



Houghton College's Student Newspaper Since 1909

Feb. 10, 2012 • Vol. 108, No. 16

Policy Takes Effect

by SHANNON AMES

Since being resubmitted to the Academic Council and back again to the faculty since the Fall semester, the proposal formerly known as the "pass-fail" proposal was officially accepted by the faculty on January 26 as the Satisfactory/D/Fail policy. This renaming is directly reflective of the changes that have been applied to the policy since the first time this proposal up for a vote before the faculty came last fall.

Some of the original language of the policy remains. The policy still applies only to "full-time juniors and seniors in good standing with the College" who are taking at least 12 hours of regular graded coursework. These students may apply to take up to four hours per semester and no more than 12 hours cumulatively of courses S/D/F. A student may not take a course S/D/F that meets requirements in their major, minor, concentration, pre- and co-requisites, or Integrative Study Requirements. Also, faculty will not be informed if a student is taking a class S/D/F and will report regular letter grades for the course.

The primary differences between the original proposal and new policy occur in the area of grading. Any grade above a C- will be considered "Satisfactory," while any Ds or Fs received will be counted at its respective value and applied toward a student's overall GPA. This is a distinct change from the original proposal, according to Professor Peter Meilaender, political science, who was instrumental in the formation of the proposal on the Integrative Studies Committee, seems to be a direct response to concern expressed by faculty over the inequality of awarding a student doing D grade work the same "fail" as a student doing F grade work, as would have been the case under the original proposal. With the policy as it now stands under S/D/F, this inequity will not be a concern.

Senior Garrett Fitzsimmons, SGA Student Body President, sits on Academic Council and also noted a concern among faculty that students would be encouraged to "slack off" under the structure of the original "pass-fail" proposal. The S/D/F policy may help alleviate this concern through making Ds and Fs count toward a student's overall GPA. The policy also prescribes that students must apply to take a course S/D/F using a form from the Academic Records Office. According to the policy, students "have until the end of the drop/add period to register for a course as S/D/F." After this, students may not register for a course S/D/F or change from "S/D/F

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Satisfactory/D/Fail Athletic Budget Expands

by COURTNEY COIRO

Opinions are mixed on proposed changes to the College's budget soon to be presented to the Board of Trustees. Of main concern is the expansion of the athletic operational budget when most departments are being told to cut expenses. The reason for the increase, of course, is the transition to NCAA Division III and the five new sports being added because of it.

Professor of philosophy Ben Lipscomb, a faculty representative on the Finance Council, summarized two main changes in the budget this year: "Athletic expenses are going up, and academic expenses are being cut (in exact proportion, as it happens)," by \$500,000 each over a couple years. Though these changes may be especially attention-grabbing, Lipscomb was careful to point out that other areas of the College will be impacted too. "Don't get the impression...that it's simply athletics vs. academics."

vs. academics." Dale Wright, Chief Business Officer and chair of the Finance Council, also stated, "Reductions aren't being concentrated in one area; everyone's contributing." This includes Student Life Advancement includes Student Life, Advancement and Athletics, as well as Academics When considered in the net balance of increases and decreases, "it's not as if there's a bunch of additional money going to athletics." Because Houghton is primarily an academic institution, the overall proportion of the academic budget "is a little bit lower" than in other areas. In fact, searches for more faculty are currently underway in the sciences, education, and Bible departments. "In the academic area, rather than reductions," Wright clarified, "it'd be better phrased 'reallocations." Wright emphasized that these budgetary changes, while significant, are not unusual. Colleges across the country "are having the same conversations," and Houghton's position is definitely "not a crisis situation '

Lipscomb represented a range of responses to the proposed changes. It is hoped that the athletic transition will have a net positive impact on enrollment, offsetting the expenses associated with the new sports." But concern has also been voiced over allowing athletic expenses "to rise at the same moment" that the overall budget is being cut, thus "requiring (obviously) that the compensatory cuts (in academics and elsewhere) be deeper." Reasons given for the team additions were also questioned. "Others think we should have pushed harder to see if we could be admitted to NCAA DIII without adding the new sports. And they worry...that the new athletes might not actually expand the

student body in a way that will cover the new costs."

Professor Carlton Fisher, philosophy, raised "concern about student cost of the athletic program," adding that his concern "precedes these recent changes" and extends to Christian college athletics in general. With no gate fees, the College's main source of athletic revenue is student tuition. If the increased athletic budget were divided among all students (currently just below 1100), the price students pay for athletic programming is roughly \$1400 per student per year.

This figure comes in part from a high ratio of teams to size of school. Adding men's and women's lacrosse, tennis, and golf, in addition baseball and softball will bring Houghton's total teams to 18. According to NCAA.org/divisioniii, this is typical for the average NCAA DIII school, but average enrollment in DIII is around 2600, over twice the size of Houghton.

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MILLENIALS' FAILURE TO LAUNCH

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Athletics Director Skip Lord defended the move and presented athletics as an integral part of the

PURPLE AND GOLD WEEK



Houghton students cheered for the Highlander basketball teams last Tuesday during Purple and Gold Week.

by MEAGAN HUMMEL

Purple and Gold Week is a tradition that was brought back by the Student Government Association (SGA), the Campus Activities Board (CAB), and Student Programs Office in 2007. Each spring semester, the CAB staff and the Director of Student Programs plan a week packed full of team and campuswide events Students staff, and faculty are all encouraged to "pick a team, by picking up a free purple or gold tshirt, and participate in the events of the week. The two teams earn points throughout the week.

On Monday, Purple and Gold Week started with the handing out of Purple and Gold Week t-shirts. CAB member Hannah Lily, sophomore, said, "Everyone is supposed to wear their shirts to support their 'team' during the events week." this

Tuesday's events took place at the men's and women's basketball games against Roberts Wesleyan College. CAB set up a Velcro wall in the auxiliary gym and hosted a special shoot-ing competition during one time-out each quarter. During that time, the first person to score a three-pointer, lay-up,

and a foul shot within 20 seconds won a prize. There was also a shoot-out at halftime where the first five people to make half-court shots won prizes

There was a coffeehouse at JAVA 101 Wednesday put together by soph-omores Holly Morgan and Kristen Schnitzer. According to Lily, "They know what they're doing, and the talent Houghton has to offer is fantastic." Seniors Erin Carr, Devon Martin, and Monica Lord, along with sophomore Ben Murphy performed in the coffeehouse. The show began with Cameron Thibault, senior, playing some original material, followed by the four others performing covers of different types of folk and alternative music.

