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Houghton College's Student Newspaper Since 1909

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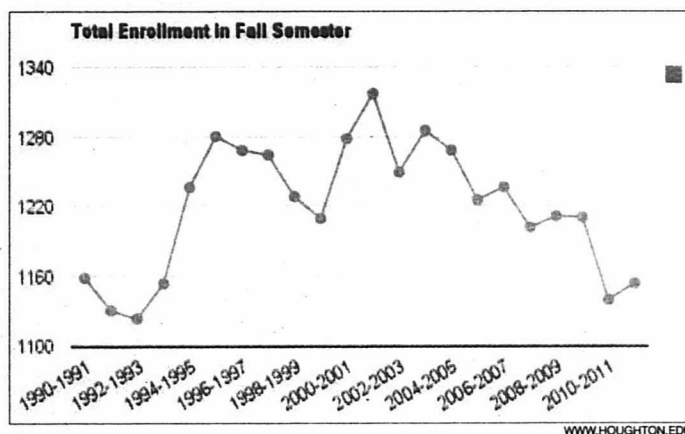
ADMINISTRATION BATTLES LOW ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

by BEKAH HALL

Faced with unpredictable enrollment numbers, the Admissions Office and the Enrollment Management Council are working to attract new students to the Houghton experience.

As Vice President for Student Life Sharra Hynes asserted in the January 31 SGA meeting, enrollment at Houghton "has been highly erratic in its nature" with no easily discernible explanation. It is not for lack of trying, however. Hynes said the College has used nationally known consultants, internal analysis, and benchmark research in attempts to pinpoint problems, but no simple answer had emerged.

Dean of Admission and Chief Enrollment Officer of the Enrollment Management Council Jeff Kirksey did, however, state that there are several possible explanations, such as the current economic climate and the shrinking college-going demographic in Western New York. He also emphasized that the enrollment situation is not new;



enrollment has ebbed and flowed over the last 10 years.

In order to attract more students, the discount rate -- the amount of financial aid given to students -- has been steadily rising. According to Kirksey, "Essentially we're putting more financial aid dollars towards fewer students who are paying less to be here than they were two years ago."

It is this growing discount rate, Hynes explained, that makes the current erratic enrollment at Houghton particularly concerning. While enrollment numbers are not dramatically different today than they were 20 years ago, the amount of institutional aid is higher. "That's why the erratic enrollment of today

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Election 2012: The Other Campaigns

by CHRIS HARTLINE

Much has been made of the upcoming presidential election of late; the constantly changing Republican primary, President Obama's fundraisers, etc. It's easy to forget that there are also 435 House seats, 33 Senate seats, 12 Governorships, and countless state and local offices up for grabs.

Presidential campaigns are sexy -- vast, opulent, glamorous. Other campaigns are not, but they are as important if not more important in American governance and the future of our nation.

In the 2010 election cycle, Republicans made significant gains in both the House of Representatives, where they now enjoy a 242-192 majority, and the Senate, where they remain in the minority 53-47. It was an overwhelming swell of conservative sentiment and it has continued throughout the last year and a half. Republicans are poised to pick up more seats in Congress in 2012, depending somewhat on the presidential nominee.

Romney's recent electoral challenges and malapropisms aside, he is still viewed by the majority in the establishment and media as the most electable candidate. Republican leaders worry that the

nomination of Rick Santorum or Newt Gingrich would have a negative impact on the Party's chances in the House and Senate elections.

That being said, the statistics are on the Republicans' side. They will almost certainly maintain control of the House of Representatives. The process of redistricting, where state legislatures -- dominated by one party or the other -- redraw congressional districts to benefit their political party, has vastly reduced the number of contested House races. This process has made violent swings in House elections -- such as the Republican surge in 2010 where the GOP picked up 63 seats -- exceedingly rare. Still, elections in districts such as the Arizona 5th, Colorado 6th, Illinois 11th, Iowa 3rd, and Maryland 6th will be closely watched.

On the Senate side, there are 33 seats up for grabs, 23 of which are Democrats or Independents who caucus with the Democrats (Connecticut and Vermont). Of the 10 contests where Republicans currently hold the seat, six are safe GOP holds, three are likely GOP holds, and only one -- Nevada -- is considered a tossup.

Republicans will most likely win all the races in which they are the incumbent, with the possible exception of Nevada, as well as

Nebraska, where Democrat Ben Nelson is retiring and conservative sentiment is strong. This means that any further victories would be a net gain in Senate seats and bring Republicans closer to the majority.

Control of the Senate will thus come down to seven tossup races: Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Democrats must win five of these races to maintain control of the Senate, while Republicans can gain control by winning four.

There are two potential pickups for the GOP bringing their magic number to two. In Wisconsin, former Republican governor Tommy Thompson has led Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin consistently in the polls, albeit by a fairly slim margin. The same goes for Montana Republican Congressman Denny Rehberg against incumbent Democrat Jon Tester.

The polls in Massachusetts, Virginia, Missouri, and Nevada -- all tossups -- are impossible to predict.

The two most prominent of these races are Massachusetts and Virginia where four very strong and high-profile candidates are pitted against each other. The Massachusetts race will likely become one of the

See CAMPAIGN page 3

Search for New Faculty Continues

by KATHERINE BAKER

Even during times of economic hardship, the hiring process must continue. Departments wishing to replace faculty members must first seek approval from the Administration, and every position that becomes available is looked at carefully. This year, search committees headed by the chairs of departments that are hiring new faculty were formed in the fall, positions were advertised, and applicants are currently being interviewed.

The next step in the process is for the search committees to make recommendations to the Academic Dean, who will in turn make recommendations to the President of the College. Then the President will make the decision of who to hire, and that decision must be verified by the Board of Trustees. The search committees are hopeful that all the available positions will be filled by next fall, but there are no guarantees.

The current full-time positions available are in Applied Mathematics, Communication & Media Arts, Adolescence Education with a focus in Literacy, Inclusive (Special) Education, Chemistry, and the Old Testament. In addition, the College is searching for an Associate Dean for Music and Director of the Greatbatch School of Music, a Director of the Center for Academic Success and Advising, an Academic Vice President and Dean of the College, and a Director of Major Gifts. Additional listings and details can be found on Houghton's website under the Employment tab.

Kristin Camenga, who is chairing the search for an applied mathematics professor, explained that Jake Jacobson, who chaired the mathematics department for 18 years, is retiring. First the mathematics department had to get approval from the Administration to hire a replacement for Jacobson, and then they had to get approval to move in a more applied direction. "More of our students are looking at careers in applied mathematics rather than pure mathematics," said Camenga. "The goal of this hire is to strengthen the whole college, meet the needs of the mathematics department, serve others in the natural science department and the social sciences, and better connect with the College as a whole."

