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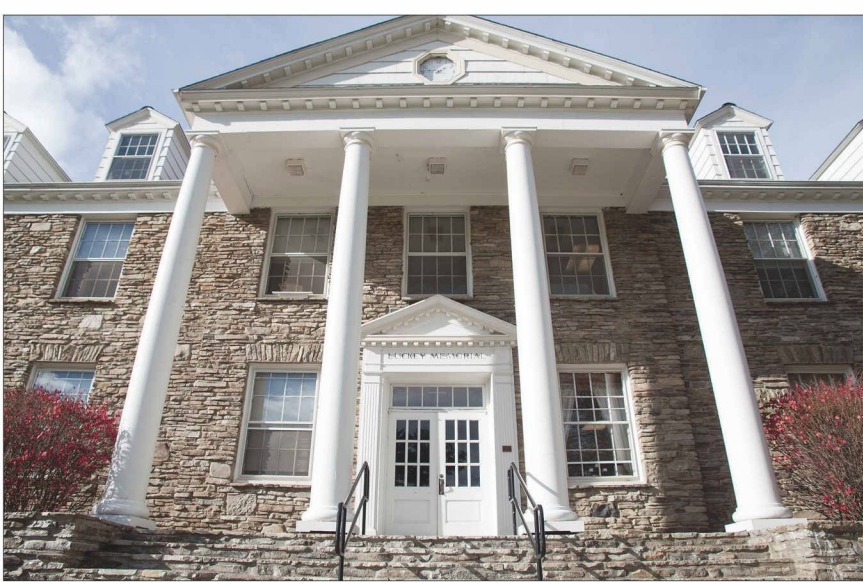
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November 8, 2013 Vol. 110, No. 8



College Announces Significant Academic Budget Cuts for 2014-2015



The Luckey Building

LUKE LAUER

SARAH HUTCHINSON

Faced with an unbalanced budget and two years of low enrollment, President Mullen and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dean Mills Woolsey, announced significant cuts in academics for the 2014-2015 academic year.

The information was first announced to faculty and staff on Wednesday morning and then made publicly available on the Houghton website for alumni, students, and parents soon afterward.

"I resonate with the agony of this process," said President Mullen referencing her own experience as an educator.

The cuts include program eliminations, faculty reductions and cuts, academic administration restructuring, deferred hiring, and significant curricular reorganization.

The main aim of the recent budget decisions are to stabilize the economy of the college. According to Mills Woolsey, the college was forced to cut at least 10-15% of the academic budget due to several issues, the chief of which is declining enrollment -- an issue that has plagued the college for the past two years. In addition to this, a deficit budget from last year, rising healthcare costs, the issue of faculty salaries, and added debt from the Kerr-Pegula fieldhouse also contributed to Houghton's financial difficulties and prompted the cuts.

Among the programs proposed to be eliminated are the French concentration and minor, the informational technology management major, the Islamic studies concentration and minor, the psycholinguistics concentration, and the visual studies major. The elimination of these programs was judged based on the level of appeal and student involvement. "We have a number of good programs," said Mills Woolsey, "but some of them

See BUDGET page 3

JET Funding Woes Come to an End

JOANNA FRIESEN

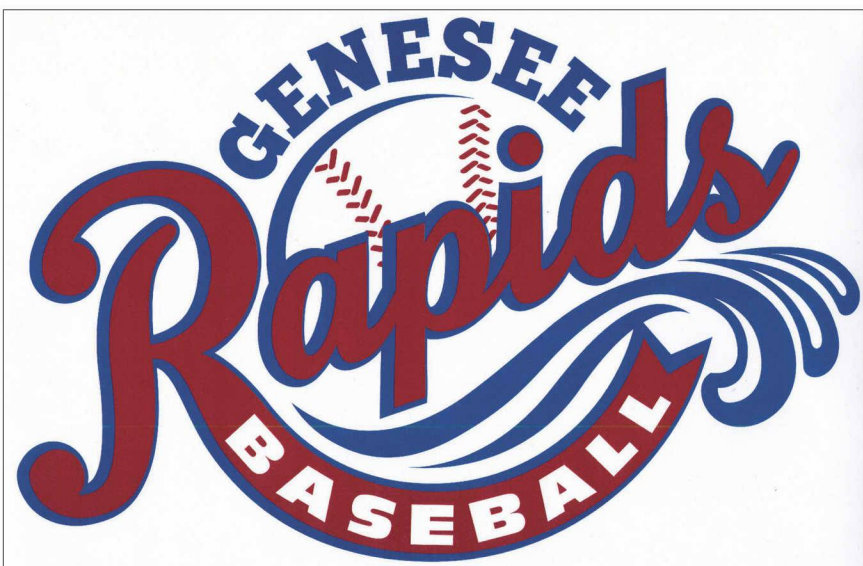
Journey's End Tutoring (JET) has had trouble finding funds this year. Its operation and future funding have been uncertain as JET leaders are transitioning the program into a more reliable and sustainable budget.

JET is a changing group of Houghton students that have been serving refugee families in Buffalo since 2004. These tutors develop relationships with the families, help them to learn English, and navigate their transition into American culture. JET is a student-led organization, not an official club. Because of this, funding for JET has come from different sources over the years.

JET's top expense (the bare necessity) is transportation; however JET leaders expressed excitement and enthusiasm at the thought of what could be done with more funding. "With more funding, we could invest in ESL curriculum, picture books, markers and crayons, educational games, and we could buy more resources to support the incredible teaching and ministry taking place in Buffalo," said Stephanie Ford.

See JET page 2

Collegiate Baseball Team "Genesee Rapids" to Debut Next Summer



COURTESY OF RALPH KERR

Current Genesee Rapids logo

GRETCHEN REEVES

Upcoming efforts to transform incoming traffic to the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex into a positive, continual impact on Houghton may have another attraction to accommodate: that of a collegiate summer baseball team.

The idea for such a team was

formed by Houghton graduate Ralph Kerr along with the input of the other members in the Houghton Group, an organization working to bring new business and development to the Houghton area with the new traffic brought in by the athletic complex. Originally inspired by his grandson's position on the Niagara Power team last summer, Kerr began to consider the possibility of bringing such a team

to the Allegany County area. "When I saw not just him but other young men from all over the country having an opportunity to grow as Christians and using baseball as a vehicle to do that, I was really thinking it would be terrific if we could replicate that same thing in Houghton where we already have such a beautiful facility that is just going to sit vacant all summer long," said Kerr.

After convening a group of potential supporters of a new team and presenting his idea to them, community interest in the project became evident. Kerr was also eventually able to gain support from the Houghton Group in finding support from local businesses, including advertising on the field during games, and from members of the team board, who typically make a financial contribution to the team and participate in its management. Further support comes from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), of which the team is an affiliate, which is able to funnel donations to the team through its website.

