that accounts for the nature of each human. This objective morality would ensure that all human action is aimed at a natural cohesion among all humans; that is, this morality would ensure that all human interaction

is just. It would also insure that each person's personal actions maximize the attainment of that ultimate function to which her nature aims.

The fact that there is an objective morality does not mean that any individual is able to attain full knowledge of its composition. Each person has a subjective view of objective morality. Each person studies moral theory through her own lens of cultural and a personal bias. Each of us strives to remove this lens and theorize objectively. However, it would appear to be impossible for any person to completely remove their bias. The closest that theorists can come to discovering objective morality is to claim the existence of nearly axiomatic moral principles such as justice and fairness.

Since no one can discover objective or ideal morality, each person's theory of morality is highly likely to be, at least partially, false in comparison to the one true morality. It is logically possible for one's theory to be identical to objective morality, but highly unlikely. Furthermore, even if one's theory were identi-

cal to objective morality, in what manner would other humans begin proving its objectivity, since each individual has a subjective perspective?

The existence of a heated debate in ethical theory provides empirical evidence that probably no individual has discovered objective morality. Who has discovered that the immorality of lying in all cases is objectively true? There will always be individuals, even Christians, willing to argue that lying is morally justifiable in some situations. But it may be lying is objectively and universally immoral. Can any individual conclusively prove the objective truth of her assertion regardless of what theory she claims belief in?

Historically examples such as Calvin's Geneva provide evidence for this assertion. John Calvin, the 16th century church reformer, formed an intricate code of moral laws to govern Geneva, Switzerland. He indubitably thought that he had discovered objective morality; i.e. perfect Christian morality. One of these laws provided for the execution of Anabaptists for their

practice of baptizing Christians as adults rather than as infants. We, as twentieth century Protestants, now regularly baptize adults. Among Protestants, it is now a generally accepted belief that adult baptism is supported by Scripture. Martin Luther, progenitor of the Protestant Reformation, was an anti-Semite. Most Christians would not dispute the fallaciousness of this idea today. These examples provide apparent proof, at the least suggestive evidence, that the moral that one considers objective truth can often be disputed—if not presently, then at some point in the future or past. The mere existence of debased over morality forces one to question any individual's claim to complete knowledge of objective morals.

Perhaps Christians should not so quickly dismiss the idea that each of their personal conceptions of Biblical morality may be erroneous. A reluctance to condemn others and humility in asserting one's opinions may be more conducive to a theory of subjective moral visions.

Maris Vision: Inside
"And there's this burning like there's always been"
-Motorcycle Drive By, Third Eye Blind



Jim Roberts

I really love acting and I think I'm pretty good at it. I've been in three drama productions here at Houghton, plus two or three plays in high school, an improv competition and I've been in more youth group and junior high skits than I can count. A lot of people talk about the acting "bug" but I don't believe in it. That image reminds me of an infection or a creature but my desire to act stems from something different. When people are acting they are more like themselves than at any other time.

Well, actually, it's not when they're

acting, it's when they're with the other actors. The relationships that happen onstage are just an extension of the relationships that develop between the actors. As time goes on, you get closer to the other people. Now, this doesn't mean that you necessarily become the best of friends or anything. I've been terribly close to people I've disliked a great deal. There isn't necessarily a friendship but there is definitely a connection.

People think that to know a person you have to know their likes, dislikes, personal habits, personal history, all that sort of stuff. That's all in the periphery, though, just the border of what we actually are. Our actual being is something much more than mere facts. Still, we try to get to know the mundane details, convinced that they are the key to getting to know people. The problem is that we all make mistakes and those errors, either accidental or intentional, are the most noticeable things about us and many people judge us by them.

If only I could take that natural connection out of my acting and into the real world. Then maybe I would understand that we are better than our misdeeds and that knowing someone consists of something more than knowing about them.

rather than harassed. If only I had considered Him sooner perhaps I could have loved rather than hurt. If only I had considered Him sooner perhaps I could have glorified His name, rather than torn it to shreds. If only I had considered Him sooner perhaps I could have truly portrayed Him to others as a Christian should, rather than resembling the world and living the hypocrisy of my faith. If only I had considered Him...

I am sure there must be an easier way to learn.

Thoughts Over Coffee...