Karen Torraca, who is chairing the search for a new chemistry professor, said the chemistry department has been "short for quite some time." Currently the chemistry department has two and a half professors, with an adjunct professor teaching many of the courses. "We are not even adding professors. We are trying to get back

See FACULTY page 3

POLITICS / Contraception, Controversy, Compromise



ANDREA PACHECO

by KRISTINA LACELLE-PETERSON

Recently a debate about contraception has been getting a great deal of air time -- not the morality of the contraception per se, but the extent to which religious institutions have freedom to determine the specifics of the health care packages they offer their employees. Briefly, President Obama mandated that all employers, except churches and houses of worship with religious reasons to demur, would have to cover contraception in the health care plans that they offered their employees. This provoked a strong reaction from the Catholic Bishops and other Catholic leaders, as well as from some conservative Protestants who understood this as an infringement of religious freedom. It would require Catholic hospitals, universities, and charities to cover contraception in their health care packages despite the Church's historic stance against contraception. Some conservative Protestant institutions, such as Liberty University and Geneva College, have sued the Administration about this, because they also oppose

contraception, apparently assuming that it is similar or identical to abortion. (This distinction cannot be adequately addressed here, though some contraceptive options block fertilization which is arguably different from abortion.) All the offended parties claim that the government stepped over the line and has now begun meddling in religion.

Mindful of the serious issues raised regarding non-interference of the government in matters of religion, President Obama offered a compromise. For religious employers whose faith commitments prohibit support for contraception, the insurance companies handling their employees' health care would be required to pay for this coverage. Thus, the religious organizations would not be promoting something they do not condone, but women employed by religious organizations would have the identical coverage as those working in secular institutions. This would not require insurers to prescribe contraception, nor would it require employees to use contraception if they are religiously opposed to it; the compromise would simply take the responsibility away from the religious employers and put it on insurance companies to make birth control coverage available. Given that birth control is much cheaper than abortion or childbirth, insurance companies will most certainly comply.

This compromise has pleased some Catholic leaders and institutions but not others. The Catholic Health Association, for instance, the largest network of nonprofit health care providers, which employs 750,000 people, affirms the compromise. As President and CEO, Sister Carol Keehan, put it in the Huffington Post, "We are pleased and grateful that the religious liberty and conscience

protection needs of so many ministries that serve our country were appreciated enough that an early resolution of this issue was accomplished." Catholic leaders who support the compromise believe that it allows religious organizations to retain their integrity on the one hand, since they will not be forced to act in ways that contradict their doctrine by offering contraception coverage, and yet it protects the freedom of conscience of the employees, most of whom are not Catholic in the first place.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, however, has rejected the compromise arguing that it still represents an infringement on religious freedom because the institutions will be offering contraception coverage indirectly. Critics argue that insurance companies function independently of the religious organizations they may serve, providing services regardless of religious sensibilities. (Besides, individual citizens regularly support things indirectly that they do not approve of; for instance, pacifists pay taxes to a government with a huge defense budget.) Practically speaking, if this compromise fails, the difference will not be that women employed in Catholic charities will have no access to contraception, but that they will pay for it themselves (if they can afford it). It shifts the burden from the insurance companies to the employees. In other words, all other Americans will have the option of contraception coverage paid for by their employers, but these Catholic and conservative Protestant leaders are suggesting that the employers can't pay because it contradicts their religious beliefs and they also don't want insurance companies to offer this coverage. Only women who work at religiously run hospitals, universities, and charities would have the burden

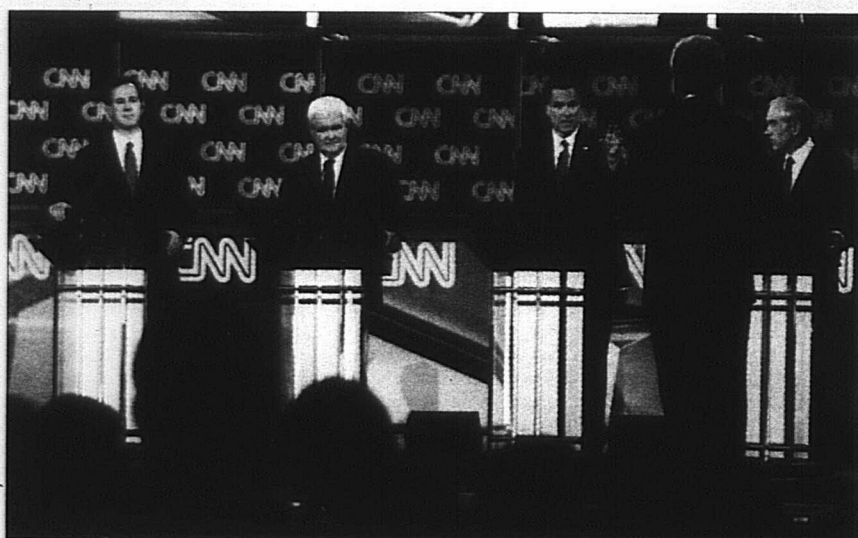
of covering their own contraceptive care.

A few interesting things to note in this discussion: Catholic charities that operate in states like New York where covering contraception is already required have complied without fanfare. Perhaps they have taken the pragmatic route, since most Catholic women in the U.S. use or have used contraception (98% is the statistic bandied about), and most employees of Catholic hospitals, charities, and universities are not Catholic, as already mentioned. Additionally, some Christians affirm the use of contraceptives on religious grounds, arguing that Christians shouldn't contribute to the staggering overpopulation of the world. Furthermore, most Americans, including most Catholics and even most Republicans support President Obama's compromise (see CBS/NYTimes poll).

Religious freedom is not absolute, in any case. Congress outlawed polygamy despite it being a religious tenet in nineteenth-century Mormonism and the Jehovah's Witnesses officially reject blood transfusions, though this religious preference is not protected under freedom of religion. Few people would argue the government is waging a war against religion in these cases.

To me this looks like a war being waged, not on religion -- since the compromise lets religious institutions off the hook -- but on poor women and families who will suffer the most if the President's compromise is rejected. I sincerely hope that the proposed compromise is adopted, as it takes seriously both the right of religious institutions to live by their own rules and the need to promote fair policies guaranteeing contraceptive coverage to all. ★

IN THE NEWS



WWW.INDIANCOUNTRYTODAYMEDIANETWORK.COM

NUCLEAR FEARS (RIGHT) | Washington Post writer David Ignatius wrote an article earlier this month claiming that the US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta believes that Israel will attack Iran this upcoming spring. Since the article was published, it has sparked an international firestorm. Both the U.S. and Russia have warned Israel against attacking Iran, though Israel claims that it will not bow to international pressure. In the picture to the right, Iranian President Ahmendinejad inspects a uranium enrichment facility.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES DEBATE (LEFT) | Republican hopefuls, from this photo taken at the last debate on January 26, debated during a televised broadcast hosted by CNN last Wednesday.