One of the aspects of the team which drew interest was its potential to bring traffic to Houghton dur-

See BASEBALL page 3

Winter Sports Begin Training for 2013 Season

LAUREL WROBLICKY

As fall sports conference play comes to a close, winter sports begin their training. The men's and women's basketball rosters have been finalized and preseason practices have begun for the 2013 season.

The men's team has many new players on the team this year due to the loss of four starters. As of now, no captains have been named and may not be for the remainder of the season.

"We actually have guys in every class who have stepped into leadership roles, which has been fun to see," said Coach Hannan, "Even if a freshman steps up and tries to help a senior, it has been a good dynamic."

"I think [the start of the season] is good. We have a lot of young guys who are doing well and adjusting well," said sophomore Brandon Camacho, "We have a lot of guys who have come back and are ready to step up and play better. It looks pretty good this year, so we will see."

See TRAINING page 3

WORLD // Bangladesh Faces Uncertain Future



LUKE LAUER

KATHARINE LABRECQUE

As it stands, Bangladesh faces a future of political and economic uncertainty. The escalation of hostilities could not have worse timing as the country confronts extreme poverty and a rapidly depreciating manufacturing sector. Within the last month, the country has seen a rapid increase of violence and political unrest as opposition parties increase their capacity in the upcoming election. Additionally, such anti-government protests have

forced thousands off the streets of the capital Dhaka as police and paramilitary guards attempt to confine and subdue the opposition. As the January 2014 general election approaches, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) continues to put pressure on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, to install a neutral, non-partisan administration to oversee the voting process. However, despite the protests and fighting, Hasina and opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia have failed to come to an agreement despite the desperate state of affairs. In response to the stalemate, the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations have advocated for both parties to come to an expedient consensus in the upcoming months.

Historically, Bangladesh has experienced significant pre-election violence. Dating back to 1996, polls have been interrupted and aborted as a result of intense violence. In 2007, voting was halted due to party opposition that led to military intervention to install a ‘caretaker’ or temporary government. A precedent and mutual distrust among the two leading parties has made elections virtually impossible and less effective.

Furthermore, violent clashes with police and protesters since October 26 have left at least fifteen dead and many more injured. Bangladesh reporters have posted photos of burn

victims from recent strikes involving the use of arson. The intensified violence, particularly this year, can be attributed to the war crime tribunal set up in 2010 to try those involved in the human rights violations during the 1971 war in which Bangladesh sought independence from Pakistan. In the wake of verdicts, 150 people have been killed and more than 2,000 people injured by police officials, according to a recent Human Rights Watch report. In relation to the hostilities, the political crisis has also forced store owners and their employees to close their business, pushing an already weak and fragile economy further into a bleak trap. Waiting has burdened their capacity to work, earn money, and provide an income for their starving families as they wait for the violence to subside. “We need to go to the office, we need to work,” exclaimed Abdus Salam, who is one of many local business owners desperately waiting for a political agreement between the conflicting parties.

Moreover, only to add to the tension, poor safety standards and recent incidents have put a halt to the country’s main export. Bangladesh is the second leading exporter of readymade garments, accounting for almost 80% of the country’s exports. Appealing to the government, workers have demanded higher wages

and better working conditions. The death of more than a thousand workers within the last year has prompted the global community to scrutinize and condemn the working conditions within the factories. However, Bangladesh’s wage board had proposed an increase of less than what the union demanded, claiming to represent the needs of both the factory owners and the workers. In addition, despite the increase, Bangladesh’s minimum wage will remain one of the lowest in the world.

Decades of rivalry and political division have severely undermined the legitimacy of an effective government in Bangladesh. The country’s future is becoming increasingly uncertain as it remains trapped in a persistent cycle of poverty and turmoil. Can the international community intervene? What will it take to break the cycle of hopelessness, poverty, and repression? As global spectators, we note these questions are all too often repetitive, especially as we consider other countries across the globe who have faced various situations of economic and political instability. ★

Katharine is a junior political science and international development major

JET from page 1

In the past JET was funded by a number of sources. The most significant source was the contribution of Dr. Chuck Massey (professor of Urban Studies in Buffalo) from his budget, and the money that he pieced together from various sources in Buffalo. JET’s budget was usually composed of 3-5 sources at a time. “We always found the money somehow,” said JET president Jina Libby.

This year, JET has experienced a decline in funding for a number of reasons: Dr. Chuck Massey retired, Dr. Galman (who also funded JET) retired, and there have been budget cuts.

Right now, JET is in transition between funding sources. In this phase the SGA has been supportive by ap-

proving JET for \$1,500 to use this year. JET is transitioning into more sustainable and reliable private funding. Leading this venture is Andrew Gaerte (an advancement and grant officer for Houghton), who is looking for possible donors and pursuing grants for future years. “We currently have a proposal for funding into one of our Western New York Church Partners for funding for the fall 2013 – spring 2014 JET program.... We are also currently working on a grant for the Western New York Foundation to fund the program for the following two years. Our ultimate goal in approaching foundations for funding is to make the funding of the program more secure and sustainable.” said Gaerte.

So how has JET been doing so far this semester in light of the transition? “Without God’s blessing, JET

wouldn’t have happened this year... we had no money to call our own, and borrowed to start out. It was a questionable start that God has blessed.” said Libby.

This year, JET has economized its transportation costs by switching to vans. Previously, one bus and a driver would be hired to take the tutors to Buffalo. The average cost per trip was \$475, and per semester \$7600. This year, for the first two weeks buses were used and the cost was covered by funds from Greg Bish (on loan to be repaid later by JET). The last few weeks (and the plan for the rest of the year) is for three 11-passenger vans to be driven by certified students, cutting costs down to just gas expenses. The extrapolated cost of this semester is \$2300.

JET leaders Caralyn Weisel, Jina Libby, Stephanie Ford, Tiffany

Aguas, and Bethany Hillegas all expressed hope for JET’s future and pride in how it has been continuing (even without the people who started it initially).

“Everyone loves JET; it is a core part of Houghton. Everyone wants to help and that is encouraging,” said Bethany Hillegas. JET has been promoted and pushed as a fundamental part of Houghton’s outreach to prospective students, and is in its 9th year of operation. Pamela Witter, Executive Director of Development and the chair of Leadership Allegany summarized JET’s importance to Houghton’s impact, saying, “JET is a very important component of Houghton’s presence in Buffalo and we feel that it is essential to the success of all of our other initiatives in Buffalo as well.” ★

Music Industry Minor to be Offered Soon

ZAC PARSONS

A Music Industry minor has been approved to be included in next year’s catalog. Steven Plate, Associate Dean and Director of the Greatbatch School of Music, said, “We’re excited to be venturing into this vast and exciting area of music.”