CAB hosted a Price is Right game show Thursday, located in Wesley Chapel. Each of the CAB members took on specific duties during the event. The announcer for this year's event was sophomore Luke Ogden, and some of the CAB members volunteered to be "Vanna Whites" for the night.

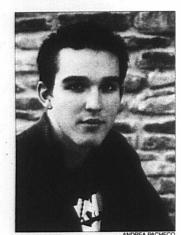
Tonight's activity is a dodgeball tournament. Each team must have at

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WORLD / Blood Diamonds: Overlooked Horrors



by ANDRE NELSON

Most of us don't give much thought as to the processes in which our daily luxuries were made accessible, granted sometimes in legitimate ways, but most of the times in more brutal ways than we are comfortable imagining, so we simply avoid thinking about it beyond the few minutes following such movies as "Blood Diamond," in which we fulfill the needs of our "disposable emotions," and then we carry on with our daily lives.

It would be too difficult to avoid buying products marked "Made In India" due to child labor conditions. We prefer not passing up on fuel, despite the wars waged throughout the Middle East for the precious black gold. And we certainly wouldn't want to deprive our loved ones of that sparkling rock, despite it being tainted by the blood of innocent children. A difficult question at times is: Would it actually benefit the oppressed if we avoided these all together? Granted, pennies every day is better than starving. This is the question many wrestle with in the debate for buying the more expensive "free trade" brands. Is appeasing our guilt worth the extra dollars -- and is it even helping? These questions are up to each individual to answer, but being aware is each and every body's responsibility. Blood Diamonds, also known as

Conflict Minerals, Hot Diamonds, and War Diamonds, are diamonds mined in war zones which are used for the funding of insurgencies. Though many have heard of them, many are unaware of how far reaching these gems are. Penny Hess, Chair the African People's Solidarity Committee, wrote an article entitled 'All Diamonds Are Blood Diamonds,' in which he calls the diamond trade "an entire social system built on violence, slavery, genocide and the degradation of others in order to create a generous lifestyle for us, the white people." The purpose of this article is to discuss the overlooked horrors that enable the trade of this glittering rock worn by millions that symbolizes the ideals of beauty and love in Western culture. Light must be shed on the violence, slavery, and genocides that enable the usage of so many every day utilities, such as cell phones and computers requiring Coltan, which is mined primarily in the Congo. An estimated five million have been killed since 1998 in the U.S.-backed Coltan wars. Yet as Hess states, "No one in America protests this new generation of genocide in Congo. No one even talks about the it." Indeed, much of Africa is blessed enormous wealth of natural with

resources, yet most live on less than a dollar a day with the lowest life expectancy in the world.

Many African leaders have tried to break away from the tight grips of the U.S. and diamond cartels such as DeBeers and Anglo American PLC. DeBeers was founded by Cecil Rhodes and financed by the Rothchilds, and Anglo American PLC was founded by Ernest Oppenheimer and financed by J.P. Morgan. The fates of these leaders have all been the same: exile or death. Nkrumah rose to power in Ghana in the mid 60s and began talking about nationalizing the nation's resources. In 1966, the U.S. was successful in ousting him; he later died in exile.

In the Congo, Lumumba was the man who pushed for the nationalization of Congolese resources. He promised these resources would serve to benefit the workers and peasants. The major player in his assassination was CIA operative and DeBeers emissary Maurice Tempelsman, who, according to Hess, was romantically linked with Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis until her death and is today linked with the former Secretary of State Madeline Albright. During WWII, the U.S. indicted DeBeers due to their violation of anti-trust laws; because of this, the U.S. could not deal directly with the company in the diamond trade. Tempelsman acted as a middleman between the two, supplying millions of dollars' worth of diamonds to the U.S. After Lumumba's election, Tempelsmann began working directly under the Kennedy administration to plot the assassination.

Today DeBeers continues to control 80 percent of the world's supply of diamonds with the remaining 20 percent being what we call "Blood Diamonds." Seventy percent of these diamonds are sent to India to be cut and polished by farm boys earning pennies a day in what is a \$3.3 billion industry. Thirty percent of these are sent to the U.S. in what becomes an \$11 billion industry. Near 100,000 Lebanese workers

live in Sierra Leone, which accounts for Lebanese influence in the diamond trade. J. Peter Pham details how the Hezbollah in turn receives funding from the Lebanese Government coming directly from diamond trade. This "Blood Diamond" fund is partly how Israel justifies their involvement. Diamonds are Israel's second largest industry, near \$13 billion. Israel buys half the world's supply of rough diamonds, and in turn sells about two thirds of those to the U.S. In 2001, before Congolese leader Kabila was assassinated, Israel made a deal similar to Tempelsmann, \$600 million worth of diamonds in exchange for arming and training Congolese troops. Even though DeBeers and other diamond cartels may promote these diamonds as "conflict free," by following the money and taking a peak into DeBeers' mines and political involvement in the nations in which they operate, it is clear that this is far from the truth.

Sequere pecuniam: follow the money. In looking at history and watching present day conflicts, all diamonds are Blood Diamonds, despite only 20 percent of these gems being, labeled as such. This is by no means a condemnation for anybody that has or will purchase the beautiful gem, but it is a reminder that we are the beneficiaries of this genocidal system. \star

FYI Program to be Revamped

by KATHERINE BAKER

The transition to college life is a difficult one, and that is why the current FYI program is being revamped this year to include a more academic focus, in addition to the emphasis on community orientation. The new program will be "broader and more integrated," explained Mark Hijleh, Associate Dean for Academic Administration, and it will take place in three steps: "Connecting to Houghton' (Transitions 101), "Succeeding at Houghton' (Transitions 102), and 'Advanced Houghton Navigation," which we will address in special sessions for first-year students during H.E.L.P. Day each spring."

When taking a liberal arts perspective, "the intellectual, spiritual, and social dimensions are all interconnected. We want the Transitions program to help Houghton students explore that integration as a way toward success," said Hijleh. "There will be more of a focus to help [firstyear students] understand academic adjustments to college and make social connections, especially within academic disciplines," added Diane Galloway, Director of Retention.