Controversial Ultrasound Bill in VA

A controversial bill in Virginia that would require women to get an ultrasound before an abortion was placed in jeopardy by Republican Governor Robert McDonnell who was concerned that the bill was too intrusive.



WWW.THEGLOBEANDMAIL.COM

Student Academic Services Changes Name, Expands Vision and Focus

by BETH LARTER

The Spanish language acronym was ridiculed at SPOT almost as soon as the name plate was on the door, but the recent name change of the office formally known as Student Academic Services (SAS) to "Center for Academic Success and Advising" (CASA) was the first step in expanding the vision and purpose of the Center. Along with the name change, the Center is currently seeking a permanent director for the office who will help to implement the changes and shape the future of the Center.

The word "casa," which is Spanish for "home," is meant to convey a sense of security and a place where "students feel like they can go home to get help," said Eileen Lewis, Interim Director of CASA. The addition of the words "success and advising" also point to changing priorities in the office. Instead of focusing mainly on helping students get through their specific classes, the Center will now assist students in advisement

when it comes to issues of course load and financial aid.

Mark Hilleh, Dean for Academic Administration, said, "We will over the coming year begin broadening the work of the office to encompass a larger and more integrated vision of student academic success at Houghton." One of the significant changes is the addition of academic advising to the list of services that the Center provides. Though Lewis clarifies that this will not take the place of faculty advisers, academic advising at CASA will give students more direction to their studies as well as realistic and practical advice about how to manage each semester. "We're not just helping to find the correct courses to accomplish a major," said Lewis, "but ensuring that high risk students are not overwhelmed by their course load."

In light of new state and federal regulations regarding financial aid, the office will also begin to play a role in making sure that students who need to drop classes are not endangering their financial aid. This extension of their services is part of an initiative

"to help students make academic progress, not just for their GPA but financial aid as well," said Lewis.

Though the office is changing and expanding the nature of the Center, the changes are not intended to detract from the services already offered. "The purposes and mission of the office remain essentially unchanged," said Hilleh. "It will still be the office for tutoring, study skills, time management assistance, and disability services," added Lewis.

Many of the changes to the office are focused on providing resources to students at Houghton and giving them every opportunity to find help in managing their work loads and meeting their academic goals.

"We are really working at keeping a high retention rate here at Houghton," said Lewis. "One of the aspects of the broadening vision for this office is to keep students here and help them to be successful." ★

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feels more impactful," she said.

Growing discount rates are not unique to Houghton. According to Linda Mills-Woolsey, Interim Academic Dean, "nationwide this is a very difficult time for education as a whole...but it is particularly challenging for independent colleges that don't get a lot of state support."

Hynes stated that while some schools have significantly raised their discount rates in order to improve enrollment, the goal is to ensure that Houghton's discount rate remains moderate. "We're not allowing our discount rate to become so disproportionate that it sends us into a financial tailspin," she said.

With a growing discount rate and unpredictable enrollment, the Enrollment Management Council is working collaboratively with the various campus programs on strategies to keep admissions and retention up. The council, divided into two subgroups -- admissions and retention -- is made up of student and faculty members, as well as representatives from the financial, academic, and athletic programs. Their focus, said Hynes, has shifted to not simply the next year or so, but plans for the next five to 10 years.

"The admissions group has been thinking together and casting a vision for what we want to look like as an institution to look like in five to 10 years...what do we want

the attributes of our student body to be, the demographics, the academic profile, a range of things," said Hynes.

The admissions subgroup is not, however, envisioning vast changes to the Houghton student body. Senior Sarah Wangai, one of the student representatives on the Council, explained, "the Admission Office is working hard to ensure that Houghton continues to remain the school that we know it to be with diverse students who are ready for a challenging academic experience grounded in the Christian faith and influenced by global engagement."

"It's not like we're becoming an open admissions campus; that's not going to happen," said Hynes.

While changes in Academic Programs are not made solely on enrollment concerns, there are several changes in process that Mills-Woolsey said she hopes will attract prospective students: two BFA degrees (Studio Art and Applied Design), reinstating Accounting, and a possible Public Health minor. The BFAs in particular may serve to place Houghton ahead as not many Christian colleges offer BFAs, Mills-Woolsey said. She asserted, however, that these changes are not a "silver bullet" answer to enrollment.

While new programs may help attract students, much of the focus is on improving current Houghton programs, as well as the message to prospective students about a Houghton College education. Kirksey stated that the Admissions Office is working on improving their

marketing strategy in order to better communicate Houghton's strengths, such as the high rate of students that go on to graduate work and jobs within six months of graduating.

According to Mark Hilleh, Associate Academic Dean and member of the Enrollment Management Council, "This is more about enlarging the pool of students who are able to discover and benefit from what Houghton has to offer than about adding more [academic] programs. If anything, we need to focus and sharpen the programs that Houghton delivers, even as we explore broadening the ways in which we can deliver them more effectively to more students."

Enrollment is not merely admissions, but also retention. According to Hynes, Houghton's high retention is helping to mitigate the poor admissions. The persistence rate -- eligible students who return -- from the Fall to the Spring was 97%, which is "pretty amazing," said Hynes.

"We have very good retention rates, and we think that that is a testimony to the quality of our faculty and our programs, but also to the quality of the students we attract," said Mills-Woolsey. "Because of the budget, we are focused on enrollment numbers, but the numbers aren't everything...The quality of the student body and our sense of pride and joy in them...that's one of the things that gives us hope in a challenging hope....You all are the reason we are here." ★

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to where we were, and we still aren't teaching all the courses we should be. The new hire won't fix all the needs but should alleviate stress," said Torraca. In addition, Torraca said that a new chemistry professor should "help foster additional research so we have a stronger pull for new students."

Paul Young, chair of the Psychology and Sociology Department, is serving on the chemistry search committee and the Associate Dean for Music search committee. At least one member of each search committee is typically from outside the department in order to provide a different perspective during the search process. Young explained that his role is to be "a presence for the larger college connections, because professors are hired as faculty members of Houghton College, not just that department."