Jen Crawford

I often feel I spend the majority of my day apologizing for yesterday's words and actions. Somehow I had managed to let myself proceed through the entire day without "Christ-checking" my life. "Why did I do that?" "How did that ever come out of my mouth?" "But if he only knew I didn't really mean it..." The thoughts go on and on, regretting the slashing words of my tongue and brutality of my action. If only I had considered Him sooner perhaps I could have encouraged



Response To Titanic

Please tell me that the article "Titanic!" was meant to be a joke. If not, the author just made a complete fool of himself and your paper. I have some questions about a few statements made in the article, such as:

1. "The technology in 1912 was unable to produce a ship of this magnitude." Did the author not do any historical research before making such a ridiculous statement? Has he not taken any history classes? Not only did the *Titanic* exist but the movie depiction of the massive vessel was only the size of the original.

2. "Even if there were, they [icebergs] sure wouldn't be floating, as ice would sink straight to the ocean floor." Clearly laws of physics and intelligence

do not apply to this writer whose head would probably float better than that iceberg, though it wouldn't put a hole in the ship.

3. "It is at this point in the film James Cameron makes a fatal misstep; he sinks the ship." Another "F" in history, I guess. I hope he's a phys. ed. major. (nothing personal to phys. ed. majors)

In conclusion I hope you realize that this entire letter was a JOKE, but a better joke than your column. None of the statements in this note are to be taken seriously, unless of course you really believe the author of "Titanic!" to be wisest man on earth. Have a nice day, and a good laugh.

April Vaughn & company

Houghton + Clarkson

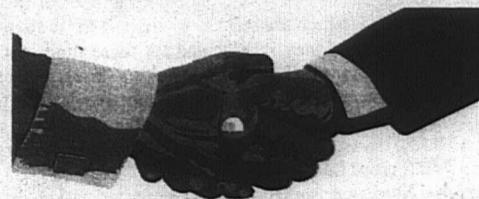
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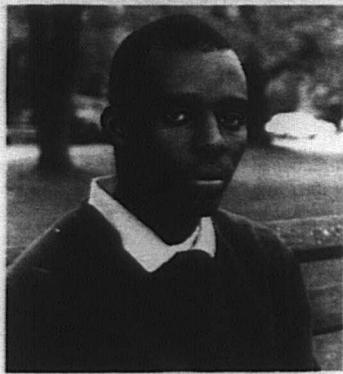


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THORNS AND THISTLES: WHY THE HAWK AND THE HEN ARE ENEMIES (PART ONE)



The hawk and the hen are enemies according to traditional African folktale. This has led to the saying that no matter how well the hen dances, the hawk is never pleased. The story of their enmity dates back to the days of creation when the hen tried to outwit the hawk, something very few birds try to do. The price the hen has to pay now is to allow the hawk to have some of her chicks when they are hatched. Actually this was a promise made to the hawk by the hen. The interesting thing is, today when the hawk comes to claim the chicks when they are hatched, the hen tries to protect

them. The hen's explanation being that over the years, it has lived up to certain responsible behaviors which demands that the hawk lays no further claim to any of her chicks.

On the international scene today we are witnessing another hawk and hen dispute but on a slightly different wavelength. The hen decided to invade Kuwait in 1990 claiming it as her 13th province. No amount of persuasion from the United Nations and the Arab League will make the hen pull out from Kuwait. The hawk decided that if persuasion failed force had to be applied. The hawk gave the hen a deadline to withdraw her troops. All this while, the hawk had been able to rally other birds to her side in order to fight the hen after the deadline. And so it came to pass that when the clock struck the midnight hour after the deadline the hen still had her troops in Kuwait. "The Mother Of All Battles Has Begun" declared the hen. After six months the hen realized that it could not pitch her strength against the hawk and the bird-led coalition. The hen agreed to a cease-fire and in the said cease-fire were certain clauses which demanded unconditional acceptance from the hen. A resolution was passed; the hen and her

chicks had to face an economic embargo and also allow UN weapons inspectors to destroy her weapons of mass destruction. After seven years however, the hen is still at loggerheads with the hawk or should I say the hawk is still at loggerheads with the hen?