One important change to the former Highlander Connection Day, now being called Transitions 101, is the course selection process. Students will "have their schedule compiled by the academic records office, based on information [they] provide about [their] interests and potential major(s), but also based on the need to begin fulfilling integrative studies requirements, and any other academic information we have about the student from high school," said Hijleh.

Galloway explained that schedule building was not the most efficient use of the faculty members' time, and instead "students will be paired up in groups according to academic interest with faculty members in that department. Students will meet with peers interested in the same academic areas, and they will speak with faculty members about audit sheets, things they can do over the summer, and expectations in a certain major." Hijleh said that "faculty members will no longer be dealing with the mechanics of picking courses and will talk instead with students about their academic and career goals. This will utilize the faculty members' experience and expertise."

Hijleh explained that "evidence suggests that students who make various social and intellectual group connections to various other students and faculty members early on are more likely to have a more satisfying and successful college career."

Another change Galloway pointed out involves including students in the financial literacy session that was previously open only to parents. In addition, Galloway said Marge Avery will be running a session on computer programs so that students are "comfortable with them before the semester even starts."

The former FYI program will now be called Transitions 102 and will be graded on either a pass/fail or a pass/ unsatisfactory basis. It will now include summer coursework, and "the overall concept involves students reading a part (not all) of the Houghton Reads book, and also completing a few components of the course online," said Hijleh. During the fall semester, student leaders will be assigned to work with small groups of frst-vear students to lead discussions and assess participants. In addition to being responsible for reading and partaking in discussions, first-year students will be graded based on a collaborative project at the end of the Transitions 102 course.

Junior Sydnie Cunningham, former FYI leader, said, "I like that there is a curriculum and strong objectives for the transition program. It seems like it will be better organized than when I was an FYI leader." However, she added that "I don't think students should have their schedules picked for them. It lacks the individualized emphasis that Houghton usually has."

Hijleh explained the reasoning behind these changes, and said that "evidence suggests that students benefit from more intentional transitions programs to college, in part because there is a complex mix of elements that includes living and learning together. Houghton's Christian, residential learning community is a perfect place to address that complex mix of elements. This helps bolster the kind of overall success students want and need." **★**



FACULTY LECTURE SERIES: Professor LaCelle-Peterson on Iroquois Women and the First European Missionaries

by EMMA HUGHES

The sixth of this year's lectures for the Faculty Lecture Series was given Wednesday evening by Professor Kristina LaCelle-Peterson, religion, who spoke on the ambiguous effects of European Christian missions on Iroquois women during the first missions to the Iroquois.

LaCelle-Peterson's lecture came as she is preparing a paper on the topic for the 47th annual meeting of the Wesleyan Theological Society, which will take place March 2 and 3, at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee. Her main interest -- the impact on Iroquois culture after contact with European missionaries, who brought with them their own culture and ideas mixed with the Gospel -- was piqued through her experiences with a student and a historian friend.

"There were two things that got me interested: I had a student a while ago who had grown up on a Seneca reservation, and she wasn't Seneca, but her parents had divorced and both married into the Seneca nation," said LaCelle-Peterson. "She came to Houghton and felt out of place because she was so used to living on the reservation, and the culture shock was huge. The other reason was when a historian friend of mine pointed out that Houghton is mostly on historically Seneca land. I was surprised, because I'm right from here and don't know much about it." Following this, LaCelle-Peterson

became interested in the topic at hand. The reputation of Iroquois women

for having a stronger political role in Iroquois government, such as being able to participate in choosing chiefs and sachems, drew her attention.

"My dream is to find narratives of the women and how they responded to the Europeans," said LaCelle-Peterson. "Did they reject the Gospel or accept it? Or did they accept the Gospel and reject the European culture? Those are about the two main possibilities."

about the two main possibilities." Unfortunately, LaCelle-Peterson also noted, it is hard to find objectivity about Native Americans, or Iroquois, or women, in particular. While there are numerous accounts of white settlers being taken captive by Native Americans and then later returning to "civilization," there are hardly any accounts from the Native Americans themselves and how they took to the European missionaries.

Meanwhile, being in the middle of the Faculty Lecture Series' inaugural year, LaCelle-Peterson's lecture served as a testing point for how the series is doing as a whole. According to Professor Benjamin Lipscomb, philosophy, who is the founder of the series, attendance has been steadily building over the last few lectures and, if it continues to do so, the series will consider moving to another venue, such as the CFA, for the next school year.

"Attendance is building," said Lipscomb, "And I've been happy to find that faculty would be willing to speak free of compensation, as well as with the response from other faculty members and students' enthusiasm for coming out for these events."

Lipscomb, is also putting thought



Professor LaCelle-Peterson discussed the effects of European Christian missions on Iroquois women.

into what kinds of lectures to include in the series for the next school year. Likely candidates are other disciplines that are not being used this year, such as anthropology, biology, music, and literature.

Student feedback has been positive regarding the series. Freshman Sarah Slater has attended a few of the lectures so far, and found them to be "fascinating experiences."

"I think they're really interesting because you get to learn about research in other disciplines that you usually wouldn't study," said Slater. "It's neat to see what the professors are interested in beyond just the classes they're teaching for the majors." \bigstar

are also being considered for the most efficient way to "offer quality programs at streamlined rates." This process will not completely offset the cost of the new sports, but it will save "a significant chunk."

Hope for the future financial stability of the College is placed in increasing enrollment. According to Lord, a student body of 1200 or 1250 would be an "optimal range" to maintain Houghton's educational experience. Wright said that admitting 350 to 375 new students each year would be ideal "given our current

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least three guys and three girls. The winning team and the team that arrives best dressed will be awarded prizes.

Tomorrow, there will be men's and women's basketball games in the afternoon followed by the most anticipated event of the week, SPOT, in the evening. This year, SPOT is hosted by seniors Zina Teague, Chelsea Ellis, and Sarah Wangai. This will be the most attended event of the week and will wrap up Purple and Gold Week.

CAB has been preparing for Purple and Gold week for many months. According to Lily, CAB has been responsible for everything, even "small things, such as painting the boards in the hallways, putting table inserts up in the cafeteria, and spreading the excitement around campus to deciding on what major events to have during the week." ★

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grading to regular letter grading." Such measures further discourage using the S/D/F policy to "slack off."