The Associate Dean for Music and Director of the Greatbatch School of Music position is opening up because Ben King is retiring. Judy Congdon is chairing the search for a replacement, and she said that "we have received a good number of applications from individuals, either currently or recently in administrative positions in music departments or music schools in other colleges and universities. They come highly recommended. We will do our best to choose well, and it may not be an easy task with so many strong candidates." Young said that "It's been an encouraging process on these committees to see the quality of people...applying for these positions, and to see their excitement about the liberal arts context with a Christian perspective." ★

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most expensive Senate campaigns in American history. Republican incumbent Scott Brown, who won a special election in 2009 to fill Ted Kennedy's open seat, is being challenged by Harvard Economist Elizabeth Warren. One recent poll showed Brown with a seven-point advantage while another showed Warren with a three-point advantage.

In Virginia, where Democrat Jim Webb is retiring, former Republican Governor George Allen is matched up against former Democrat Governor and DNC Chairman Tim Kaine. The proximity to Washington, DC, and the stature of the two candidates has made this campaign a high-profile cash cow. Polls have been consistently inconsistent; some have Kaine with a slight lead, some Allen.

In general, Republicans are in a solid position to maintain control of the House while picking up seats in the Senate and possibly gaining a majority there. Political campaigns are fickle, and much may and probably will change between now and then. But the hope in Republican circles remains. ★

WRITE FOR THE STAR!

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ACADEMY AWARDS: WHAT'S ON THE CULTURAL RADAR

by STEPHEN CORELL

Some years, one might look at the array of films selected for Oscars and wonder, "Wow. What is this world coming to?" I would, however, pose a question: What if that is exactly what we are supposed to think? And what if that is exactly what the world *is* coming to, and we just have no idea, or are afraid to believe it isn't all about the things we want it to be about? And what if not everybody thinks that C.S. Lewis and Jesus are the two most important people to ever live? The Oscars have, and always will, exemplify current cultural paradigms, whether or not they are our own paradigms.

The Oscars first began in the year 1929, a year which saw the motion picture "Wings" winning the first ever Oscar for Best Picture. This was a story of love in the face of the inexplicable death of World War I, which was a loss that weighed heavily on the cultural mind of the times. It was the war to end all wars and instead it became the war to end all current thoughts of hope and God. It shattered the faith of thousands. Why shouldn't someone make a film about it?

Throughout the years some would say the Oscars have lapsed into whatever the movie business decides is good, without much input from the general populous. I would disagree. In 1995, "Forrest Gump" won the Oscar for Best Picture,



Viola Davis is up for Best Actress for her role as Aibileen Clark in "The Help".

signifying a cultural awakening toward those people who live with mental disabilities and are struggling in a society of "normal people." This is a struggle that continues today. What better than a story from the perspective of such a person to illustrate the struggle? In 2010, "The Hurt Locker," a film which generated controversy for its views on war, won

Best Picture. What is it everybody was thinking and talking about? The war in Iraq, the possible war with Iran, whether or not the United States should go to war at all — the list goes on.

As much as the Oscars can be, in some ways, a very disappointing event if the movie that brought us to tears wasn't even nominated, there is still something bigger moving here — something cultural. You want to know where we are as a society? Look at the Oscars, hosted this year by none other than the fabulous Billy Crystal.

This year features films about everything. The film "The Help," for which Viola Davis was nominated for Best Actress, is about racism; "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" deals with loss in light of September 11, for which Max Von Sydow (probably best known for his performance as Lamar Burgess in "Minority Report") picked up a nomination for Best Supporting Actor; there is a film about war ("War Horse"), which was nominated for everything from Art Direction to Music; and both Brad Pitt and Jonah Hill were nominated for their performances in "Moneyball," a film about the way baseball works from a technical and relational perspective

and how a single man changed how it worked as a game. All of these things signify something that is on the minds of Americans.

I have heard much criticism of the Oscars, but maybe it is simply that as a small, secluded Christian school we have forgotten how society as a whole thinks, and what it is they are thinking about. September 11 was a tragedy even if it didn't affect you; racism is alive and growing stronger; the fear of war with many different countries is a growing seed in the minds of our time; and yes, as much as everyone likes to criticize the baseball team here at Houghton, Americans as a whole still love baseball. There's a reason it's called "The Great American Past-time," and "Moneyball" is a great film whether or not you like the sport.

The Oscars even have a space in the Best Picture slot for films such as "Hugo," a spectacularly fantastical film about an orphan who lives in a clock tower. There's a place for everyone at the Oscars, and I challenge you to listen to the culture around you as illustrated by these awards. Maybe you'll learn something, or even find your own place. ★

Black Heritage Club Feature:

This Day In...

by NATHANAEL SMITH

Today in February marks the anniversary of numerous events that have had a profound effect on the black community.

This day in 1940, heavy weight boxer Jimmy Ellis was born. Ellis was born James Albert Ellis in Louisville, Kentucky. He defeated such men as Floyd Patterson, George Chuvalo, Jerry Quarry, Oscar "Ringo" Bonavena, Leotic Martin, Billy Daniels, Roberto Davila, Tony Doyle, Johnny Persol, and Holly Mims. In 1968, he won the World Boxing Association Heavyweight Championship of the World.

Today in 1864, Rebecca Lee Crumpler became the first black woman to become a medical doctor. She was the first and only black woman to graduate from the New England Female Medical College. Before attending medical school she spent eight years, from 1852 to 1960, working as a nurse.

Crumpler was born in 1831 in Delaware, to Absolum Davis and Matilda Webber. She was raised by her aunt in Pennsylvania. While in PA, she saw her aunt caring for sick neighbors which encouraged her to enter medicine. In 1883 she published the "Book of Medical Discourses." In this book, she summarized her life and wrote about her experiences as a doctor.

Crumpler briefly practiced medicine in Boston before moving to Richmond, Virginia, where she practiced medicine after the Civil War. In Richmond she joined other black physicians that were caring for freed slaves who otherwise would have no access to health care. She worked with the Freedmen's Bureau as well as with missionary and community groups despite the severe racism experienced by black

physicians in the South.

After working in Richmond for a few years, she moved back to Boston. On her return to Boston, she first lived on Joy Street on Beacon Hill and then moved out of Boston proper into Hyde Park during 1880. She retired from the practice of medicine by 1880.