Mark Hijleh, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and professor of

composition and conducting, said, “Offering the music industry minor is an important part of Houghton’s positioning itself for the future. All musicians in the 21st century need to have basic understanding of music technology, recording and the business aspects of music. Having this developing program will provide opportunities for many of our students to gain those abilities and perspectives, in addition to those that go into the field directly.”

The Music Industry minor focuses on business and management aspects of music. Facets studied in the minor include: Commercial music, like sales and music marketing entrepreneurship, performance, artisty, recording industry, music videos,

and music editing; and, in addition to commercial music theory, topics such as sound manipulation, and live concert or theatrical elements.

Mark Hijleh said, “In addition to students who want to pursue the music industry professionally, and might major in either business or music, some students who are going into the ministry are likely to be interested.”

Plate said the courses will be accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music and also that two courses, ProTools I and II, will issue certificates that are internationally recognized. All courses in the minor will be beneficial for students looking to use music talents for more than just personal enjoyment. ★

Write for us!



Inquire at:
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BASEBALL *from page 1*

ing the summer, a time during which many faculty and students leave the area, leaving a void of activity. “The first thing is simply people coming to their games from out of town. It becomes summer evening fun, wholesome entertainment. Around here, that’s pretty hard to come by. There’s not much going on here during the summertime,” said Ken Bates, a business professor at Houghton, a Houghton Group member, and a team board member. Adding that team members would most likely be staying in the town during practices and home games, Bates cited this as another source of economic activity in the area. Phyllis Gaerte, director of community relations at Houghton College and a Houghton Group member, spoke similarly. “More people in town to support small business is important, and having small businesses to provide for the needs of people who come to town is important,” she said.

As for the team itself, which has been named the Genesee Rapids, the search for skilled players has already begun. The team was awarded a franchise three months ago by the New York Collegiate Baseball League, a league which already comprises twelve other teams from the state of New York. The League was initially hesitant to take on another team, but after a representative toured the athletic field on the college campus, an agreement was reached. “[He] saw our field, walked around the grounds, and got quite excited about the possibility. ...he said something to the effect that this field was on par with some of the fields in the major

leagues,” related Bates. Players on teams in the league must be registered college students by the time they play summer games, so most members are typically sophomores or juniors. Describing the recruitment process, Kerr explained, “The League receives applications from players from all over the country and they forward those to us ... [and] they fill out a formal application that includes something about their testimony and where they are in their relationship with God as well as the position they’d like to play, a little bit about how well they play, and then we have references from their college coach and then some other references as well.” Kerr explained that the motivation to play on an intercollegiate team isn’t just for entertainment purposes. Some players have intentions of continuing to play even after college. “In 2010, 38 of the players from the league were actually offered major league baseball contracts,” Kerr said.

With recruitment already underway, those involved with the Genesee Rapids have a vision for what the final team will look like. “We are recruiting from all over the United States and Canada, and so we expect to have 30 players on the team. We may have some players from the college team, but we’re limited to four,” said Kerr. Also aiming to achieve ministry through baseball, it is hoped that team members will be Christians or have some foundation or expressed interest in exploring the Christian faith. “What we’re looking for at a minimum is young men who aren’t afraid to have people talk about Christ with them,” said Kerr. “If we can witness to a young man

who’s willing to be witnessed to, I’m all for that.” So far, the creation of the team has continued with positive results. “Just today we offered 12 contracts to our first 12 recruits, so hopefully within the next couple of weeks we’ll be announcing some of our first sign-

ees,” said Kerr. Community outlook appears positive as well. “I feel this will be an asset to the community and a catalyst for economic development and community revitalization projects we’re working on right now for the hamlet of Houghton,” said Gaerte. ★



The complex under construction might be used by the team.

TRAINING *from page 1*

The men recently had a scrimmage against Wells College. Coach Hannan was excited for the team to play against a team that plays in a very different style. “Ultimately, it boils down to making sure that we are better than last year, not that there was anything bad about last year, but we want to keep improving both on and off the court,” said Hannan, “Spiritually, academically, athletically we want to continue to improve each year.”

The women’s team has only six returners. There are ten new players including seven freshmen and three juniors. Senior Kristen Moose and sophomore Esther Webb have been named captains. “We are starting off really strong. We had a really good scrimmage on Saturday and we are working well as a team,” said sophomore Maisie Pipher. “We want to be strong in the new league and beat Roberts Wesleyan.” “It is a great group of girls this year, we got along really well together on and off the court,” said junior Hannah Fink. “I think we are all pretty focused and hard-working so it’s a good group to be a part of. Coach has

been running a really good program.” The team recently had their first scrimmage against Keuka, a strong team which was 24-4 last season with returning starters. Houghton was short a couple key players due to their involvement in other sports; yet, Mucher was pleased with their first performance. “We have some strengths: we run the floor really well, work well together as a team, better than we did last year right from the start at this point,” said Mucher. “I think it’s because our team chemistry off the court is so strong.... The girls really enjoy each other and that really affects the team.” Mucher noted the play of sophomore Maisie Pipher as a center and excitement for Marie to play after tearing both ACLs. Juniors Hannah Fink and Stephany Ellison and freshmen Alicia Needham, Grace Bealor, and Hannah Manwaring were noted as new players having an immediate impact. “I think it is going to take a semester to get into things and get used to the system and the expectations,” said Mucher. “By second semester, when all we have is conference games, I think we will be ready when it comes.” ★

BUDGET *from page 1*

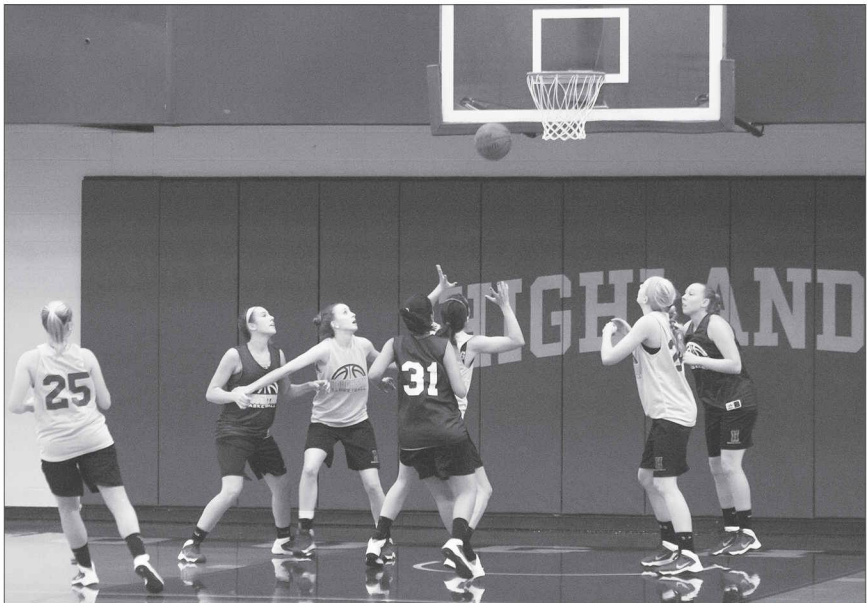
didn’t take off or appeal to students.” Students currently enrolled in any of the eliminated programs can expect to have a way to complete their work. Along with program eliminations, others, such as the Greatbatch School of Music, are being asked, in Mullen’s words, to “creatively scale-back” their methods of operation in order to help relieve the college budget. Faculty will also be experiencing reductions and eliminations. The Dean hopes to speak to the faculty that have had their positions reduced or eliminated by November 15. In addition, though hiring will not be completely frozen, some key hires in sociology, finance, web media, and chemistry will be deferred. Many currently vacant positions and positions lost through attrition are also not expected to be filled in the near future.