The overall hope is that this policy will "encourage students to sample challenging and unfamiliar coursework they might otherwise avoid." Meilaender, who himself feels benefited by a course taken "passfail" during his college career, hopes that motivated students will find the opportunity to take classes outside of their fields of expertise as S/D/F as beneficial to their own growths as people, as well as to their educational experiences. The goal of the S/D/F policy is to offer Houghton students an opportunity to broaden their liberal arts education during their time here at Houghton.

The policy will take effect Fall 2012 and be published in the 2012-2013 catalog. \star

level of expenses." Overall figures for next year's incoming class are still unclear, but athletic recruitment is going well. Though "our goals are fairly ambitious," said Lord, they were "actually exceeded" for baseball and softball, adding over "20 students who wouldn't have been here otherwise." Reports on recruiting for next year's lacrosse and golf athletes are "on target."

A preliminary budget is being presented to the Board of Trustees this week. The final budget will not be approved until May. *



President Mullen participated in CAB's "Velcro Wall" during the basketball games on Tuesday.

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educational experience. The NCAA philosophy, especially in Division III, "really hangs their hat" on offering students a broad experience. "If [we're] going to be part of an organization that says we believe in broad-based athletic participation and opportunities because they're educational by nature," Lord reasoned, "then we need to do that." Houghton wouldn't have even been permitted to apply to NCAA without raising the team count to at least 12.

Lord mentioned several other advantages to balance with increased costs. "NCAA DIII is a step up in affiliation for us...not a parallel or a de-emphasizing of athletics." The transition is part of a larger "strategic plan to increase visibility...and was not even primarily an athletic decision." Houghton's name and academic reputation will be more visible both nationally and "in our geographic footprint" through associating with the NCAA and "highly-respected small mid-size academically-rigorous schools" in Empire 8. Even if they never play sports here, "a whole population of intelligent, academically, [and] spiritually serious young people" will hear about Houghton "because of our move to NCAA Division III and Empire 8."

Vice President for Student Life Sharra Hynes described the attractive role athletics already play at Houghton at last week's Senate meeting. "If you survey our current student body, many of our student-athletes will say, yes I came to Houghton for a Houghton education, but I probably wouldn't be here if I didn't have the opportunity to participate" in a specific sport. In order to enroll larger classes and bring the College's finances to a more sustainable level, she said, "we need more of these attractors."

Lord understood encountering ne resistance. When viewed some resistance. "simply as spending more money on programs, naturally [people will] ask questions and raise concerns. At the ame time, most people realize ... that there will be opportunities for most students to enhance their educational experience by part in athletics, and there's an understanding that we'll attract more students here once we offer those things." Just as in a family balancing a home budget, choosing between good options can be difficult, and dialogue about those decisions strengthens the process. "Somebody who might have a different opinion will feel like we should have emphasized something else, but in general, things have been overwhelmingly positive, he concluded

As part of the college-wide trimming process, Lord pointed out that the athletic department is also looking for "ways to generate some significant bottom-line savings." Because Empire 8 schools are much closer than previous competitors in the American Mideast Conference, significant savings will be realized in travel costs, including housing and meals for teams on the road. Programmatic and staffing changes

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FEBRUARY 10, 2012

Dubstep: It's More Than You Think

by LYDIA WILSON

"I used to listen to dubstep back in the '90s... every time I connected my computer to the Internet." If I had a dollar for every time I've heard that joke, I'd probably be able to afford my tuition. The image that comes to mind when listening to Americanised "brostep" is of Flea climbing across telephone wires in the Red Hot Chili Pepper's "Otherside" video; those thick, twanging cords on either side of my head -- thwap, thwap, thwap. To those who have made this comparison, I'd like to clue you in on some history of dubstep -- for the genre did exist in the '90s, and it sounded nothing like the head-banging cacophony it's associated with today. It's common knowledge that dubstep

It's common knowledge that dubstep originated in the darkened corners of London. Less widely known, however, is the fact that it developed as early as 1998. "I Do," a track by one of the first dubstep artists, Zed Bias, is practically soul. Originally sung by Blaque Ivory, Bias transformed the song into a bassheavy 2-step that plays gently across the ears. Early dubstep was highly experimental, light, and rarely abrasive. Throughout the early 2000s, the genre



slowly became darker, and its popularity grew. Dubstep DJs began playing venues that were more accustomed to hosting rock groups, gaining a more substantial fan base. In London, though, the metal edge to the music never reached the borderline chaos it has quickly achieved in the United States.

The first taste I had of dubstep was a remix by Skrillex of Benny Benassi's "Cinema." After sticking to the original first verse, all remnants suddenly disappear when Skrillex bluntly announces that he is about to "Drop the bass," and chaos ensues. Formerly the tead singer of the rock band From First to Last, Skrillex, aka Sonny Moore, brings a clear hardcore influence to the once-subtle art of orchestrating a bassdriven track. Perhaps solely responsible for the abominable reputation the genre now holds in the States, Skrillex is also probably the only dubstep artist of which you've heard. Take comfort in the fact that the scene is still up and running back in London, with old pros continuing to crank out quality dubstep. Arguably the best London DJ operating today is Nero, composed of Daniel Stephens, Joe Ray, and Alana Watson. Their song "Promises" is a good example of upbeat dubstep, verging on electronic dance and not too obvious with the bass.

Dubstep has covered a lot of ground, and its creative possibilities have been pushed to the limit with such releases as a "Pink Elephants" remix (that's right --

the trippy number on the Dumbo soundtrack) by Swedish artist Daladubz. As, albeit unwisely, an outspoken dubstep fan, I'd like to reassure you that brilliant dubstep does exist west of the Atlantic. Most notably there is Deadmau5, a.k.a. Joel Zimmerman, North American dubstep mogul. Known for his trademark mouse-shaped head gear, Deadmau5 has gained enough momentum as a performer to have played in New York City on New Year's Eve.