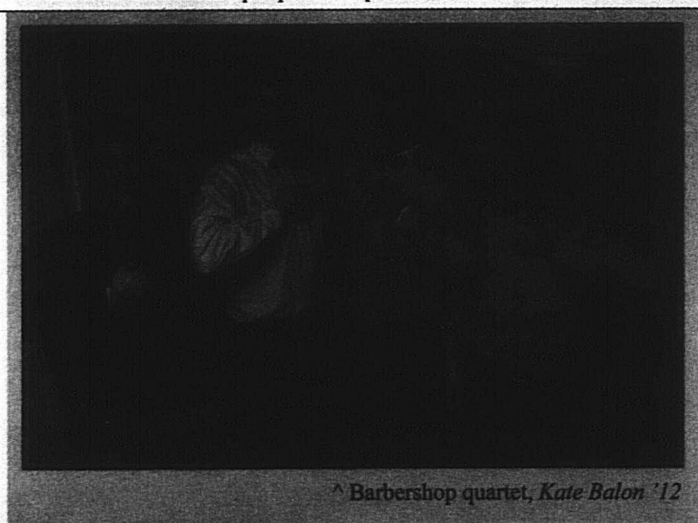
This day in 1811, Bishop Daniel Payne was born. He worked as an educator and a minister throughout his lifetime. He wrote the first history of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. He was foundational in the development of Wilberforce University, the first black owned and operated institution of higher education.

Payne gave himself two tasks: "to improve the ministry; the second to improve the people." As a leader in the AME Church, he required church leaders to study in grammar, geography, and arithmetic, as well as other disciplines not directly related to ministry. He believed that educated ministers would lift "the mass of general ignorance."

As a minister, Payne worked tirelessly to reform the AME Church's worship style. He was greatly upset by the bush meetings that were common among slaves. He once declared, "How needful it is to have an intelligent ministry to teach these people who hold to this ignorant mode of worship the true method of serving God."

Payne was a man who worked unceasingly to better the existence of black people in America. He viewed America as a place where the black community could grow and live in peace.

Ellis, Crumpler, and Payne all did things with their lives that challenged the status quo or improved the lives of black in America. Please take some time today to remember them and others that have made an impact on black history. ★



^ Barbershop quartet, Kate Balon '12

**PICTURE
of the WEEK**

Enter our biweekly photo contest by submitting to HoughtonStar@gmail.com! Please include photo credit and a brief description.

New Bachelor of Fine Arts

by HANNAH JENNINGS

This fall the Art Department plans to introduce a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) program to incoming art and communication students, becoming the first Evangelical liberal arts institution on the East Coast to offer such a degree, and among the few in the nation, along with Calvin College, Azusa Pacific University, and Biola University. Pending state approval, the BFA degree will change the nature of the current program by preparing art students in a pre-professional track aimed toward a graduate level Masters in Fine Arts (MFA) degree.

This program, in addition to the recent introduction of the Art Education, Art Studies, and Pre-Art Therapy tracks, will broaden the options for the growing number of art and communication students. The BFA will consist of 60 credits within the major and will replace the current Bachelor of Arts degree which requires 48 credits.

The appeal of this program, said Professor Ted Murphy, art, is the preparation that it offers art students in addition to the liberal arts foundation

that comes with the Houghton degree. The courses for upperclassmen will expand the areas of practice within studio work requirements.

"This will be a more pluralistic approach and it will be more sympathetic to the visual arts world beyond our campus," said Murphy.

Because the BFA is pursued by students intent on working toward careers or advanced degrees in the visual arts, there is more of an emphasis on studio work. The course requirements will be redesigned to replace 400-level courses with more flexible junior and senior studios and seminars. This will give students more experience in graduate-type work, gearing them for independent study and exposing them to contemporary working artists and professionals, said Professor Ryan Thompson, art and communication.

"This program focuses on encouraging students to think more independently; to give them more freedom to explore different mediums and to push themselves," Thompson explained. "It is getting harder and harder to get students to choose one media, which is a reflection of the

way the visual art world is moving. Students don't like having to choose just one media."

Professor Jillian Sokso, current head of the art department, explained that "by moving upper level course work from media-specific classes to interdisciplinary, team-taught studio and seminar courses, we are meeting a need to stay as current as possible with our degree offering, finding applied vocational tracks that are current and relevant."

Houghton will offer both a BFA in Studio Arts and in Applied Design, which is a hybrid of art and communication courses. This will be in conjunction with the Communication Department. The Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree will remain an option for those studying art as one of two majors.

Art Professors Gary Baxter, Ted Murphy, John Rhett, Jillian Sokso, and Ryan Thompson, as well as Dave Huth, Assistant Professor of Visual Communication and Media Arts, each hold an MFA degree, which is the terminal degree in visual arts nationally recognized by all of Higher Education as equivalent to a doctoral degree in other fields. ★

CAB TO SEE TRANSITIONAL CHANGES WITH BUDGET CUTS

by CORINA GOCHENAU

The Campus Activities Board (CAB) plays a vital role in campus life. CAB has been in charge of multiple activities, such as Homecoming, SPOT, the Film Fest, Purple and Gold week, Roller-skating Night, themed dances, and various smaller events like Pumpkinville and Pop-Tart Day.

"The current structure of CAB is through the Student Government Association (SGA); CAB is structured within their bylaws," said Greg Bish, Director of Student Programs. "A number of years ago the SGA's Vice President fulfilled the role of the CAB director."

According to Bish, that all changed in the late '90s, when the College decided to create a more independent CAB from the SGA. He said the current change in structure continues in the same thought and was recommended by recent CAB directors.

"In recent years there have been more recognized clubs [and] groups on campus, and they have started to plan additional campus-wide events," said Bish. "CAB still maintained the responsibility of fulfilling campus-wide programs, events, and activities for breadth of interest throughout the whole student body. While a new CAB structure has not been established yet for next year, that same role will remain at the heart of CAB."

According to Bish, the role of CAB may be filled in the future by Student Programs Office student workers, Leadership Council members, outreach groups, music clubs, or athletic groups.

"We are still looking at best practices at other colleges and exploring what we hope will be a more effective way for programming on campus," he said.

This transition is due to budget cuts, including cuts to the Campus Services Budget which funds student clubs and organizations. Thus CAB is going through a transitional stage during which it will decrease the number of student workers involved. Although this transition is easily misconstrued as the annihilation of CAB, Houghton is not, in effect "getting rid of CAB" but rather, condensing it and spreading responsibility to collaborating leadership, according to Bish.

CAB member Amy Coon, sophomore, addressed some fears and uncertainties concerning the transition. Small events will continue to be held every month, as well as larger events like Homecoming and Purple and Gold week. The only difference mentioned thus far concerns events being planned and set up by three student workers, and therefore enabling the use of a smaller budget.

"This also gives the dorm Leadership Councils and SGA an opportunity to put on their events and potentially just partner with CAB, whereas in the past sometimes CAB events had conflicted with their events," said Coon.

