



# THE HOUGHTON STAR

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## Committee on Spiritual Life Reviewing Chapel Policy

By Katarina Kieffer

The issue of Chapel attendance – addressed by President Mullen in her most recent chapel – is one often debated and even protested at Houghton College. Many students over the years have attended but refused to scan, and last fall members of the underground student group “Viva la Revolucion” went so far as to steal the chapel scanning equipment.

Senior Daniel Giles, a Humanities major who served as an RA in Shenawana last year, has refused to scan into chapel for the last two semesters.

“It’s not about chapel,” Giles insisted of his choice not to scan. “I really do like chapel, I still go. It’s the way that it is often enforced, the way they handle it – it seems to hurt the community.”

Community is one of the foundational aspects of Houghton’s Chapel policy. As stated in the current Chapel Mission Statement, “The purpose of chapel is to affirm our corporate identity as part of the larger body of Christ. Our times of

corporate gathering are expressions of this identity. We desire these gatherings to reflect the varied composition and needs of our community of faith and academic pursuits.”

The Committee on Spiritual Life (CSL) is currently reviewing the mission statement and the rest of the Chapel Policy, paying special attention to how Houghton’s requirements and disciplinary measures match up with similar schools.

John Brittain, Dean of Chapel, noted that the current mission statement was formed approximately five years ago. “I think that’s a snapshot of that committee, that year, and those students,” Brittain said. “It’s something we should look at every four to five years, and my guess is that the concerns will be different [for this generation of students].”

At Houghton, the method for ensuring that these “corporate gatherings” are attended by the majority of the community is to require full-time students to scan in to or out of at least two-thirds of

chapel services each semester.

Administrator Brian Webb has conducted research for the CSL that compares Houghton’s policy with three groups of colleges: “cross-application” schools that Houghton’s prospectives also consider; schools that are similar to Houghton, like Gordon; and the four other Wesleyan colleges. Brittain said this research was an attempt to examine more closely the oft-made student claim that Houghton’s policy is “the most draconian school...that our chapel requirement is much more severe than any other school.”

Webb found that Houghton’s policy is actually one of the least restrictive when compared with other “dashboard” schools like Roberts Wesleyan, Wheaton and Cedarville that also have required weekly chapels. Houghton requires students to attend 67% of services, while the average for the eight comparison schools is 79.3%. The other schools’ chapels are longer, as well, with an average of 52.5 minutes, compared to Houghton’s

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## Victory for Obama: Election Overview

By Joel VanderWeele

Culminating one of the most exciting U.S. presidential races in living memory, Democratic candidate Senator Barack Obama defeated Republican candidate Senator John McCain by a wide margin on Tuesday night, recording at least 350 electoral votes.

Democrats also registered large gains in Congress, adding at least fifteen seats in the House and as many as nine seats in the Senate. When the *Star* went to press, however, it appeared that Democrats would add only seven Senate seats, and fail to reach 60 seats.

Election night in 2008 lacked much of the suspense of the 2000 and 2004 election evenings. Before 10 p.m., all of the major media networks had called a number of toss-up states for Sen. Obama. As soon as polls closed on the West Coast at 11 p.m. EST, Sen. Obama had already accumulated enough electoral votes to reach 270, and media networks declared that he could claim the presidency. Sen. McCain called Sen. Obama shortly after 11 p.m. to congratulate him.

What the evening lacked in drama, however, was made up for by the historic significance of Sen. Obama’s victory. The first African-American to ever be elected President, Sen. Obama’s election marks an important milestone in the history of U.S. civil rights. Sen. Obama delivered his victory speech to a raucous crowd of 125,000 crammed into Grant Park in Chicago, Illinois, and he traced the life experiences of an 106-year-old woman from Atlanta, Georgia to illustrate how far America has progressed in the last century. “America, we have come so far,” he declared. “We have seen so much. But there is so much more to do.”

“If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy,” he wryly added, “tonight is your answer.”

Elated supporters did away with their traditional chant of “Yes, we can!” in favor of “Yes, we did!”

The reaction among Houghton  
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## Scheduling Difficulties Complicate Meal Times

By Cecily Hardy

It goes without saying that, in any given semester, students will encounter scheduling issues, whether it be dealing with conflicting courses when scheduling their semester in the first place, or making room for extracurricular activities once the semester has gotten into full swing. No one, however, has needed to worry about squeezing in a meal – until this semester. With classes booked through the lunch hour, some students struggle to find time for a midday meal, sometimes even resorting to leaving chapel early in order to run to the cafeteria, grab lunch, and run to class. While some see the scheduling change as a necessary evil while Houghton transitions to a four-credit academic system, others see it as an unnecessary nuisance.