In addition, some of my favorite dubstep tracks are produced by DJs born and raised on this side of the pond. "Daisy," originally by Brand New, is reworked by Adventure Club Dubstep. Its fidelity to the initial track, together with its well-timed and satisfying drop, nears excellence. The electronic swelling rises and falls with Jesse Lacey's soft voice in oceanic perfection. "Gimme Shelter" by The Rolling Stones and "Nights in White Satin" by The Moody Blues are rearranged by Zeds Dead, and they, too, display an ability to create good house music that doesn't overshadow the original, classic songs. Even if you were aware of these artists -- Deadmau5, Ad-venture Club, Zeds Dead -- you most likely weren't aware that they all hail from Canada. Well-done (and, I would go so far as to say, beautiful) dubstep music is out there to discover once you wade through the intimidating swamp

of aggressive, shock-happy brostep. Of course, if you are into the seizure-inducing variations, Skrillex and his rowdy friends Excision and Datsik are always around to help you out. \star

Black Heritage Club Feature: The African American Crisis of Identity

by JOE CHINN

Dennis Rome, author of "Black Demons: The Media's Depiction of the African American Male Criminal Stereotype," said. "African Americans have family trees in the United States extending back to the 1600s, well before the American Revolution. They are among the oldest settlers in North America, far older as a group than many prominent white immigrant groups. There is a tragic irony here. That a people who have been here as long as the first European settlers should still find themselves so discriminated against, so unwelcome in many traditionally white institutions and places, is a fact of life that is problematic both for assimilation and for the future of this ostensibly democratic nation."

According to Robert Nowatzki in "Representing African Americans in Transatlantic Abolitionism and Blackface Minstrelsy," even in the mid-19th century Abolitionist Movement in the United States, white abolitionists had and held strong prejudices toward ex-slaves. There still remained a general condescension and paternalism associated with African Americans, the same type of attitude held by the minstrel blackface performers. The "looking down" that describes the general direction of the white countenance was brought about by two chief reasons, differing depending on the position taken concerning slavery. For the white advocate of slavery, an individual would look down upon the black with derision as a prominent motivation. For the white abolitionist, the deigning would take place as a result primarily of pity. Thus, both the slave owner and antagonist of slavery believed the black person, on some fundamental level, to be less than

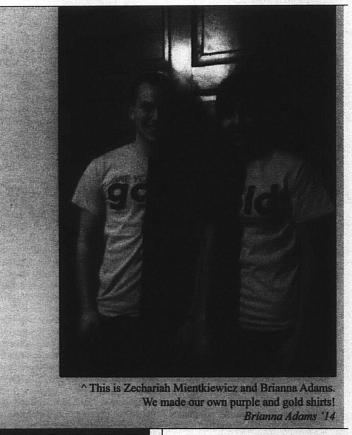
The main reason for this discrimination, and indeed the source of other notions like ethnic, intellectual, and social inferiority, was hue. That is to say, many white people in these United States treated many black people in the same geo-

graphical area with disdain and enmity. By 1800, terms like "black and Negro underscored the importance of color" in society, said Rome. Did that emphasis on color die down over the next 100 years? (Nope.) In 1906, missionary Samuel Phillips Verner had brought Congolese Mbuti pygmy Ota Benga to the New York Zoological Society to be put on display in the Bronx Park Zoo. What's more, Ota Benga had spectators visit his exhibit who claimed to have expressed their enjoyment at seeing Benga

When this action came under fire from African American clergymen in the same year, an editorial in the New York Times responded with these words:

We do not quite understand all the emotion which others are expressing in the matter... It is absurd to make moan over the imagined humiliation and degradation Benga is suffering. The pygmies ... are very low in the human scale, and the suggestion that Benga should be in a school instead of a cage ignores the high probability that school would be a place ... from which he could draw no advantage whatever. The idea that men are all much alike except as they have had or lacked opportunities for getting an education out of books is now far out of date.

What about today? What is there to be said concerning the matter-of-fact, paternalistic commentary of Gingrich, Coulter, and Gingrich, respectively: "I'm prepared -- if the NAACP invites me -- I'll go to their convention, and talk about why the African American community should demand paychecks, and not be satisfied with food stamps."; "Our [Republicans'] blacks are so much better than their [Democrats'] blacks."; "Really poor children in really poor neighborhoods have no habits of working, and have nobody around them who works. So they literally have no habit of showing up on Monday...of staying all day...of 'I do this and you give me cash,' unless it's illegal." The "really poor children" are not exclusively black but certainly, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, make up a large proportion thereof. What response can be given? There is here displayed a crisis of identity: what place do blacks hold in American society? Is it voluntary, or otherwise? For how long? Does it need to change? If so, how? **★**



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

FEBRUARY 10, 2012

Co-op Soon to Open

by BEKAH HALL

After much waiting and decisionmaking, board members hope the Allegany Harvest Co-op will open for business March 15, now that renovations for an expanded floor space have begun.

Almost a year since recruitment for new members began, the Co-op, seeking to provide local, sustainable, and healthy products, will share the space with Our Common Ground on Route 19 in what used to be the Citgo Mini-Mart.

After a member petition and a meeting in January, the board decided to move ahead with a floor plan with approximately 40% more retail space than the current available space. Feeling a "duty to represent the wishes of the members of the Co-op," Peter Meilaender, President of the Allegany Harvest Co-op Board of Directors, said the board reversed their original decision to remain with the smaller space in favor of the 865-square foot floor plan.

"We still have some questions about what this means in terms of whether we can get the building done, and also pay for the equipment, and pay to stock it and get everything ready by the time we want to start," he said. He also asserted, however, that they have an approved bank loan and the funds. If the members remain committed to shopping, he said, "then I think it will work."

The next crucial step needed to move the Co-op closer to opening was hiring a general manager. According to Meilaender, Barbara Adams, who worked in management at the Genesee Country Museum in Mumford, was hired and began work with the Co-op Monday.

From the very beginning, the Co-op was meant to specialize in local, organic, healthy, and sustainable products. This has drawn a variety of members, from Meilaender, whose children's food allergies and intolerances require him

SPORTS RECAP

MEN'S BASKETBALL:

seekof the Co-op's total membership. Sophomore Emily Wenger, who said she was excited to purchase local produce, said she also looks forward to the convenience of having a store so close by. Even current seniors, who may only enjoy only a month or two of the Co-op, have become members. Joyce Taylor, while looking forward to the local products and close proximity, explained she didn't mind becoming a member with the possibility of only a few months of shopping at the Co-op. "I knew that by joining I would be helping support it for people who weren't going to be here," she said.

vear-round markets.

to drive to the Buffalo area to purchase

food once a week, to Lynn Bliven, an-

other board member and owner of Wild

Geese Farm, who works with helping

farmers extend their opportunities for

ton students, who account for over 10%

The Co-op has also drawn Hough-

Member-owners voice their hopes that the Co-op will be a positive influence on the community. Ginny Routhe, project manager, said they are committed to working to provide products not readily available in the area, as well as to supporting local producers who do not have good outlets to sell their products. By supporting local producers, Meilaender said the Co-op will be supporting the local economy.