The hen claims that the all weapons of mass destruction has been declared to the UN and those that needed to be destroyed has been effectively destroyed. The hen however refused the inspectors access to certain presidential sites on the basis of national security and sovereignty. She even accused the Chief weapons inspector of being a CIA spy. She also complained of the dominance of the inspection team by people belonging to the hawk family. Moreover she believes that the hawk is the main brain behind continued sanctions against her and her chicks.

The hawk on the other hand claims that it is not up to the hen to decide who should be part of the inspection team. According to the hawk, the hen has shown over the years that she is a threat to her neighbors and the hawk will deny her any chance to use those weapons of mass destruction. Moreover the hen is a dictator and cannot be trusted with all

these weapons. When the hen wouldn't allow the inspections to go on, the hawk once again threatened to use force. This time the threat of force had to be put on a temporal hold because the hen decided to agree to a deal with the UN. The hawk doesn't seem to be too pleased with this deal. She still wants an additional clause warning the hen of the severest of consequences when the deal is not fully adhered to.

So the enmity between the hawk and the hen rages on. No matter how well the hen dances, the hawk is never pleased. Maybe the hen is not dancing well enough as certain reports have shown.

A lot of issues are involved which demands close examination. Should the chief hen be removed from power with the help of the hawk and her allies? What is happening to the UN security council? Should disarmament be limited to the bad guys only? Is the hawk being too dominant in the affairs of the UN? What happens when other birds will not join the hawk against the hen? Should sanctions be lifted on humanitarian grounds?

Well let's think through together in the next few issues. Keep reading.

Concern For "Appeal"

Charles King

Following my article Appeal, which appeared in the last edition of the Star, I received many e-mails from concerned students. Some of the responses I received were positive remarks from students who disagreed with the manner in which I displayed my sentiments. More responses, however, were angry and thrown in my direction about how I should be grateful I am even allowed to attend Houghton College.

Contemporaneously, I want to clarify an issue that has been raised concerning the authorship of my article. I believe that the name of the author stated under the title of Appeal is the same as the one listed at the beginning of this article. I assume total responsibility for my words. The clause was not written by all international students at Houghton College. Therefore, I fail to see why questions about my opinion were directed at other students and not me. The

opinions expressed in Appeal were all mine and I cogitate that all questions be leveled at me.

Concerning the notion that appreciation should be expressed for being accepted into such an institution as Houghton College, I am grateful. However, my acknowledgment is not for the same reasons my brothers and sisters believe they should reflect. I thank the Lord every day for the opportunity he has granted me to study at Houghton. I don't think there is one as beholden as me on this whole campus. But I don't agree with the inference that because I am lucky to be here I shouldn't express my thoughts about what's going on around me.

I conceive that freedom of expression is incorporated into the basis of the foundation of the United States of America: equality. Noticeable is how Americans tend to use the word equality with such ease and not even ques-

tion themselves about whether or not they believe in it. True, the idea of capitalism is that everyone has equal opportunity to strive for a better life. As a Christian however, I don't think I need the stress of worrying about when my brother or sister is going to decide God didn't mean equality among all me, but rather all Americans.

I am not asking that anyone lend me a helping hand to succeed. Some international students have told you that is what they would like to see: all the nationalities in Houghton holding hands with Americans and expressing their love for each other. To them, I only ask that they look up the word Utopia in a dictionary. The definition therein won't

vary much from that they visualized. Houghton College is far from that level of love in Christ.

I am not a radical, nor am I trying to encourage segregation on our campus. It is too small for that. What I ask is that I am accepted for what I am: a foreigner who fails to understand why my American brothers and sisters see me as a threat to their "perfect world." To those who understand me, thank you. For those who would like to, please feel free to question me at any moment. And for those who feel you've heard enough from me and want me to be silent, I'm sorry but "I've got to do what I've got to do." - Ghandi.

SGA, continued

\$48,000? Currently the committee is looking into the possibility of using it as seed money to help start a real coffeehouse at Houghton! However, if that project does not work out, the money can carry over into next year and allow the completion of several of even larger projects.

Do you know about and understand all the major current events of the world beyond Houghton? Because of the rigorous academics and secluded location of Houghton College, many students here tend to lose track of the important events of the world that exists beyond the Marke: Basket or Olean. Because of the tendency, the SGA is sponsoring a Current Events Catch-up Seminar! On Tuesday, March 24th, at 8:00 in NAB 123, Dr. Benedict, who most definitely does not lose track of world events, will allow you to ask questions about issues around the world that concern you.