“The only thing that keeps me from complaining loudly and forcefully is the fact that I enjoy my twelve o’clock class,” said Laura Jackson. Many students have, in past semesters, taken refuge

in the lunch hour as a brief time of rest before leaping back into classes. The scheduling change has eliminated a lot of class overlap, which was the intent, but it has also eliminated students’ brief lunchtime respite, and the inconveniences it has caused seem more troubling.

Students with both twelve o’clock and one o’clock classes have been given the option of pre-ordering a sack lunch. Sack lunches cost Pioneer a lot in time and labor, as they have to provide normal lunch as well as fifty to seventy sack lunches per day, as opposed to the ten or twelve per day last year. “We’ve tried to do everything we could to make it as palatable as possible,” said Food Service Director, Fred Libick, “but it is a sack lunch.”

Students with classes through their lunch hour also have the option of going to lunch early. This, however, has caused some students to chronically leave chapel early. There are several opinions among the student body about the students who feel inclined to leave chapel early in order to eat before class (or

at least retrieve food to eat in class). Some students feel that this group of students is only doing what they feel they must, while others find it to be tremendously disrespectful. Whatever the opinion though, the fact remains that it happens, and if it is to be prevented, some sort of incentive may be necessary.

Students are not the only ones confused by this semester’s schedule. Many faculty members have been inconvenienced by the change as well. “I don’t understand why the daily schedule was changed for this year, given that it’s going to have to change again next year when three-hour classes are eliminated,” said Philosophy Professor Chris Stewart, who has had to finagle several of his classes to fit with the new schedule. The schedule has also limited students’ ability to participate in lunchtime language tables – which, says Language professor Nan Hussey, “are intrinsic to the language program here rather than a frill.” She also mentioned

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## THE WORLD OUT

By Joel VanderWeele

### Controversial Ballot Measures: Gay Marriage Out, Abortion In

As well as voting on who will represent them in Washington D.C., American voters also had the opportunity to influence a number of controversial legislative issues on the state level. Arizona, California, and Florida all supported a ban on gay marriage while Arkansas passed a ban on gay couples adopting children. South Dakota and California both rejected limits on abortion, Colorado voted against defining human life at the moment of conception, and Michigan passed a measure to allow stem cell research. Michigan also agreed to allow the use of medical marijuana and Washington chose to legalize doctor-assisted suicide.

### Rebels, Militia clash in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Fighting between Congolese rebels and pro-government militias has forced 250,000 people from their homes. As his forces approached the capital city of Goma last week, rebel leader Laurent Nkunda declared a ceasefire, but United Nations officials report that violence has continued to spread. The UN has deployed a peace-keeping corps of 17,000 to the Democratic Republic of Congo, its largest force ever, but is struggling to provide food and shelter for the displaced Congolese. In the face of the imminent attack, the head of the UN mission in Congo has called in reinforcements and will do so again if the rebels mobilize. Further complicating the matter, three refugee camps north of Goma have recently been emptied and destroyed, displacing 50,000 refugees. Nkunda is reportedly fighting to protect his Tutsi community from a potential attack from Hutu rebels from Rwanda.

### Violence in Central Gaza

Six were killed and three were left injured as violence broke out in the Gaza Strip between Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and Hamas operatives on Wednesday morning. The clash began when IDF special forces entered the region to destroy a 250 meter tunnel into Israeli territory dug by Hamas. According to Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilna'i, the tunnel was ready for imminent use and was part of a plot to kidnap IDF soldiers and smuggle weapons into the region. The military operation resulted in a gunfight between IDF and Hamas that resulted in six Palestinian deaths. Hamas also fired 20

rockets into Israel, injuring three Israeli soldiers and destroying a nearby home. Despite the worst violence since a cease-fire was agreed upon in June, IDF claims to remain committed to the peace agreement. Hamas, however, has vowed vengeance for the casualties it sustained.

### China and Taiwan Begin Trade Negotiations

After years of strained relations, Taiwan and China have resumed trade talks dating back to the early 1990s. Hurt by the economic downturn, Taiwan is looking to bolster its economy by opening up trade networks with growing Chinese businesses. Taiwan, which used to be a Chinese territory, does not wish to strengthen political ties with their neighbor, whom they view as an unfriendly rival. China, however, has refused to acknowledge Taiwan as an independent state and has threatened to go to war to reinstitute unity. The Chinese envoy arrived in Taiwan on Wednesday and presented two Chinese pandas to the Taipei Zoo as a symbol of goodwill.