Senior Gordon Brown said he was drawn to the Co-op because "it's better for Allegany, better for the farmers, better for us. It's more sustainable -- a more equitable means of living."

Bridgette Tojek, board member, said that with renovations underway. the general manager hired, and a distributor and local vendors lined up, everyone is "working hard to open as soon as possible." Preparing for March 15 is not the only concern for the small Co-op either. Meilaender explained that when a market study was conducted for the Co-op, the consultant said a co-op was feasible, but it would have to be a small one. Several red flags were raised; Routhe explained that the Houghton area has lower per-capita income, as well as a smaller percentage of collegeeducated people. However, she remains confident, citing the fact that failure rates for co-ops are much lower because of member commitment.

With regards to the opening of the Co-op, Meilaender said, "I don't think this is a fail-safe venture." However, he was quick to add, "I do feel that we have a lot of enthusiasm and excitement among the members...I feel confident about the prospects of the store, and I'm looking forward to seeing it open." More information about the Co-op can be found at http://alleganyharvest.

coop.

Coach Lord Steps Down as Women's Basketball Coach

by DANIELLE BRENON

The Lady Highlander's basketball program has been piloted by Harold "Skip" Lord since his arrival at Houghton 25 years ago. Lord has faithfully served as both coach and Athletics Director, and next year will move into the full-time role of Executive Director of Athletics. As he enters this new position, Lord will step down as head coach for women's basketball.

Lord has served in various roles and is currently guiding Houghton through a momentous change in athletics affiliation as it seeks membership in the NCAA Division III. His leadership and administrative skills have led to remarkable strides for Houghton Athletics, including the recent step of receiving the \$12 million donation toward the upcoming Kerr-Pegula multi-sport complex.

Lord leaves a legacy of great successes in the women's basketball program where he has accumulated over 360 wins, ranking 10th nationally among all active NAIA DII women's basketball coaches. He has been named Coach of the Year by the Conference and the Women's Basketball Coaching Association. His teams have made four trips to the NAIA National Tournament and two trips to the NCCAA National Tournament. In addition to his coaching and Athletics Director responsibilities, Lord also serves as the volunteer coordinator of sports ministry for Global Partners, the missions arm of the Wesleyan Church, where he coordinates overseas short-term sports missions trips.

This season, Lord has led the Lady Highlanders to a 12-11 record. Through hard work and continual focus, Lord and the women hope to make it to playoffs and ultimately to the national championships. Senior captain Beth Lord reflected on her senior season and entire basketball career at Houghton.

"Basketball is very much a team sport, and I have enjoyed every minute, every up and every down that we, as a team, have had the opportunity to share and grow in together," she said.

team, have had the opportunity to share and grow in together," she said. Senior captain Alicia Marhefka agreed, and said it was not about the number of games won or the final mark on the scoreboard, remembering the encouraging and humorous things her teammates have said and done over the years. She commemorated Lord for his genuine investment in the players' lives. "One of the things I really appreciate

about Coach is his loyalty to his players," she said. "He always wants the best for us and is there to help whenever we need."

Assistant Athletics Director Matthew Webb affirmed Lord's coaching role at

In the late 1700s, after the Erie anal was built and there was a push or more land, Native Americans renquished their rights to the land and coepted payment from settlers who ranted to build homes. The Houghton mily settled and later, Copperhead, a eneca Native American, claimed he as not properly paid for his land. He -- at the intersection of Centerville and Old River Road -- and survived because of the community's charity. He is said to have been 120 years old when he died in 1864. In 1914, after an article in the Star stated that Copperhead's remains were being threatened by the stream's crossion, students raised moncy to relocate Copperhead's remains on campus. He now resides under a large boulder at the top of the hill leading up

Houghton

"Coach Lord has long held the vision that Houghton College Athletics would be a department committed to sports ministry," he said. "He has often been heard saying, 'each time we take the field or court or track, we have an opportunity to minister to those we play with, those we play against, and those we play in front of.' This perspective has defined his teams and has become part of who we are in the athletic department."

The women's basketball team is looking ahead to a home game against Wilberforce University at 4 p.m. tomorrow. *

PHILHARMONIA & Camerata Begin With A "B"

by ELENA VELÁZQUEZ

Last semester was a busy one for Houghton's Philharmonia, starting off with great excitement as they had the opportunity to play with the '80s rock band Kansas, meanwhile performing in a number of other concerts, and ending with a full tour of Christmas Prism. Spring semester is getting started tonight with a concert to close Purple and Gold week.

The concert is called "Philharmonia & Camerata: Movements & Motions: A Few Other Bs." For those wondering what is meant by "A Few Other Bs," it refers to the composers that all start with the letter B. The first composers that come to mind which start with the letter B are most likely Bach and Beethoven for most people, but there are lesser-known composers as well.

Featured will be a very modern piece called "Pulse," by Margaret Brower, a living, prize-winning composer. As the name implies, the piece is driven by its pulse; it begins with a simple repeated pattern in the strings while other instruments are added in, and the rhythms become more difficult causing the pulse to intensify. Conductor Brian Casey said, "The contempo-rary work 'Pulse' has been a blast to put together with the full orchestra. It's challenging but satisfying, and the 'bagpipe' effect midway through the piece is really high-impact. If the audience doesn't come away loving this particular music, though, there's a terrific closer right after.

This concert will purportedly be filled with beauty, intrigue, and cowboys. Yes, cowboys. Most will recognize Leonard Bernstein's "Magnificent Seven" when the familiar tune comes roaring from the strings with the brass driving the rhythm in the back. When asked what his favorite piece is, sophomore AC Taylor said, "Bernstein is my favorite. It is so much fun."