Academic administration will also be changing as a result of the cuts. The Dean hopes to move the seven academic areas to four and reduce the 18 departments to 11 or 12. This is not expected to have much of an impact on students, though it will affect the faculty. In the decision making process, the President and the Academic Dean were presented with the decision to declare financial exigency, a condition that could have made the options for cutting costs much simpler, but it was not a route that they thought was appropriate for Houghton’s current predicament. “We don’t want to do that because it says the wrong message,” said Mills Woolsey,

“We’re not at the brink of financial disaster, although we’re at a really challenging spot.” Mills Woolsey continued to cite examples of sister Christian colleges who were able to turn their situations around without declaring financial exigency. Mills Woolsey and Mullen remain hopeful and see these cuts as an opportunity for future growth. While the primary motivator of the cuts is to balance the budget for the next academic year, a secondary motivator is “also to use the moment of cutting to get ourselves in a good position to be a strong college to meet the needs of contemporary students,” said Mills Woolsey. The task will be painful, though, said Mullen, and it will certainly “require ongoing creativity and grit.” ★



Fancher Hall



The women’s basketball team during a scrimmage

Franciscan Friars Welcomed with Open Arms

ASHLEY CARTWRIGHT

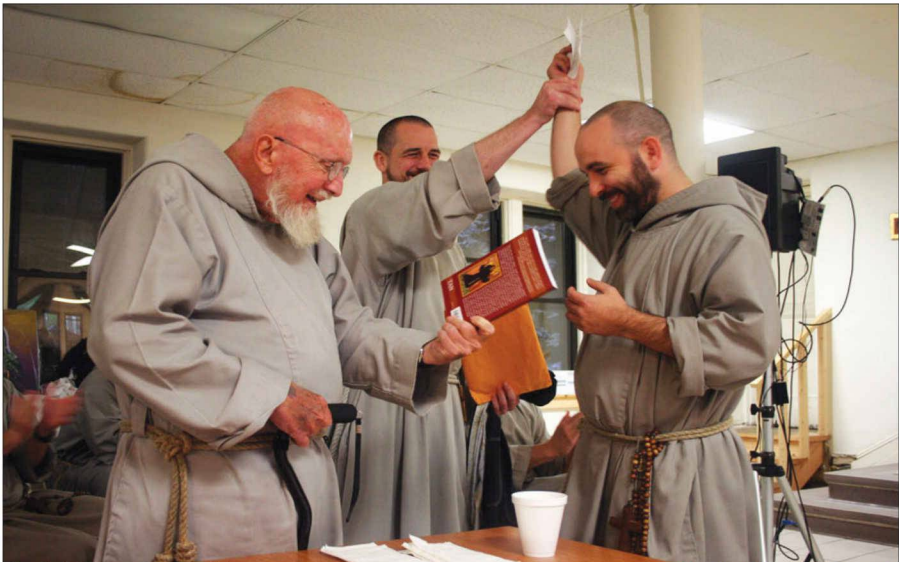
This week Houghton welcomed back the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, a group of both friars and sisters that have visited every few years since 1989. With their distinctive gray habits and cord around their waist, they were hard to miss. They seemed to be everywhere this week, engaging with students in the classroom as well as on campus.

The Friary began in the Bronx of New York, where they continue to meet the material and spiritual needs of the homeless in the New York area; needs such as setting up soup kitchens, providing food, counseling, clothing, and shelter for homeless people. Over the years they have been blessed, growing into multiple friaries and having the opportunity to travel, and visit places such as Houghton.

The friars and sisters enjoyed hanging out in the lounges, dining halls, and eating meals with the students. “They are accessible to our students, that is one of the gifts they bring,” said Michael Lastoria, Director of Counseling Services, and coordinator of the Franciscan Friars visits.

According to Lastoria, the friars and sisters are very knowledgeable and love to talk to the students about many topics such as the Reformation, social injustice, Roman Catholicism, the new Pope Francis, and a number of other things. Lastoria said, “both theologically and spiritually, they are a gifted group”.

At every meal the friars and sisters sat with students to engage them in conversations. On one of those nights during dinner, two of the sisters, Sister Mary Pieta and Sister Maria Grace, sat engaging in conversation with a table



Jovial Franciscan friars.

WWW.FRANCISCANFRIARS.COM

full of students.

Sister Mary Pieta, originally from Kansas, has been part of the convent for eight years. She attended a college very similar to Houghton, and during her junior year she began to enter in a deeper relationship with Jesus. “Feeling like my heart couldn’t be satisfied by anything but him, I had to give my life to him there wasn’t any other option. It was an impulsive love, someone who had given himself so totally for me,” she said with great passion and joy on her face.

The Franciscan Renewal was formed in the spring of 1987 by a group of friars with the intention of a communal reform within the Catholic Church. The friars observed a rise in theological confusion and false teachings made by the Catholic Church during the 1970s and 1980s. This crisis was causing a major decline in religious life, so the friars made the decision to start the renewal.

This community is made up of friars and sisters, embracing the gospel of Jesus Christ, adhering to the teachings of Saint Francis of Assisi, and keeping to the root of the Capuchin tradition. They show a strong passion in assisting the poor and the homeless as well as evangelizing to others.

Currently, the convent that Sister Mary Pieta and Sister Maria Grace both live in has a food pantry which distributes food to about 200 people. “You are

always giving food, but it’s always with a prayer, meeting their physical needs but hopefully also reaching to their spiritual needs as well,” said Pieta. They also have a Bible study, where they read scripture, pray, and have discussions with their neighbors. In addition to food pantries and Bible studies, their convent frequently participates in home visits, including those to nursing homes.

Lastoria said “I just love the spiritual activity that I see going on, the liveliness, and the energy that they bring

to campus, how they interact with the students. It’s a breath of fresh air.”