Many particulars concerning this shift have yet to be decided upon, but according to Coon, "The student workers will also get paid hourly instead of a stipend, which is a good thing about this transition. In this way, people are more motivated to put in the hours needed to go the extra mile and make each event the best we can." ★

EAT// LOCAL IRISH CUISINE



by JOYCE TAYLOR

On a cold winter's night, there is nowhere better to be found than around a fire, holding a large plate of chocolate cake and some hot coffee with people you love. At Fiddler's Pub and Restaurant it is encouraged to come with many people and stay for hours.

Fiddler's Pub and Restaurant at Waterways Golf Resort, also known more casually as The Irish Pub, is located in Angelica and Belfast, just past the Angelica Bridge. A short 15 to 20 minute drive from Houghton, it is an easy choice to make when deciding what new and exciting place to go for lunch or dinner. From the outside, it looks like an old farmhouse set away down a long, winding dirt road; however, inside it is a fabulously-decorated Irish restaurant with two dining rooms, a cozy fireplace, lounge seating and, for the locals, bar-style seating.

Owner Richard Patton emigrated

from Ireland two years ago with aspirations of purchasing large amounts of property to open up a restaurant and golf course in America. However, he and his business partner did not realize that Angelica was not a lushly populated suburb with conveniently affordable plots of land, but instead, a rural farmland nestled in Amish country, New York. The location of his newly purchased property did not stop him from living his dream. He continued renovating the old house into a five star resort and restaurant, bringing his dog and daughters along with him to the States. Waterways resort is an all-in-one hotel, music and karaoke venue on Friday nights, golf course, and wedding reception destination, with the new 4000 square-foot tent. In addition, friends of the restaurant that ski can take advantage of the rolling hills and ski during the snow season (if you are a Houghton student and have at least one conversation with Patton, it is not hard to become a friend).

Like the owner, the food is also

authentically Irish. Starters include the Dublin Bay Prawns, Guinness and Harp onion rings, curry chip, mushrooms, and a few other delicious and affordable options. Soup and Salads include chowder, iceberg salad, Guinness beef vegetable soup, and chicken salad, among a few other classics, while the main course is the traditional Irish fare, with bangers and champ (Irish sausage and potatoes), chicken, burgers, and a very delicious shepherd's pie. The house special is always the fish fry, and on the colder winter days, there are multiple roasts and stews to choose from.

Patton is always coming up with cunning new ways to serve dessert, and they never disappoint. He favors Houghton students with previews and tastings of upcoming desserts, asking for honest opinions. The latest to join the menu is a dark chocolate orange cake: a thick piece of cake easily split by two people, drizzled in chocolate sauce and cream. Other favorites are the dark chocolate Guinness cake, bread pudding, and apple tart.

Patton is now offering a special deal to all Houghton students. If you let him know that you are from Houghton, he will take an extra 10% off your meal (just tell him Joyce sent you). After a few visits, it is easy to become a regular with Patton -- he never forgets a face -- and after a few, if you order the same thing, he will remember it for you.

Another deal for the students looking to eat well and away from the Campus Center for a night is the Sunday lunch special. The Pub now offers a steal of soup, salad, entrée, and dessert for \$13 -- it is a deal not to be missed. Call ahead with reservations, because space will fill up fast!

Finding Freedom from Authentic Unholiness



by ASHLEY COUCH

Lately I've been exploring how freedom in Christ is supposed to interact with holiness. This question hasn't really bothered me until lately, mainly because I just assumed I knew how they interacted. I suppose, in theory, I do know how they interact. Christ's sacrifice on the cross allows us to accept His righteousness to cover our dirtiness which brings us freedom because we no longer have to act a certain way to gain God's forgiveness. We live lives of holiness out of love, gratitude, and submission to the One who saved us from sin and from the law. Yes, okay. *But how?* What does it look like to live a holy life that is freed from the law? I don't have any definite answers, but what I do have is my story to share. Maybe it will help someone seek honest answers of their own.

This question began bothering me at the beginning of this semester. I can't say why, exactly, it decided to remain dormant

for the past 11 years of my Christian life. Probably it had a lot to do with the fact that the tradition in which I was raised tends to emphasize holiness and downplay freedom. The early years of my life (and by "early" I mean pretty much until my sophomore year at Houghton) were spent pursuing a God I sincerely believed was loving and forgiving, but was perhaps growing weary with my repeated failure. I used to wish that I struggled with big, tangible sins, instead of the general, insipid meanness that seemed to pervade every part of my being and brought me back to my prayers of confession every night, hoping that when Jesus told Peter to forgive 70 times seven times, he actually meant an innumerable amount of times and not only 490. Yes, I did the math. In short, I was afraid because the God in whom I believed was only as loving and forgiving as I was. Beginning to grasp His grace has been the most important thing I've learned at Houghton. It's been liberating.

Which brings me to this semester, and a struggle of a completely different kind. If you've grown up in the Western Church, you'll know what I mean when I say I began to feel antsy. Cloistered. I was starting to feel that my religion might be squeezing

the authenticity out of every relationship I had, including the God one. I was upset to learn that my friends had been hiding parts of their lives from me out of a sort of Romans 14 respect for my hyper-sensitive conscience. I was scared that cultivating the fruits of the Spirit would mean forcing myself to become one of those likeable people who smiles constantly, speaks softly, and disagrees rarely.

Here I made my first mistake and started pursuing "freedom," with only a vague idea of what I meant by the word. The pursuit was totally reactionary: I felt stifled by the call to love unconditionally (Ro 13:8), so I began allowing "authentic" emotion to guide my interactions. I felt bound by the call to purity of speech (Eph 5:4), so I began saying what was better left unsaid. "Freedom in Christ" came to mean permission to cater to my every impulse as I sought authenticity in relationships. I actually was fairly liberating for the first few days; I felt empowered and proud. But I

soon found that I couldn't snap out of the selfishness and arrogance in which I was indulging. Selfishness and arrogance are certainly "authentic" aspects of my current character, and as I gave myself more room to express my authentic unholiness, these

aspects began to take over. I got more and more frustrated as what was authentic for me became less and less Christ-like and the freedom I was pursuing started looking like just another form of bondage.

God spoke to me, as He does, when I was done being independent and was ready to listen. He did not give hard-and-fast answers because He's not the kind of God who counts to make sure we haven't asked for forgiveness more than 490 times. The result is that I have little to offer that is concrete. It's better that way.

Here's the bottom line: "God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life" (1 Thes 4:7). We are not called to pursue freedom; we are called to pursue God, and He has told us to be holy. I learned that holiness often has little to do with whether specific actions are Right or Wrong, and everything to do with whether or not the heart behind those actions is authentically pursuing God. Pursuing God through holiness might mean swallowing thoughts and feelings that are authentic but which belong to what Paul calls our "sinful nature." In this way, freedom is slow in coming, because it arrives gradually as God's Spirit begins to change our authentic thoughts and feelings from those of the sinful nature to those of the Spirit. That's okay — bringing freedom is Christ's job, not mine. Freedom is not what I am called to pursue, God is. And Christ is God, and Christ is truth. And it is truth that will set you free.