The audience will also get to hear from Houghton's own bass and cello instructors in a great Rossini duo, and senior Lizzie Engelberth will be featured in a beautiful piece for oboe and strings. Members of Philharmonia will be making baked goods for the audience's enjoyment after the concert.

FRI 2/3 vs Fisher College - W 78-68 SAT 2/4 vs Point Park Univ. - L 61-83 **TUE 2/7** vs Roberts Weslevan - W 48-41 Season Record: 9-15 UPCOMING GAMES: SAT 2/11 vs Wilberforce Univ. @ 2PM **TUE 2/14** at Daemen College @ 7:30PM WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: FRI 2/3 vs Fisher College - W 69-43 SAT 2/4 vs Point Park Univ. - L 49-77 **TUE 2/7** vs Roberts Wesleyan - L 46-54 Season Record: 12-11 LIPCOMING GAMES. SAT 2/11

vs Wilberforce Univ. @ 4PM TUE 2/14 at Daemen College @ 5:30PM

All information from http://athletics.houghton.edu/



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6 | OPINIONS

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Highlands: An Unsolicited Mascot Suggestion



by RYAN SPEAR

According to Houghton lore, the College took on the identity of the "Highlanders" in the 1960s when the switch was made from intramural to intercollegiate athletics. Supposedly, it was decided rather unceremoniously through a survey conducted by the Star with a whopping total of 17 votes. So, what better time than Houghton's transition to NCAA DIII athletics, and what better place than the Star to bring forward an unsolicited suggestion?

I hereby propose that Houghton should adopt Highland Cattle as our

school mascot. Alright, I know what some of you are thinking: "Houghton is rural enough, and you're suggesting that we put the image of a cow all over our athletic wear?" 'Stay with me. First, some background.

On a family trip to the UK a few years ago, in the misty Scottish highlands, we came across the majestic animals known as the Highland Cattle Highlands. Highlands have a distinct appearance because of their shaggy, often reddish hair and due to

the fact that both males and females have horns. Casually, J thought to myself that would make an awesome mascot for Houghton. As I later learned, these shaggy,

sturdy animals are well-suited to their environments. The parallels that can be drawn between the Highlands and our resilient Houghton students are uncanny. According to the online scholarly journal known as Wikipedia, Highlands are "a good breed for cold northern climates and they are able to thrive in outdoor conditions that would defeat most other breeds..." Furthermore, according to the American Highland Cattle Association, Highlands are "suitable for a variety of environments," and "tend to be docile and calm and do not stress easily." Also, "Highlands are slow maturing making the meat tender, flavorful and succulent." Okay, well, maybe not that last part. But you get the idea. On a particularly slow day in the

office one summer (yes, I did use work time for this), I had some coffee, and my creative juices started flowing. Displaying the liberal-arts prowess that I honed at Houghton, I Googled a screenshot of the movie "Braveheart," copied it into Microsoft Paint, and then pasted the head of a Highland on William Wallace's body. It's probably the best thing I've ever done. I did the next logical thing and posted it to Facebook. After some constructive criticism (and a desire to avoid an SGA resolution due to possible demonic associations), I decided that going with the "Minotaur" look was probably not the best idea. The Highlands would

have to stand on their own. Getting to the point, here is my proposal: we maintain our identity

as the "Highlanders" but switch the images on our athletic attire from the "Scottish lion" to the "Highlands." If you're looking for a mental picture, think of the University of Texas mascot, the Longhorn, but shaggier. In fact, if you want a real look at some Highlands, there is a farm near Houghton that has several.

In the extensive research I did on this, the only other school that has an association between their athletics and the Highlands is the New Jersey and the Highlands is the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Apparently, they adopted some local Highland Cattle at a nearby zoo. Their athletic wear, however, is a Scottish character with a sword and shield. I'm pretty sure we'd be the only college with this as a mascot. How cool would that be?

Now, I was a proud Highlander back in my undergraduate days of running cross-country at Houghton, so I mean no

disrespect to the fine folks in athletics. know how much care and attention went into the transition to our current look a number of years ago. Think of this as a friendly suggestion.

In summary, consider these points:

 Highlands look awesome.
Both males and females grow horns -- gender neutral!

3. It'd be nice to have an actual mascot that we could have at athletic and other events

4. Google Highland Cattle, read about them, and tell me it isn't a good fit for Houghton. 5. Highlands look awesome.

Think about it.

Ryan is an Admission Counselor and graduated from Houghton in 2007

The Penultimate Word / Neither the Best Nor the Worst Place Ever



by ELISA SHEARER

If you think Houghton is the best place ever, you should know: it's not. If you think you'll never want to leave, that's probably going to be an un-healthy frame of mind. Conversely, if you think Houghton is the worst place ever: it's not. It, like most things, falls somewhere in the middle.

Seeing alumni during Purple and Gold week reminded me of the intense identification with Houghton, both pos-itive and negative, that many students develop. In my first year especially, I remember many of my peers enam-ored with Houghton - indeed, there is a population here that might consider this place the bastion of morality and good company in a godless world. Con-versely, there is tendency among some students to speak of Houghton as a ludditic ash heap of closed-mindedness. So which view of Houghton is more accurate? Probably neither.

I suggest that our attitudes about our surroundings reflect more about our own frame of mind than the surroundings themselves. Intense identification, either positively (best place ever!) or negatively (dumbest place ever!), in-dicates an inability to define ourselves apart from (which is not synonymous with "in spite of") our chosen institution. Both cynicism and idealism can come from a similar naiveté.

If you do things purely out of spite for an institution instead of an actual desire to do them, you're more trapped by your negative identification than you are liberated by it. True maturity is indicated by an ability to consider the institutions around us with charity and objectivity, instead of wallowing in (alternately) comfortable idealism or foolish bitter-

Houghton is an educational institution. It is a business. It does not embody abstract ideals and it does not represent the whole of Protestantism, Christianity, or Academia; it is composed of a diverse staff, an intellectually eclectic faculty, various administration with various responsibilities, and an ever-changing student body: Houghton college is composed of individuals, is my point, and we maintain individual identities, values, and philosophies.