Recently, the SGA Senate allocated money from the Special Resource Fund and the Special Project Fund, which are sources of support for the activities of the many student organizations. Money is allocated for these funds each semester, though many organizations apply only in the fall making the spring semester allocation less hectic. For example, over \$11,000 total was requested last fall and only \$5,800 was available to be allocated. This spring, on the other hand, only \$7,175 was requested and \$4,551 was available to be allocated. Here is a breakdown of how the money was allocated this spring:

- International Student Association (ISA) requested and received \$1,000 to fund their annual International Banquet, which is a fund raiser to support their other projects.
- World Mission Fellowship requested and received \$2,000 for their scholarship fund that supports Houghton students on summer missions activities.
- The Ski Club requested \$800 and received \$500 to purchase new snowboards for the Houghton ski slope.
- The Multicultural Student Union requested and received \$200 to support a cultural movie series and Black History Month activities.
- And last, but not least, the newly-formed Houghton College Highland Pipes Corps (HCHPC) received \$863.30 (of \$3,175 requested) to support some of their start-up costs. We look forward to hearing their melodious playing at games next year!

THE HOUGHTON

STAR

The Houghton Star is published bimonthly. Its focus is on events, issues and ideas which affect the Houghton College community. Editorials are the views and opinions of the author. It is only a coincidence if *The Houghton Star* staff agrees with the author. These viewpoints are not necessarily shared by the staff, student body, administration, or faculty. Letters to the editor are welcome, should be well-written, typed, and no more than 200 words. The letter should be signed, and include his or her name, year, major and telephone number or C.P.O. Box #. Names may be withheld upon request. The staff reserves the right to edit or not print any letter.

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Setting the Record Straight: A Response to "An Appeal" by Charles King

Joel Krikorian

As senate representative for the International Student Association, I would like to respond to "An Appeal" by Charles King. Charles has repeatedly indicated, as his title suggests, that he did not intend to speak for the entire organization.

I would like to address his claim that I faced ridicule and scorn when standing before the SGA to request funds for the 1998 international banquet. Unfortunately I had not prepared sufficiently for my presentation, prompting the senators to ask questions concerning the funding that the ISA had requested (\$1,000). This was my first experience

representing the ISA. (John Osae Kwapon resigned earlier in the semester.)

However, when I again addressed the senate the following week concerning the requested funds, I came prepared with the necessary information. I clarified inaccuracies from my previous presentation and provided a more detailed breakdown of our funding request. In turn the senators responded by voting to allocate the full amount requested by the ISA. Therefore, on behalf of the ISA, I would like to express my gratitude to the SGA for their vote and for their continued support for our organization.

BLOWING SMOKE

Dave Barry

Q. Could you please explain the recent historic tobacco settlement?

A. Sure! Basically, the tobacco industry has admitted that it is killing people by the millions, and has agreed that from now on it will do this under the strict supervision of the federal government.

Q. Will there be monetary damages assessed?

A. Yes. To compensate for the immense suffering caused by its products, the tobacco industry will pay huge sums of money to the group most directly affected.

Q. Lawyers?

A. Yes.

Q. Will the federal government also receive large quantities of money?

A. Of course.

Q. How will the tobacco industry obtain this money?

A. By selling more tobacco products.

Q. What if consumers stop buying tobacco products?

A. That would be very bad. That would mess up the economics of the whole thing. The government would probably have to set up an emergency task force to figure out ways to get people smoking again in order to finance the historic tobacco settlement.

Q. You're kidding, right?

A. I'm not sure.

Q. Under this settlement, will potent new steps be taken to remind smokers that they should not smoke?

A. Yes. Cigarette packs will carry even sterner scientific warnings regarding the badness of smoking, such as "YOU BIG DOODYHEAD!" These warnings will no doubt have the same massive impact as all the previous warnings, causing many smokers to smack their foreheads and say: "I had NO IDEA that smoking was unhealthy! I shall quit immediately!"

Q. Seriously, is there some kind of printed warning that really would make people stop buying cigarettes?

A. Yes. Sales would drop to zero overnight if the warning said: "CIGARETTES CONTAIN FAT." American consumers have no problem with carcinogens, but they will not purchase any product, including floor wax, that has fat in it.