### Mexico Interior Minister Dead

A small plane crashed in Mexico City, killing at least eight, including the powerful Juan Camilo Mourino, interior secretary of Mexico and Jose Luis Santiago, former assistant attorney general. Both men were controversial figures in Mexico's fight against drug cartels. Mourino, who was a close advisor to Mexican President Felipe Calderon and in charge of the country's security, was embroiled in a scandal caused by his family's involvement with private contracts to the state-owned oil company. The Learjet 24 went down in the wealthy neighbourhood of Lomas de Chapultepec, setting fire to two dozen vehicles and forcing 1,800 local workers from their offices. The cause of the accident remains unknown.

### Asian Markets Spike with Announcement of Obama Victory

Following the announcement that Barack Obama had been elected the next president of the United States, Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 4.4% and Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 3.2%. U.S. stocks had risen on Election Day, but appeared to be losing ground on Wednesday. Economic advisors continue to warn that this recession will be across the board and long-lasting.

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that this year's schedule "has had a limiting effect on the Faculty Forum," a weekly faculty lunch for research presentations. "To me, the Faculty Forum is one of the great perks of working here," Hussey said. "But with the new afternoon schedule, we either have to cut back on socializing, or leave before the presenter has finished."


Linda Mills-Woolsey, head of the Curriculum Review Committee, said that "some of the problem lies not in the schedule grid itself, but sometimes in the way individual departments have scheduled courses, the way advisers have counseled students and choices students themselves have made." While it may be true that some student scheduling problems are self-made, there are still some schedule issues that can't be helped. Even students not affected this

semester may have problems next semester. "If things remain the way they are, I will be unable to complete my minor because the last class I need for it overlaps every science lab that's offered. As a Biology major, doing without labs for an entire semester is simply not an option," said Bretta Hixson, a Biology major and a student representative on the CRC. She, and

**"If things remain the way they are, I will be unable to complete my minor...as a Biology major, doing without labs for a semester is not an option."**

other students like her, have been able to make alternative arrangements, but such arrangements can never be ideal.

The schedule for next year is still in process, but from all reports, it seems to be much less problematic than this year's schedule, and understandably so — once all departments switch

to a four-credit system, instead of having some three-credit and some four-credit courses, the class schedule will be much less complicated to put together. 

### • Election continued from page 1

students was mixed. Junior Clara Sanders says, "I am so thankful and happy that the American people have elected Barack Obama as the next president of the United States, overcoming a racial divide and sending a message of hope, rationality, and cooperation to America and the rest of the world. The results of the election have given me peace, tears, and excitement."

Sophomore Josh Wallace provided a conservative viewpoint. "Enough of the American People felt the now President Elect would do well as the Executive of our Nation that he was elected President," Wallace said. "As a supporter of the defeated candidate, it is my duty to seek unity by upholding the voice of America in supporting the person America has elected."


Jordan Everret, also a McCain supporter, expressed more concern than Wallace. "Although my vote was for John McCain, my congratulations go to Senator Obama, both for his victory and for its historical ramifications. However, I have deep reservations about many of the policy implementations that now appear imminent...possible premature withdrawal from Iraq, small business tax hikes on technicalities, slashing of defense funding, and liberal judicial appointments, to name a few."

Students in overseas program have had the unique experience of witnessing the reactions in

other countries to results of the American elections. Sonja Mindrebo, a junior participant in the Houghton in London program says of London, "Yes, it is a very pro-Obama atmosphere," and added that "When I went to a local restaurant this morning, I saw a newspaper proclaiming Obama's victory. Everyone seems to be very happy about it."

Sen. McCain, to his credit, delivered a gracious concession speech. He said that the two candidates "have had and argued our differences," but that "these are difficult times for our country. And I pledge to him tonight to do all in my power to help him lead us through the many challenges we face." Though

he failed in his bid to succeed President Bush, he will rejoin his colleagues in the U.S. Senate. Alaska Governor Sarah Palin will return to Alaska. The Senate seats vacated by Sen. Obama and his running mate, Senator Joe Biden of Delaware, will be filled by gubernatorial appointment.

Immediately after the election, rumors swirled as to who would be appointed to Sen. Obama's cabinet. Representative Rahm Emanuel, D-IL, was formally offered the position of Chief of Staff. More appointments are expected in the coming days and weeks, as an array of both Republicans and Democrats are reportedly being considered for top posts. 

**"America, we have come so far. We have seen so much. But there is so much more to do."**





# Student Profile: ROTC Commanding Officer Alec Dagg

By Sandra Stark

STAR: What is ROTC? What in your background led you down this path?