The friars and sisters had many opportunities to connect with the Houghton community this week. They were our special guests in chapel on both Wednesday and Friday with both services being led by father Glenn Sudano, one of the original members of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. During worship, the friars and sisters shared their musical and vocal talents, showing the great passion they have for their faith.

They expressed their Catholic faith by sharing an instructional sacrament of the mass with communion, which was one of the things Dean Jordan was looking forward to the most. In their words, this instructional mass “kind of unpacks it and helps people to see, and say ok this is what they’re doing and this is why they are saying this.”

After the mass, the friars held a jam session located in Java 101 where students, faculty, and staff were given the opportunity to worship alongside their new friar friends.

Jordan was excited to have them and said, “I think it’s important for our students to learn a little bit about what that subset of Christianity is like, I want

See FRIARS on page 5

DAILY CALENDAR	
8 / FRIDAY	
Artist Series: Rastrelli Cello Quartet	
7:30 PM Chapel	
9 / SATURDAY	
Athletics	
12 PM WBB @ SUNY Fredonia	
Adventure Trails Class	
1 PM Equestrian Center	
11 / MONDAY	
Graduate Recital: Robbie Stitt, composition	
8 PM	
12 / TUESDAY	
Athletics	
7 PM VB @ Roberts Wesleyan College	
Science and Math Colloquium	
11:45AM	
13 / WEDNESDAY	
Student Recital: Isaac Hutton, violin	
6:30 PM	
14 / THURSDAY	
Faculty Lecture: Jillian Sokso	
4:15PM	



Franciscan friars.

WWW.FRANCISCANFRIARS.COM

Behind the Scenes: Sodexo Student Supervisor, Ed Taylor

SAVANNAH DOVIAK

Ask any student worker in the Houghton Cafeteria about Ed Taylor and you will probably hear words like ‘dedicated,’ ‘humble,’ ‘supportive,’ and ‘hard working’ used to describe him. After working in the cafeteria for over 30 years, Ed Taylor is highly respected and looked up to by many.

“Working for Ed is like working for a favorite uncle. You know that he expects you to work hard, but you also know that he won’t let the job get too hard for you, and if you mess up, he’ll be right there to help you out,” explained senior, Benjamin Hardy.

Though many may not know of him, the students who work for Taylor speak very highly of him. Taylor currently works with Sodexo as the Student Supervisor, alongside his wife, Tracy Taylor, who also works in the Houghton Cafeteria. Taylor primarily works behind the scenes, though occasionally you can spot him around the cafeteria helping wherever he is need-



Ed Taylor is the student manager of the cafeteria

LUKE LAUER

ed and never failing to say hello to the students who pass him.

Becoming the Student Supervisor has allowed Taylor to create strong relationships with students and be

a role model for them. When talking with Taylor in the cafeteria, no matter the question, he always related his an-

See TAYLOR on page 5

Recommended Reads: Robert M. Pirsig “Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance”

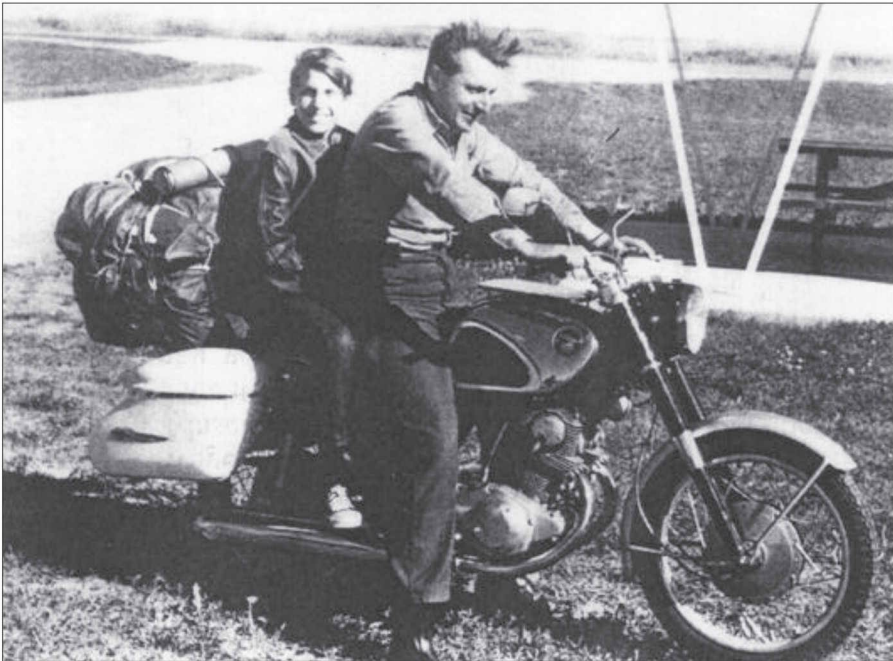
ALLYSON MURPHY

“Rather than love, than money, than fame, give me truth.” – Henry David Thoreau

Nature speaks to us and we constantly feel a transcendent urge to experience its sublime beauty. Our youth culture today often resonates strongly with this call of the wild. However, romantic yearning should not be flip-pantly sought after as a scapegoat by which humanity may bypass troubles in daily life. Too often people want to experience nature without further thought regarding the emotions they may become filled with.

After the above sentiments you may feel as if I starkly hope classical rationality may defeat this artistic and creative Romantic ideal. Let me quickly dismiss that thought: I do not con-done a conquest; I propose a balance.

As Robert M. Pirsig states in his book, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, “To reject the part of the Buddha that attends to the analy-sis of motorcycles is to miss the Bud-dha entirely.” This philosophical novel both explores the twisting back-roads of America, as well as surveys the many roads of reason within the mind. “Motorcycle riding is roman-tic and the motorcycle maintenance is purely classical.” Both are necessary parts that must exist in dichotomy with one another. This first-person narrative nonfiction chronicles a 17-day motor-cycle trip, that the author and his son take from Minnesota to California. The main highlights during this trip are the various philosophical discussions that Pirsig refers to as “Chautauquas”. The author wants to, “Pursue further now that same ghost that Phaedrus pursued-



Pirsig and his son on his motorcycle.

WWW.UNIVIE.AC.AT

rationality itself, that dull, complex, classical ghost for underlying form.” The name Phaedrus here serves as a third person outlook on the author, while also a reference to Plato’s dia-logue. Pirsig conveys how rationality is indeed often, “dull and complex,” but nevertheless important for human-ity to expound upon. Throughout the author’s pilgrimage of sorts he real-izes that, “the classic reality is primar-ily theoretic, but has its own esthetics too. The romantic reality is primarily esthetic, but has its theory too.” Pir-sig finds that both Eastern aesthetic emphasis and Western rationality are valuable philosophical understandings that will aid us in attaining individual spirituality.