Q. If the government really wants people to stop smoking, how come it doesn't just make cigarettes illegal?

A. Because people would smoke them anyway.

Q. Then how come the government makes crack cocaine illegal?

A. That is an unfair comparison. The tobacco industry is merely selling a deadly product; the crack cocaine industry is guilty of something far, far worse.

Q. Failure to make large political donations?

A. Yes.

Q. What does the historic tobacco settlement do to discourage adolescents

from smoking?

A. It requires the parents of adolescents to put on giant pants, shave their heads and get their noses pierced, then smoke cigarettes in front of their kids while making statements such as: "Smoking is cool, dude!" This will cause the adolescents to join strict religious orders.

Q. What will be done regarding Joe Camel?

A. He will be spayed.
Q. How about Dennis Rodman?
A. Good idea.

Q. Many people started smoking because they watched classic movies in which glamorous Hollywood stars were always inhaling and exhaling vast clouds of smoke and looking totally cool. What will be done to correct this under the historic tobacco settlement?

A. By 1998, all classic movies will be digitally reprocessed by special Food and Drug Administration computers so that—to cite one example in "Casablanca," when Humphrey Bogart makes his dramatic final speech to Ingrid Bergman, he will have the voice of Rocky the Flying Squirrel.

Q. Whose voice will the late John Wayne have?

A. The late Lucille Ball's.
Q. Under the historic tobacco settlement, will cigarettes still be sold from vending machines?

A. Yes, but people purchasing cigarettes from such machines will also receive, as a warning of the health risks involved, a powerful electrical shock.

Q. What will happen to all the Tobacco Institute scientists, who, despite decades of dedicated research, were never able to find a single shred of evidence proving that cigarettes cause cancer?

A. At the request of the White House, they will be reassigned to the Whitewater investigation.

Q. Speaking of administration scandals, if President Clinton actually winds up in court over this Paula Jones thing, what steps will be taken to prevent the trial from turning into a grotesque and demeaning public spectacle?

A. Mr. Clinton's face will be covered at all times by an electronically superimposed dark blob, underneath which will be an electronic label identifying him only as "A UNITED STATES PRESIDENT."

Q. How will the historic tobacco settlement affect the aliens whose spaceship crashed near Roswell, N.M., in 1947, and whose bodies are now being kept in top-secret government freezers?

A. Millions of dollars will be paid to their lawyers.

Q. I guess that covers it! Thanks!

Smoke?

A. I have my own.

Dave welcomes your comments, complaints, news tips and greetings, no matter how rude! Mail them to: Dave Barry, Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla. 33132.

Re: Appeal

Erica Curell

I completely support promoting compassion and understanding for international students among...Houghton College brothers and sisters in Christ." Who wouldn't be? I guess I never realized there was a problem because the nationality or background of a person does not affect whether or not I will befriend that person. Many times I do not realize that my friend is an international or third-cultured kid until later. And I have NEVER terminated a friendship upon finding out this information. I guess that the author of the "Appeal" article is guilty of what he thinks is part of the problem at Houghton College making hasty generalizations about people. Opinions are fine as long as they do not contain incorrect and misleading information, as the "Appeal" letter did. So I would like to clarify a few mistaken points.

First of all, the primary focus of the Student Senate really isn't to discriminate against international students by refusing to allocate money to the International Student Association. Last semester ISA was only given \$250 of its requested \$420, but let's look at the entire picture for a second. There was a total of \$11,361.20 requested by student organizations that semester, and the Senate only had \$5800.90 to allocate. That means that each club, hypothetically speaking, would only receive 51% of their requested amount (\$5800.90/\$11,361.20). The ISA received 60% (\$250) of the amount they requested (\$420). That doesn't seem like discrimination. Some clubs also proposed great uses for the money but received much smaller amounts.