Ashley is a senior English major

What was authentic for me became less and less Christ-like and the freedom I was pursuing started looking like just another form of bondage

The Penultimate Word / Delaying Marriage, Fetishizing Weddings



by ELISA SHEARER

A study by the Pew Research Center revealed that while in 1960 72% of adults were married, only 51% were in 2010. The median age of first marriages also went up about 6 years — 28.7 for men and 26.5 for women; up from 22.8 and 20.3 (respectively) in 1960.

And the statistics aren't just a reflection of a higher marriage age. Less 18- to 29-year-old parents are married than when the previous generation was the same age. 51% of 18- to 29-year-olds have had a child out of wedlock, while only 39% of Gen Xers had a child while out of wedlock between 18 and 29. So this whole marriage thing isn't just delayed — it is, if not being foregone, no longer a necessity before having children.

A lot of interpreters of these statistics suggest that marriage is being taken less seriously, an idea which certainly has merit: the rising divorce rate makes divorce a less socially discouraged decision and therefore diminishes the permanent sense of the commitment taken. Also, varied living options and mobile societies make the legal ramifications of marriage more public and the

moral ramifications less so; no longer a church ceremony involving the boy down the street and a community event, marriage is for many people more about tax laws and the legal status than the community proclamation.

Those things are probably true. But I suggest that there might be another factor: that, as much as marriage is becoming unimportant socially, we are taking weddings way too seriously psychologically.

To the Millennials (born between 1980 and 2000 — so, most of you reading this), weddings were presented as the Happy Ending to stories. Marriage was the denouement — the end-all-be-all — the MacGuffin (the end goal in movies that serves as the ultimate motivation for the entire plot).

Disney movies, early romantic comedies, books, and plays (and like every musical ever) all dramatize the beginning of a relationship, before commitment, when things are exciting (right?), and offer a wedding at the end as the proof of success. The "princess wedding" idea also may have had something to do with Princess Di's wedding — or at least, that spectacle didn't hinder the fairy-tale story by any rate.

The idea of the princess wedding fascinated females of our entire generation. I wasn't/am not by any means terribly prone to these types of activities, but even I can remember slumber party discussions of wedding colors, flower selections, and first-dance-song-choices. And if we (women) didn't fantasize about our wedding, the media told us that we were supposed to: "[Your fiancé] has probably been planning it since she was five!", a character said to her brother on *Friends*. "Ever since the first time she took a pillowcase and hung it off the back of her head. That's what we

did! We dreamed about the perfect wedding, and the perfect place, with the perfect four-tiered wedding cake, with the little people on top."

So we, in a weird way, take marriage way too seriously — idealistically. We fetishize it. It has to be Perfect — and so we have modest weddings costing about \$10,000 and shows like *Bridezilla*, alongside a half-and-half(ish) divorce rate and the married adult population decreasing by about a third in 50 years. Fairy-tale representations of weddings may be part of the cause of marriage's approachingly fictional status.

This increase in expectations in our generation might also affect the increase in marriage age — the tendency among young adults now is to become established (don't get married before you own your own home!) and stable before marriage, instead of going

through that scarier economic climb with your spouse. The wedding has to be perfect, and therefore so does the relationship and one's economic status — and so we wait.

Is this a bad thing? After all, 44% of Millennials think that marriage is becoming an obsolete institution. Cohabitation is increasingly popular. One possible trouble might lie in the instability of couples leading to more single, economically depressed parents, raising children and working on their own: quite the contrast to the fairy-tale endings we grew up hearing about.

Elisa is a senior English and psychology major

Letters to the Editor

houghtonstar@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

This Saturday night was an enlightening experience. My fiancé and I spent the day at the relationship seminar and were in the cafeteria chomping on some Sandella's and going over the seminar materials, discussing what we had learned. It was a great conversation and we were just about to pray, hands clasped and heads bowed together, when there was an unwelcome and embarrassing intrusion. "This isn't some kind of make out place. You're going to have to go somewhere else," said the security guard before taking off as if we carried some plague. Nice to know that Houghton security can't tell the difference between prayer and tonsil hockey.

Not only did this ruin the mood of our nice date, this also failed to shock me. Houghton can't handle sex, be it hand holding, deep eye contact, whatever. The lot of it is just too offensive to happen on Houghton campus, right?

Remember Friday's chapel, a frank and honest talk about sex? Remember the series of Star articles and load of Letters to the Editor? Houghton is a place trying to talk about sex but held back by one thing: our vaunted "community." The Houghton bubble, fishbowl, peepshow, whatchamacallit is collectively uncomfortable with sex.

I know I'm guilty of it too: the groaning at every new couple, the assumptions that they're just going to make out, but that doesn't change the fact that discussing sex at Houghton, let alone holding hands, is made impossible

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK / Trivializing Combat and Sanitizing War



by ANDRÉ NELSON

A rather unsettling use of Google Maps' Application Programming Interface (API) was created by a Dutch advertising agency last year. Pool Worldwide combined Google Street View and an assault rifle to create "Google Shoot View." Users can tour the world, on real streets, shooting in a first-person-style shooter. Finding this concept somewhat disturbing, I decided to see the reactions among my acquaintances on Facebook. A few of the responses I received read something along the lines of, "People need to get out their aggression or else it will overpower them. Finding ways of getting out one's aggression, eroticism, and hatred in non-hurtful ways are extremely important in today's world." Another wrote, "Pretending to kill people is a good nonviolent way (no one gets hurt) of getting out one's violence. Sports, watching sports, working out, taking

the Eucharist are all more examples of ways we get out our aggression." And lastly, "I would like to point out that not all first person shooters simulate killing innocent people. In fact, most of the [ones] I've played have the main character fighting for some greater good."

I do not believe this is limited to a religious view point so I will not dwell on it, though the concept of "being made in the image of God" is one that should trigger thought in those who claim to be Christian. If we are made in His image, and we are simulating killing, for what ever reasons, are we not mocking His image? Surely it cannot be argued that "justification of actions" applies to a video game -- no "greater good" compels us to sit on a couch and simulate shooting a human regardless of the title we assign to them on the screen.