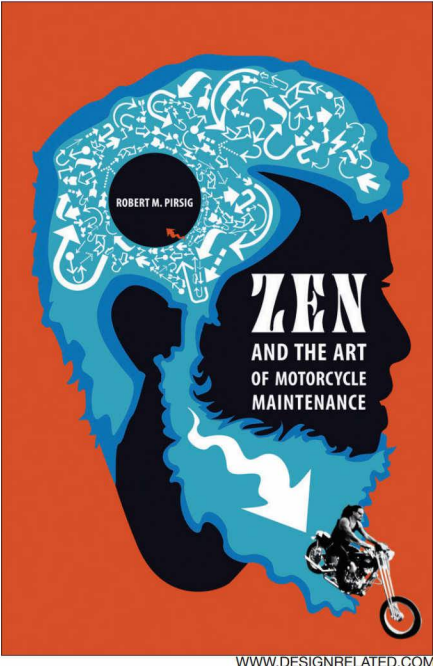
This new epiphany of Pirsig’s does

not set his mind at ease, but instead leads him to yet another question- the question of Quality. He wants to un-derstand how someone or something attains Quality, and soon his obsession over Quality begins to drive him to in-sanity. After a difficult time, his meta-physics of Quality cause him to con-clude that, “The Quality which creates the world emerges as a relationship between man and his experience. He (humanity) is a participant in the cre-ation of all things.” Therefore, Pirsig finds a viable means to link both Ro-mantic idealism and Classical reason-ing together in a fluid thought process, which compounds his own feelings to-wards the ideal of Quality.

Pirsig ultimately reminds us that if we want the “truth” that Thoreau and others speak of we cannot just go out

into the world. To seek comfort in Nature is fine, though we must re-member that we, as cognitive be-ings, must also realize our capacity for understanding beneath the sur-face qualities initially experienced.

Now, friends I urge you to begin your own Chautauqua. Curl up with a good book (e.g. this one) and a hot cup of coffee for the afternoon. Then go out into the crisp Novem-ber air and experience Nature for all that it may offer to you. And as Pirsig states, “Remember that it’s peace of mind you’re after and not just a fixed machine.” Eastern romantic appreciation and Western classical understanding are both necessary. Learn from both. Bal-ance both. Embrace both. ★



WWW.DESIGNRELATED.COM

“Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance” cover.



Pumpkin carving

RYAN MARTI

FRIARS from Page 4

them to see people who have given ev-erything to follow Jesus in a way that most Protestants don’t grow up thinking about it.

Sister Pieta expressed how it was a great joy to come and visit Houghton, and said it was a pleasure to be with the students, learn about them, the school, and its traditions. She also expressed how she hoped that her and her sisters

and the brothers were joyful witnesses to the Houghton community and said, “There is something unique and special about the brothers and the sisters and priests because we’re are consecrated and totally given over to Christ, so just even that witness of seeing someone who has given themselves totally and fully over to the Lord. Hopefully we hope [sic] to be an inspiration to you all; that it’s possible to live radically to Jesus in that way.” ★

TAYLOR from Page 4

swers about the students and how they are a big impact on his career. “That’s the only reason I’m still here, I like working with the college kids. I have fun,” said Taylor.

“He loves his student workers and the students who come up to eat in the cafeteria for four years of their life, and that care is very obvious.” said Hardy. This care was evident as Taylor and I talked alongside his co-workers, tak-ing time out of his short lunch break.

Ed Taylor graduated from Hough-ton College in 1982 with a degree in math education. He soon realized teaching was not for him after spend-ing a semester student teaching, which led to his career with Houghton Col-lege. He worked in the cafeteria through all four years as a Houghton student and continued to do so upon graduation. From 1982 to 1985 Pio-neer Dining Services sent Taylor to work at other colleges but he was able to find his way back to Houghton and has not left since.

While working with Pioneer Taylor had many responsibilities making his workweek over sixty hours. After the switch from Pioneer to Sodexo, Tay-lor’s current job as Student Supervi-sor is more focused, giving him fewer responsibilities, allowing him to focus mainly on the students. He oversees and helps the student workers as well as other completing other jobs needing to be done in the cafeteria. “With Pio-neer I did everything, now I’m just in charge of the students,” said Taylor, “It

was definitely a big change but in the end it was better for me.”

Dr. Anthony Petrillo, commu-nity member and friend of Taylor said of Taylor, “I think that’s why the students are attracted to work-ing with him, he’s a Godly man and does his job well... He lives the statement: ‘To preach the gospel al-ways and if necessary use words,’” said Petrillo.

Having spent many years in the Houghton Community Taylor discussed how he has seen the col-lege change over the years. Taylor said, “It was like one big family, a lot more floor activities, and class activities. That’s something I think they can get back to.” Taylor ex-pressed how he feels Houghton has stepped away from a tight knit com-munity, especially with the building of the townhouses. The school has also grown in number since Taylor first came here, which he also felt has changed the feel of Houghton.

“He makes the cafeteria an invit-ing place for freshmen to work. He sets the mood and makes work fun,” said Hardy.

Taylor is someone who genuine-ly loves his job and has a positive outlook on life. When discussing a large pay cut he received to be able to continue working at Houghton after the switch from Pioneer to So-dexo, his response was simply, “It’s a benefit for me, now I get to work with my wife everyday.” ★

A Particular Kind of Brokenness



LUKE LAUER

CESIAH WICKER

“What use could God possibly have for a soul that has been completely emptied?” This question encompassed my reflections back in 2011, a darker season of my years-long struggle with depression. Even now, although I would not frame the question in such a hyperbolic sense, it continues to haunt me. On one level, I still perceive my depression as a particular kind of brokenness—a brokenness that has often given me pause to reflect upon who I am as an individual. More broadly, though, I consider what implications this raises for my participation in the body of Christ.

Before I am accused of paint-

ing a negative portrait of the subject at hand, I must first clarify that I am not suggesting that brokenness is tantamount to sin, as I have been fighting this notion for several years in my own life. To provide rather extreme examples, I have personally been told by others that I suffer from depression because I have too much sin in my life; that mental illness is a form of demon possession; that depression is merely a sign of a spiritual deadness. Rather, here I associate depression with brokenness in that it disrupts God’s design for human flourishing.

In light of these considerations, I instead want to assert that my personal questions are not completely foreign to the church’s uncertain response to mental illness. Furthermore, how is the church to regard members of the body who continue to suffer in this way, perhaps over a sustained period of time? While I do not intend to present a full indictment of the church on this account, I do wish to indicate a lack of consensus as to how to regard mental illness. In viewing some of the contemporary evangelical responses, I was somewhat astonished by the wide and varied perspectives represented in popular Christian forums. A 2009 issue of Christianity To-

How is the church to regard members of the body who continue to suffer in this way, perhaps over a sustained period of time?

day featured multiple articles on the contemporary “depressive epidemic.” These articles recognized the perplexing nature of depression within the church, ultimately finding root in meaningful suffering, communion in the body of Christ, and Christian eschatology. On a different end of the spectrum, Focus on the Family published an article, as a part of a series, with a rather telling title: “Depression: Reject the Guilt, Embrace the Cure.” While author Bruce Hannigan clarifies that depression is not in itself a sin, he describes the illness as a propensity that may lead to sin if one indulges in it, comparing depression to alcoholism.