If you're miserable at Houghton and think that anywhere else would be a par-adise – you could probably find reason to despise any other school. If you think Houghton is the only possible option for your happiness and that your life has reached its peak, you'd have likely felt that way with a number of places you could have ended up. For seniors and first years, being

overly idealistic or fashionably cynical can make transition periods easier to stomach. Both strategies avoid the more difficult task of objectively assessing the

coexisting positive and negative aspects of our environment.

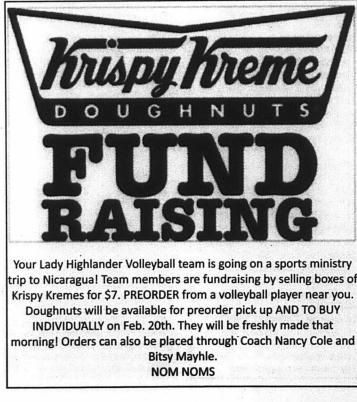
No one person, group of people, ideal, or moral standard represents the College as a whole: and the College as an idea does not represent any single person's attitude or opinion. It would be arrogant to assume that we know so much about the

people around us as to make sweeping generalized statements as "Houghton is

so ridiculous" or "Houghton is so per-

Houghton has its positive aspects - it also has its shortcomings. To pre-serve our own well-being and dignity we should try to acknowledge both.

Elisa is a senior English and psychology major



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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK / Millenials' Failure to Launch



by KRISTEN PALMER

by KRISTEN PALMER I read an article recently called "Nostalgic '90s television offers escape for college students," which talked about the recent return of television shows that defined the '90s. Last July, Nickelodeon started airing a show called "The 90s Are All That," featuring "All That," "Kenan and Kel," "Clarissa Explains It All," and "Doug." Since TeenNick (emphasis on the "teen") brought the shows back, they've averaged a 50% ratings increase among viewers our age and older. The article then reported on May 2011 Emory University graduate belongings from his room in his fratemity's house, and like many students across the nation, moved back in with his parents." Margolis said the adjustment was tough at first, "but now it's not so bad." He

Corrections:

University.

NCAA reports.

who wants to make breakfast for you or hear about your day."
According to Margolis, the best part of moving back home is, after a work winding down and satured but homework.
Matcording many of the '90s television and high stress levels." Apparently, in a crutilized, are now facing unemployment integer to use the working no job and high stress levels." Apparently, induces crough times, we as Millennial, working a part all, working a part all working a part

Then I realized: we're a bunch of losers. We're called the Millennials, but we're also called the "Boomerang Generation." Why? Because once we graduate from college, we boomerang back to our parents' homes. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a growing number of men and women, ages 24 to 34, are choosing to live with their parents post-college. This has to do with the economy and also with student debt. The Huffington Post published an article last summer called "2011 College Grads Moving Home In Record Numbers, Saddled With Historic Levels Of Student Loan Debt," which summarized a study conducted by Twentysomething Inc., a consultant firm specializing in young

"underutilized, meaning they're either working no job at all, working a part-time job or working a job outside of the collegelabormarket." Experts believe "debt at graduation is outpacing starting salaries." Michael Hais, author of "Millennial dependence on

searches.

Michael Hais, author of "Millennial Momentum: How a New Generation Is Remaking America," described the number of young adults moving back, home as "historically unprecedented." Sum said, "This is our country and this is our future and we're failing them." He believes recent graduates are "not only delaying the formation of their own households, but consequently unable to achieve a desirable standard of living." Graduates are returning home because they cannot afford to live on their own. If you've seen Failure to Launch,

If you've seen Failure to Launch, a movie about a 35-year-old bachelor named Tripp who still lives with his parents, you'll understand. Tripp's

parents go so far as to hire an interventionist to play his girlfriend in hopes she will convince their son to move out. The movie pokes fun at what the world sees as our generation's issue

I think we all agree a college education is needed, otherwise we wouldn't be here. I think we all that

Prolonging our

financial

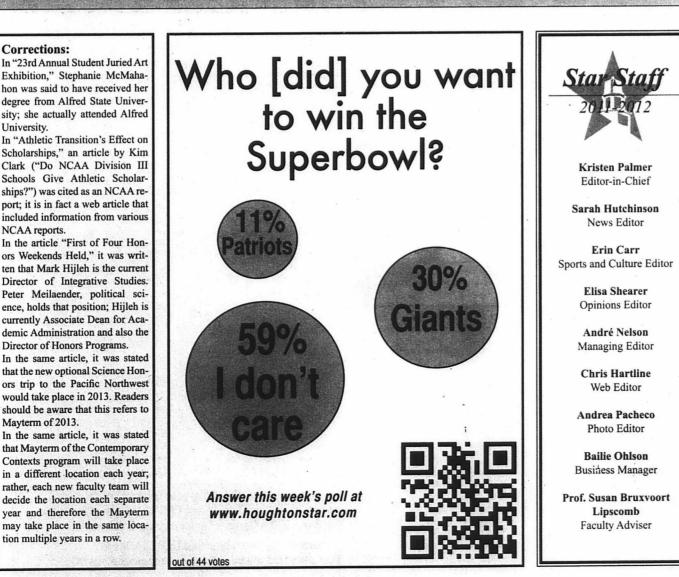
our parents

allows us to be

agree, too, that our nickname, the "Boomerang Generation" needs to go. Maybe our 90s nostalgia is a mask; we're avoiding life. Whether we move back home for financial reasons passive in our job " because we're craving the nostalgia of childhood, it can

hinder our growth as adults. The trend surely has negative effects on our financial and social independence. It also surely allows us to be passive in our job searches if we prolong our financial dependence on our parents. It's time to break free from the comfort-ability of "Kenan and Kel" reruns and kick the name the "Boomerang Generation."

Kristen is a senior English and communication major



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singer Mercedes Sosa sings a song that I hold dear to my heart, Cambia, Todo Cambia. The song conveys the reality of this world -- a whirlwind of disparities, adjustments and change. Everything changes, and I cannot think of a better way of embracing and demonstrating this truth than through art. It facilitates the manner in which I process the alterations in my environment, within others, and within myself. It allows me to see the beauty in what is created, bent, and broken by these modifications and inconsistencies. Above all, it reminds me that I am not in control.







Top: Entre Sombras y Luz, black and white film, speed 400 Rottom: Talk to Me, graphite; Ambiguity, digital photography

Emily is a senior biology and art double-major with a minor in public health and concentrations in premedicine and photography

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