The reasons for playing these games vary. Some do it to release stress, to which I would respond that getting one's anger out via simulations of killing is essentially no different than releasing ones pent up sexual tension via pornography and masturbation. The fact is we will always have anger and aggression just as we will always have sexual anxiety (the only way out of these is castration and lobotomies, both of which are practiced by extremes ascetics). The question is: are these truly good alternatives? Well, in a world void of absolutes, in a world where there are no consequences for moral or immoral actions, merely consequences for acting out those impulses on our fellow human beings then yes I would agree these are "good" alternatives.

Whatever our reasons for playing, we must be intentional in knowing just why we play simply due to the realities of real war. An article from the *Escapist Magazine* featured D.B. Grady, a former U.S. Army Special Operations Command paratrooper and veteran of operations in Afghanistan. Grady

commented on the new Call of Duty Modern Warfare 3. This commercial follows a "veteran" and a "rookie" taking heavy fire in the streets of New York City, as they calmly walk through the flying bullets returning fire with a variety of weapons. In describing this commercial he stated that it was, "hideous," a new low, and "trivializes combat and sanitizes war to an extreme."

In an article in *The Atlantic* Grady comments "after ten years of constant war, of thousands of amputees and flag-draped coffins, of hundreds of grief-stricken communities, did nobody involved in this commercial raise a hand and say, 'You know, this is probably a little crass. Maybe we could just show footage from the game.'"

As we speak the war in Afghanistan is intensifying, the rate of mental illnesses from Iraq are higher than ever and tension continues to rise with Iran. Is now the time to sell the nation on the joys of war?

Grady ends his article commenting on the ending of the commercial, "Two smug, A-list clowns strut toward the camera, rifles hanging over their shoulders, explosions consuming the city of New York, and then the words: 'THERE'S A SOLDIER IN ALL OF US.'"

Grady ends his article: "Two smug, A-list clowns strut toward the camera, and then the words: 'THERE'S A SOLDIER IN ALL OF US.' No, there's not."

ALL OF US.'... No, there's not," states Grady.

I do not write this as a condemnation of such games, I am sure that a significant percentage of service men and women own a copy of *Modern Warfare 3*. But given the implications of these games we need to be aware of the true horrors of war.

We cannot allow these games to sanitize and trivialize war, the suffering of orphans and the widows both American and foreign, when we line up that iron site on the Computer Generated Image's forehead and squeeze the trigger and watch the blood spray. How is it affecting us and, furthermore, what is it saying in regards to our view of the victims of war and combat?

Andre is a sophomore communication major

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by this attitude. How can you talk about sex and relationships frankly and honestly, discuss something so personal and vulnerable, with everyone from Safety and Security to your roommate watching and judging? We are on a small campus in the middle of nowhere in winter. There is nowhere to go and nothing you can do to avoid the prying eyes of the entire "community." Perhaps discussing sexuality and relationships would be easier, and less of my dates would get interrupted, if we could get over ourselves and try understanding before judging. Otherwise we're all doomed to remain the ignorant and repressed bunch of Christians the world thinks we are.

-Chris Clark, Class of 2012

Dear Editor,

Am I the only one that actually doesn't think we need to talk about sex more often? After attending the sex and relationships (but mostly sex) panel, and hearing Mr. and Mrs. Barnes in chapel, it seems there is a common belief that Christians just aren't talking about sex enough. While the statement was probably true five years ago, I don't think it still rings true today. Many youth groups talk about sex, my pastor spoke from the pulpit on it several times a year, and most parents talk to their kids about it. I feel that while Christians have neglected to speak up about sex in the past, it seems today that we are shifting to the opposite extreme and obsessing over the topic.

While I feel it is an important to

have healthy conversations about sex, I also feel we are missing the point when we obsess over the topic. What worries me is, while I have heard many Christian messages about sex, I have heard very few on what it takes to have a strong and healthy relationship with another person. My frustration is while many speakers, books, pastors, youth leaders, and yes, even parents will tell me that sex is awesome, very few offer guidance on building lasting relationships. The message is often "sex is so awesome!" Alright, I don't think it takes a genius to figure out that sex is awesome; most people will probably figure that out long before they actually have sex or even have a significant other.

How many marriages fail because of a bad sex life? (Not many.) While sex may have gone bad in a divorced relationship, the root of the problem is usually an unresolved conflict of some sort. So while we are at Houghton, can we talk

about how to build healthy relationships and how to deal with conflicts when they come?

It seems that today we are following the culture norm and obsessing about sex. Jesus didn't seem to be too

interested in sex; however, he did talk about relationships quite frequently.

-Michaela Siau, Class of 2012

What do you think about Ryan Spear's suggestion that the Highlander cow be our new mascot?



I think the Highlander makes for a better mascot.

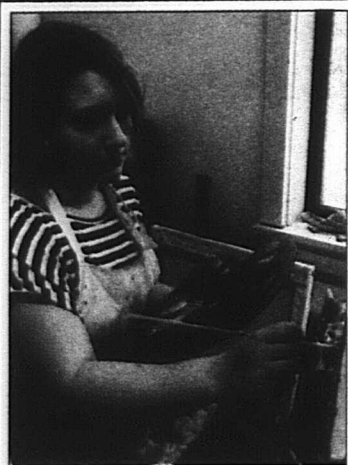
I think it's a great idea!

Answer this week's poll at www.boughtonsstar.com

Corrections:

In the February 17 "Man on the Street," the answers attributed to Gordon Brown were actually said by Kurtis Perry, and the answers attributed to Kurtis Perry were said by Gordon Brown.

On the Artist of the Week page of the February 17 issue, Beth Larter's pieces were mistitled. The correct titles are, clockwise from the top as they were printed, "Workmanship," digital photograph; "Among Us," digital photo manipulation; "The Little Mermaid," digital photo manipulation; "A stranger's Garden," digital photo manipulation and letterpress.



ANDREA PACHECO

LACEY HELMUTH

Through my art I attempt to bring out a beauty that I believe everyone should be able to see. I hope that when they look at my art they can glimpse something of what I see when I look at the world and all of its wonderful, brilliant aspects. I think depicting people especially is one of my passions. My dream is in illustration, and I hope that with practice and persistence I can bring to life all of the many characters and places described in words and stories.

Lacey is a sophomore art major with concentrations in drawing and painting.

Clockwise from top: "Untitled", oil; "Michelangelo's Crouching Boy", graphite; "Colors Come and Go", oil, tape, paper

ARTIST OF THE WEEK



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

SUDOKU

To win a free Java drink, bring your finished puzzle, clearly marked with your full name and CPO, to the Star office in the basement of the Campus Center (deadline: WED 3/7 by 6PM)

2/17 Sudoku Solution:

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

Last week's winner was ELLEN MUSULINI! Your Java card will be sent to you through campus mail.