In the midst of these assessments, some helpful and some harmful, I believe it is very much important to maintain the complexities of mental health (especially the often-neglected biochemical levels) as the church continues to struggle in better understanding these issues.

I remain hopeful that the church may increasingly recognize these complexities and thus better support and affirm those who are battling mental illness.

Even considering the numerous differing responses among Christians, I remain hopeful that the church may increasingly recognize these

complexities and thus better support and affirm those who are battling mental illness.

In returning to my initial question, I want to assert that, in the midst of brokenness, God is redeeming all things to himself. This remains a promise, not a trite solution. It is a promise that implies both a continuing process and an eschatological hope. It does not explain away our present trials; it does not silence our questions. Rather, I trust that it gives us cause to boldly pursue our calling to uphold one another in the body of Christ. ★

Cesiiah is a senior humanities major

Disce aut Discede / The Idolization of the Extremes



LUKE LAUER

LYDIA WILSON

Christians go back and forth on whether ours is a religion of moderation or extremes. On the one hand, we are meant to abstain from indulgences such as sexual promiscuity, consumerism and materialism, and overeating. Purity and health are both important to us, and as any good nutritionist or fitness trainer will tell you, moderation is key. We should not hoard wealth. We should turn the other cheek. On the other hand, Jesus could easily be painted as a revolutionary. He braided whips and flipped tables. He told off the Pharisees. He called us to live in a radical way; the same standards that require moderation could also be seen as extremist when compared to the sedentary lifestyles of many—give up everything you have and follow me? In a way, it’s flattering to think of Christianity as a religion of extremes. We are supposed to be “not of this world,” after all, right? We are special. We are different from others in a profound and fundamental way.

I recently came across two different articles that changed the way I think about these questions of moderation and extremism. The first was an article on BBC News that described the heroic acts of a teenage girl who saved a middle-aged man. The girl, Keshia Thomas, was eighteen when she was witness to a KKK demonstration in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She attended with a crowd of black protestors. A white man with an SS tattoo and a Confederate flag t-shirt was noticed in the crowd of observers. They, along with Thomas, began to chase him out. At some point he was knocked to the ground and the crowd began to kick and beat him. Thomas threw herself down on top of him and fought off the attackers, quite possibly saving his life, had the blows escalated.

The second article, found in The Washington Post, is a profile of Nadia Bolz-Weber, a progressive Lutheran minister who heads a small church, House for All Sinners and Saints, in Denver. Bolz-Weber grew up in a Christian home but felt marginalized by the church and was heavily involved in drug abuse, surrounding herself with “underside dwellers ... cynics, alcoholics and queers” for several years before eventually getting clean and becoming a minister. She has become well-known for her foul mouth and tattooed physique, and her church prides itself on being accepting of people from all walks of life.

I did not react to these stories as positively as you might expect. Do not doubt my esteem for Keshia Thomas and what she did. Her selflessness and bravery brought tears to my eyes (which doesn’t happen often), but I fear for what many may take away from her story. My first thought was that I would probably never have such an impressive opportunity for goodwill. I will probably never be seen as a hero, I will never be caught in a mob or a riot or a warzone and I will never throw

my body over an innocent or a grenade. This can be a very damaging way of thinking. No one should sit around waiting for their “big moment” to come. Waiting for a notable opportunity can cause procrastination on smaller goals. When you don’t feel like you can do any good from where you are in the world right now, it will not seem worthwhile to practice small kindnesses and general friendliness in everyday life. It is a mindset that cripples many, and it is noticeable on Houghton campus, in the numbers of students who have a longing to help others in a big way and yet do not take part in community service projects in Allegheny County. No one is ever going to be in the perfect position to make a huge impact. That is rare and happens to few people—people who were spending their days engaged in doing good work for the world in small places for a very long time before being noticed. As Teri Gunderson, a woman who was impressed with Thomas’ actions, says, “The voice in my head says something like this, ‘If she could protect a man, I can show kindness to this person.’ And with that encouragement, I do act with more kindness.”

The Bolz-Weber profile portrayed her church as a haven for those who have had rocky relationships with the Church (sadly a frequent occurrence), and it is indeed a beautiful thing that Bolz-Weber is giving those people a chance to connect with God in a refreshing church setting. Says one congregant of the experience, “House has a lot of people burned by religion, and this still holds for me. It’s the only church I can stomach.” But the article took an odd turn when it began to describe what happened when Bolz-Weber’s congregation started to expand. “Normal people,” i.e. Christians without torrid pasts, began to attend. “It was awful,” wrote Bolz-Weber. She claimed that the normal Christians were “f—king up [her] weird,” and a church

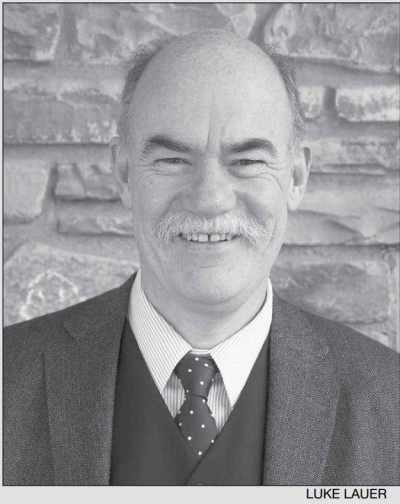
meeting was actually held to discuss whether or not the newcomers should be allowed to continue to attend. This struck me as outrageous, considering that House was formed as an antidote to the unwelcoming nature of other churches. Bolz-Weber’s attitude represents another kind of extreme: the belief that one is not “real” or authentic or cannot know true forgiveness without having first dragged oneself through the rigmarole of sin and depravity. Bolz-Weber prides herself on her honesty and appears apathetic on matters such as chastity and foul language, behaviors that come with explicit guidelines in the Bible. Yes, being open and inviting are strong tenets of the Christian faith (“Come as you are”), but along with that approach comes the condition, “now go and sin no more.” By the end of the article I was left with the feeling that Jesus—a man who spent the first thirty years of his life working as a carpenter and the last three years preaching by lakesides—might not have felt comfortable in the House for All Saints and Sinners. And yet who could understand the message of salvation better than He?