The author seems to be completely misinformed in regards to the allocation of the money for second semester. I am

not really sure what the problem is because the ISA received the total \$1000 that the organization requested. (Once again, this was a larger percentage of the total than some other organizations received.) As far as the ISA senate representative being "ridiculed and mocked", again, the author is either misinformed or is misinterpreting. (I do not remember seeing him at the meeting, but I may be wrong.) The Senate is responsible for allocating the Student Activity Fee, so the representatives ask a lot of questions to decide whether or not the organization will be using the money in a way to benefit the student body. Every organization answers questions, especially if the club is requesting a substantial amount. As far as the snowboards are concerned, I am sure that there are many readers who will appreciate using them. (And could we please tone down the sarcasm a little? I really don't think that contributes to the "atmosphere of brotherly love amongst each other.")

We are also misled by the portrayal of difficulty for International students to obtain employment. I asked Financial Aid about this, and I was told that all International students are given the opportunity to find a job on work-study. That means that they have as much of an opportunity to obtain a job as I do. Apparently, the Senate wasn't misunderstanding the employment situation, the author was.

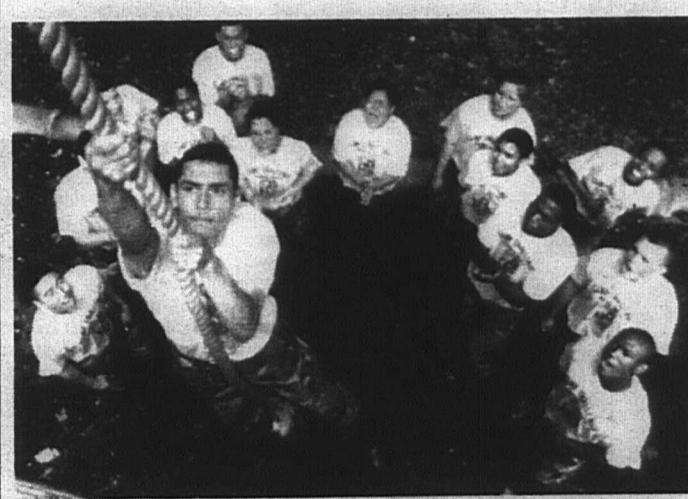
Moral of the story—be critical and informed readers. Not only was the given information misrepresentative of the Student Senate, but I also understand that the ISA does not entirely agree with the "Appeal" letter. I am sorry if there really are many International students within our community that feel ostracized. I hope that in the future these feelings will be expressed in an accurate and sensitive manner.

Re: Appeal

International Student Association

In regards to the article *Appeal* appearing in the last edition of the Houghton Star, we wish to state that the contents

of the article was not a true representation of the opinions of all the international students. The author, Charles King, was expressing his personal opinions; and it must be seen as such.



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The Lighter Side

Trailblazers of Cuisine

Dave Johnson

A lot of people (by "a lot of people" I mean none) lately have been asking about Pioneer Food service. Apparently there is an interest among the masses pertaining to the infrastructure of the institution; how the food is made, descriptions of the different jobs, history of the company, and assorted bits of Pioneer trivia. As a public service, the STAR proudly presents:

Trailblazers of Cuisine: The Pioneer™ Story

History

In 1845, a young entrepreneur by the name of Jonas Van Peebles stumbled upon a revolutionary idea: Why not manufacture a new kind of doll that laughs when you tickle it. Unfortunately, there was a phenomenal lack of public interest, as kids much rather preferred the Fisher Price Chewing Tobacco Starter Kit™. Hanging his head in shame Jonas decided to attend college, the main reason being to get in on some of them wild "garter raids."

During his first year, at the now defunct National University On the Old Mississippi' Jonas was appalled by the quality of food. Students were forced to pay 7 cents a semester for board which only included buffalo patties, jack-rabbit stir fry, and an all-you-can-eat grub bar. Four years later, Jonas graduated with a major in Business and a minor in Covered Wagon. But there was an idea floating around in his head, an ember which he nursed until it blossomed into an epiphanous inferno. That man had a dream.

Taking his wife Clarice, whom he met in college, and 27 of his favorite kids, Jonas headed out west for no apparent reason. Unfortunately, one day their transport broke down (it was an import of course; the "Covered Volkswagen"). Luckily, however, the family was but a scant 58 miles from the nearest town. As they came upon civilization, Jonas noticed a sign saying "Welcome to Pennsylvania." It was here Jonas realized two things: 1) He had to get work somewhere, and 2) It was a mistake to trade his compass for three sticks of beef jerky. Finding the nearest college, the also defunct University of Guns and Casual Killings (slogan: "founded on the Glock"), Jonas shared his idea with the administrative staff. After a brief, but superfluous gunfight, the administrators agreed and made Jonas Van Peebles

director of Food Service.