Christians like to embrace extremes. You’re not “good” until you’ve adopted two third-world children, published a novel, and thrown yourself over a man to protect him from a mob. You’re not “forgiven” until you’ve done hard drugs, have a tally of sexual partners in the double digits, and, if possible, have spent at least four years in prison. But God does not call us to make momentous, heroic sacrifices when we find a perfect opportunity. God calls us to make the slow and steady sacrifice of our entire, day-by-day, minute-by-minute life. ★

Lydia is a senior art and writing major

FEATURED EDITORIAL/

Missiology 101



DR. MEIC PEARSE

Hello, Phil. I hear you’ve got to know this new fellow who has moved into your town lately, and I’ve been wondering what you think about him. He’s an immigrant, a missionary from a Muslim country, here to try to convert Americans to Islam. He certainly seems surprising, in some ways. He knows nothing about Christianity, or about what Christians believe. When someone asked him, he had no idea which country was on the other side of the United States’ northern border. And it was complete news to him that America had begun as a collection of British colonies, which rebelled against British rule and achieved independence in the eighteenth century. He doesn’t speak English, and is certainly taking his sweet time about learning it. But then, as he says (through an interpreter), some people just aren’t good at languages.

In fact, self-deprecation seems to be his long suit. He keeps saying what a dummy he is, how naïve etc.. Though I notice that, when you give him information that will be useful to him, he almost makes a point of forgetting it again right away, as though he didn’t want to be contaminated by it — as if naïveté were a treasured part of his self-image.

And then there’s the strange matter of American names. You can’t have failed to notice. As he explains, there is a custom in his country that all foreign names containing a simple ‘i’ sound have to be pronounced with ‘oo’. It’s not that the ‘i’ sound is difficult for him (there are plenty such names in his own country, for goodness’ sake); it’s just that they have a rule among themselves to pronounce all foreign names this way. So he calls Philadelphia ‘Fooladelphia’, and addresses you as ‘Fool’ — and, in the nicest, humblest possible way, he rather expects you to answer to it. And if you tackle him on this, he does his favorite ‘hurt feelings’ look, and says it’s the custom of his country, a part of his identity. And how could you try to take that away from him?

So what I want to know is this: What do you think of this fellow, Phil? (or ‘Fool’?) Please don’t tell me merely that you expect him to be rather unsuccessful in converting Americans to Islam. I think we can take that much for granted. No: I’m playing the shrink here, with the big “So how do you Feel?” How do you feel about him?

My guess is that, at a minimum, you will view him as a pitiable but also unwelcome intrusion into your town. Maybe you go further, and hold him in some degree of contempt for his attitudes. It’s possible you even go so far as to view him with actual anger and hostility.

Since it’s hard to feel threatened by him (although his country is powerful, it’s nowhere near as powerful as the U.S., and people there are an awful lot poorer than they are here), I suspect that you go for the more moderate reactions toward him. If the relationships were reversed, though, and his was the more powerful and wealthier society that was influenc-

ing our daily lives in countless ways, I suspect that your reactions would move over toward the more virulent end of the spectrum.

Scratch all that. I just made it up. And anyway, you’re not Phil. So let me tell you instead about a young couple I really have met, who really were surprising, in exactly the ways our imaginary Muslim in Phil’s home town was surprising. And I have to say that it’s OK — not great, but still OK — not to have any idea who Cyril and Methodius were. Or whether Istanbul is at the eastern end of Turkey, or the western. Or which country Belgrade is in. Maybe you know none of those things. It’s not great to be ignorant about them, because they matter. But the world is a big place, and I’m sure you could easily find facts of equivalent importance about, say, western China, concerning which I would be equally ignorant. And anyhow, we’re in

America. Indeed, it would still be OK not to know those things if we were in the U.S. and planning to start a business (or some political move, or do some Christian missions work) in, say, Peru or India. But this couple? They were missionaries in Macedonia. By that I mean, they had already arrived there. Now, Macedonia is a predominantly Orthodox country (Cyril and Methodius are the crucial figures in Slavic Orthodox history), that was under the rule of the Ottoman Turks for more than five centuries until just about within living memory. And it spent most of the twentieth century as part of Yugoslavia — which was ruled from the Serbian capital of Belgrade. And our couple knew nothing about these fundamental features of the country’s culture, religion, history, or geography.

A missionary is a person who, to put it bluntly, goes somewhere to tell the locals what’s what. But our friends didn’t know what’s anything.

We’ll take as read the fact that they didn’t know any of the language until they arrived. Who would expect anything else? And, of course, they pronounce the capital city of Skopje as ‘Skoapje’. You can say that’s the American pronunciation — like calling the Italian city of Firenze ‘Florence’ — if you want. Except that it wouldn’t be true. Because, even if we accept the unlikely assumption that they’d even heard of the city before they arrived, or had heard American pronunciations of it, they pronounced it that way straight away anyway, and ditto for smaller places that would have been completely off their radar. No: everyone around them in Macedonia says one thing — so they say another. It’s the custom, right? And my friend Kosta gets addressed if he were a beer mat: Coaster.

Can we see that anything milder than furious outrage would be altogether too kind a reaction by the unfortunate hosts?

But our friends are not the exceptions: they’re typical. To be sure, I know counterexamples. There’s an American pastor who has lived in a small town of that country for nine years. He looks and dresses like a local, sends his kids to the local school, and speaks so well that many can’t even tell he’s a foreigner.

But he’s the exception. The clueless young couple are the rule. So how should they respond to the points I just made? I’d tell you how they will respond — but you already know. Smile; look bewildered; make self-effacing jokes about what dummies they are; do something groovy that’ll entertain the local kids; look hurt and keep what they fondly imagine to be a ‘holy’ silence. But, whatever they do, make no change. ★

Dr. Pearse is a history professor

Want to Write?

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LUKE LAUER

LOIS ANN LUCE

Almost everything can be seen from a different perspective, you just have to let yourself see it, or you have to move and change where you are looking from. Ever since I was a kid, I loved learning about new things, experiencing new things, and meeting new people. I would look around the environment around me and just observe. I would observe situations, relationships, details of everyday objects; almost everything. I've always been intrigued by how things were put together and how things worked. It fascinates me how beautiful and interesting everyday objects and concepts can be. My recent work has been influenced by my Filipino and American culture, tying together cultural tradition with modernity.

Lois is a senior art major with a minor in psychology.



Treasure, ceramics

ARTIST OF THE WEEK



Frustration Piece: Tiny Hand Make Tiny Art, wood & ceramics



Beavers Dam, wood, thread, acrylic on canvas and wood

SUDOKU

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To enter a drawing for a [\\$5 Allegany Harvest Co-op giftcard](#), bring your finished puzzle, clearly marked with your full name and CPO, to the *Star* office in the basement of the Campus Center by 6PM on WED 11/13.



Banig ni Lola, wood, ceramics, and screen printing