Jonas promptly put his wife and children to work, washing dishes, serving food, and cleaning floors. Immediately Jonas was a success, his food eagerly devoured by the emaciated student body (*Quick fact*: Jonas served his food before high noon, as there was a significant dip in population after.) His secret: he never revealed what was in the food. And, lucky for Jonas, the students failed to notice the declining squirrel popula-

trate as possible, b) maintaining a clean and hygienic counter, c) washing their hands with warm water, and d) identifying the ingredients, fat content, nutritional information, and amount of riboflavin in each individual entree to clueless consumers. Servers wear the proud colors of Pioneer: a forest green serving jacket (ideal for work in jungle warfare), a green, mesh hat (to keep as much hair as possible from falling into the ziti), and plastic gloves (which come in quite handy if a fellow employee accidentally sits on a ladle.) Servers must spend anywhere between forty-five minutes to an hour and a half standing on their feet, underneath hot lamps, incessantly holding a wide grin and a cheerful demeanor. I think all should display their appreciation for these hard-working laborers by encouraging, smiling, hugging, showing a little leg, nibbling on ears, or hiding large bills in the mashed potatoes.

Utilities

The utilities person is responsible for the orange-juice, milk, fruit punch, ice cream, and a host of other duties. The utilities person is also in the unfortunate position of being the "everything-else-dude:" "Excuse me, I seem to have vomited my stomach contents all over the floor."

"Utilities! Grab a mop!"

"The toaster caught fire and my friend was engulfed in flame! His skin is cracking and bubbling and he's screaming in pain!"

"Utilities! Go get the aloe!"

"Oh my gosh! International terrorists? They're shooting everybody!"

"Utilities! Take these tongs and take care of them!"

Runners

It is imperative for runners to heed every whim of the server to maintain the chain of command. If the server proclaims the beanie-weenie is all gone it is up to the runners to be sure to provide the customers with more. Or, if a wet rag is needed to wipe down the counter, a pine-scented cloth should be swimming in a bucket of soapy water before the server finishes his sent—er, or her—sentence. And one more thing, is it so much to ask for a glass of orange juice with ice? I mean give me a *break!* It's not like I...uh, servers want the world, just a refreshing drink to quench a ravenous thirst! Oh, and no more dirty looks! You think I...I mean, they don't

see them?! Well, you're sorely mistaken, and if I ever— (Whoa, deep breath. Count to ten. Remember what Doctor Wilson said. Go to your happy place...ah, Madagascar.)

Checkers

The staff's favorite game.

Dishroom

Lastly, the dishroom. Ah yes, many have seen these highly-trained, highly-motivated, highly-lemon-scented employees scrubbing their little hearts out. I like to compare Pioneer food service to a big Broadway show: the cooks are the producers and directors, the servers are the actors, the utility people are the ushers, the runners are, well, I haven't found a place for them in my analogy yet, and the dishroom workers are the lowly stage hands. Sure they may have to work in hot, deplorable conditions, and sift through everyone's slimy, saliva-ridden leftovers, but without them, the show could not go on. I don't think many people give the dishroom workers the respect they deserve...hey, what am I saying? They wash dishes.

Pioneer Fun Facts

-Pioneer caters all kinds of events such as weddings, birthday parties, Rotary clubs, annual druid meetings, lumberjack conventions, and the National Poodle Biathlon Awards Banquet.

-When cooking, Pioneer always uses fat-free lard with Nutra-sweet.

-Nearly 45% of all the heavy machinery Pioneer uses was made in Saudi Arabia.

-In 1978, 37 people were killed by a disgruntled dishroom worker who developed an industrial-strength detergent that eats flesh.

-The favorite food among Pioneer customers: Rainbow sprinkles.

And that's Pioneer. A great environment, professional, good-looking, qualified workers, and delicious food. Perhaps the next time you feel the urge to complain about green bananas, unidentifiable pasta, or glowing casserole, hold your tongue, and remember the grueling (ooh, bad word choice)...hard work that is put into the preparation of the daily comestibles. Each person involved in Pioneer does everything in his power to deliver hearty meals, customer satisfaction, and an abundance of good feelings.

(If this doesn't get me a raise, I'm applying to the Pizza Barn.)

Relief and Where To Find It

having all of the lounges in Shen equipped with virtual reality machines I was told all sorts of things. I was told that they wouldn't fit in the budget, and that they probably weren't a good thing for students who already have a hard time distinguishing between reality and their fantasies. But I knew that they were really just too embarrassed to admit that when they built Shen they weren't taking this brave new technology into account.

But there might be a more important way in which we as a campus are affected by this issue. I'm talking about handicap accessibility. In all seriousness, this campus poses some significant challenges for those of us who are handicapped in one way or another.

The rest rooms on the first floor of the Luckey Building are accessible from the entrance facing the road, but being able to get to the rest room is not the same as being able to use it. The rest room has a sort of foyer or entrance way which is hard enough for agile people to manage, but the real trick has to do with the fact that the second door opens into the bathroom and, at 90 degrees, neatly shuts in anyone using the first toilet stall. The entire affair is unusually cramped for elbow room, though it does have an unusually high ceiling. But there's the thing, you don't have to be handicapped in the traditional sense of the word to have a problem using this rest room. The urinals are set rather high on the wall, making it extremely difficult for some of the shorter members of our community to use the urinal hygienically.

This is a real problem. Tall people who need to use low urinals can usually do so. It might mean losing some dignity and it's certainly not comfortable, but if you're tall you

can stoop. But what if you're short and not even your tippy-toes quite get you there?

Wendell Ackerman, one of our diligent maintenance workers, first brought my attention to the design flaw in Luckey's only public men's room. He mentioned that they were thinking of building a little stepping stool to place beneath the urinal. I recruited one of my more diminutive residents, the happy-go-lucky Nate Peterson, to do some investigative reporting. He was to go to the bathroom and decide whether or not he could use the urinal safely as it is, and whether or not a stepping stool would come in handy. Unfortunately, my request for funds to cover Nate's expenses was turned down by Liz Nies (again) and so our super-sleuth news hound Nate was kind of hung out to dry.

The bathroom still gets a three star rating, despite the accessibility consideration and the warm air hand dryer and lack of paper towels. There is, after all, something charming about how old it is and your chances of sharing a bathroom with a dean aren't going to be better anywhere on campus.

I also want to take this opportunity to raise a question. With all of the excitement over the impending new music building one important thing has been forgotten in the discussion. What is going to happen to the free standing urinal in the Old Fine Arts Building when that building comes down? I have two suggestions.

We could use some of the space in the new music building for a Houghton Museum and the free standing urinal could be part of the exhibit. Visitors to the museum would be encouraged to look but not to use. In my correspondence with Jeff Spear on the issue he has tried to claim that it would be expen-

sive to redesign the building to include the museum and he wasn't sure a museum would be a good use of space anyway. It's just that small-minded kind of thinking that has made the free-standing urinals of the world so rare in the first place.

The other thing would be to move it up to Shen where it could take the place of one of our existing urinals. We'll see.

Apology by Dave Johnson

I would like to apologize to everyone I offended by my recent write-up on the film "Titanic." It was painfully clear that I overstepped the line of good taste with my pitiful, unfunny jabs at this epic movie. I should have realized that a large majority of the campus population has been moved, possibly to tears, by this heart-wrenching, eye-opening film. Once again I offer up my sincerest apologies and hope that all can find it in their heart to forgive me.

Thank you,

David Johnson

Dale—

Make sure Liz doesn't print this. Did that sound good enough? Holy smokes I almost vomited writing that sappy garbage. Hopefully they'll buy it, and my reputation stays intact. What a bunch of losers.

--Dave



Joel Tom Tate

On the one hand, we can derive a certain amount of pride from the fact that ours is a venerable old institution. And it is certainly meaningful to think that many of the buildings we frequent on campus were also used by a cloud of witnesses who belonged to previous generations, students who went on to be missionaries and powerful servants of God here in this country. Fancher, East Hall, and the Luckey Building give us a sense of our place in a tradition much older than ourselves.

But, on the other hand, there are certain drawbacks to having older buildings, buildings built without the benefit of foresight or a politically correct sensitivity. When I asked, for instance, about the possibility of