Dagg: ROTC stands for Reserve Officer Training Corp. They have programs for the Army, Navy, and Air Force. I am in Army ROTC, which is designed to mold the future officers of the United States military. The program offers classes to all college level students to afford them the opportunity learn the military leadership style.

I have no familial ties to the military, so there was never any pressure to carry on a military tradition. I started looking into ROTC as an option to pay for college and also because I knew I wanted something different for my life. I also wanted to serve my country, especially after 9/11. That played a big role in my decision. I also wanted to go to college after high school and the ROTC program allows me to go to college and be a part of the military without enlisting.

STAR: What do you commit to when you joining the ROTC program? Are you committing to active service following college?

Dagg: Just by participating in the Military Science class you commit to nothing. Military Science is a normal college level class that is offered once a week at Houghton College. If you "contract", decide to become an officer and have the Army pay for your education, you commit to eight years of army

service. Now those eight years are not necessarily as active service, in fact, the most common term of service is to complete four years on active duty and four years in the inactive reserve, in the Reserves or National Guard with a monthly commitment.

STAR: What does being in the ROTC program look like for you on a daily basis? Is it hard to juggle being in ROTC with your other schoolwork and commitments?

Dagg: This semester, I am in charge of the program at Houghton so it is a much bigger time commitment than usual, about 20 hours a week.

The technical name for my job is Commanding Officer. I go down to St. Bonaventure on Fridays for class from 3-6 and Physical Training Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. I also assist in teaching the basic course class for freshmen and sophomores on Wednesday, and split mentoring with all our contracted cadets with Dave Allen during the week.

STAR: Do you think that it is a good thing that the majority of the ROTC program takes place at St. Bonaventure? Or would you like to see it become more of a Houghton thing?

Dagg: About half our program takes place at Bonaventure, the

juniors and seniors commute there for the Advanced course, while the freshman and sophomores stay here. All our special activities, such as award ceremonies and our military ball are in Olean. It is a good thing much of our training takes place at St. Bonaventure because the logistics and the instructors are all there. It would be nice to see more at Houghton, in part so I don't go broke filling up my gas tank. However St. Bonaventure is one of the better programs in the nation and using their resources is our best course of action right now.

**"Most people really have no idea what the military is, how it operates, and are even scared of it."**

STAR: Describe some challenges that you have faced within the

ROTC program and how you have grown from them.

Dagg: Adapting to new leadership has been a challenge we have adapted to. This year we got a new Professor of Military Science at St. Bonaventure. The replacement of Lieutenant Colonel Trightly with Lieutenant Colonel Leitch, and the departure of Houghton Alumnus Benjamin Groen brought change to ROTC leadership, requiring everyone to adapt.

STAR: What do you hope to be doing in the future?

Dagg: I got my branch choice of Engineers and will serve as an Engineer Lieutenant once I graduate in May. I haven't decided



if I want to make the Army a career yet, if I decide not to enlist, hopefully work for the government in development.

STAR: Is there any advice that you would like to give your peers at Houghton?

Dagg: Most people really have no idea what the military is or how it operates or are even scared of it. In the present day, when the military is utilized so much, I think it is important for people to understand the military. I think ROTC is a fundamental part of a liberal arts education that a lot of people miss out on. Even if someone takes one semester of ROTC, they are significantly ahead of everyone else in terms of understanding the military and the people involved in it.

## Chapel Comparisons

Data was gathered from 16 schools, including: Roberts, Wheaton, Liberty, Cedarville, Geneva, Asbury, OK Wesleyan, Westmont, Grove City, Messiah, Gordon, IWU, Southern Wesleyan, Greenville, Taylor, and Eastern.

- 8 of 16 schools studied have required weekly chapels with no alternative chapels.
- 6 out of 16 schools have required chapels, but offer alternatives.
- Only 2 out of 16 do not require chapel attendance.
- Compared to other schools with chapel requirements, Houghton is on par for average: 3 chapels per week, 39 total chapels a semester, and around 67% required attendance.
- Compared to schools with only weekly chapels, Houghton has one of the most lenient policies: fewer total chapels (39 vs. 43) and requires 67% attendance, compared to 79%.
- 6 of 13 schools require students to make up missed chapels through community service or listening to chapels and reporting on them.
- 7 of 13 schools do not let students miss chapel requirements for 2 consecutive semesters, either by not showing registration, or by not attending chapel.

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40-minute services.

"I think it's entertaining that for all the complaining that goes on, we have a remarkably lax chapel policy," said Shane Marcus, a senior who is a member of the CSL.

Clara Sanders, another student representative on the committee, agreed. "We all feel like the policy needs to be addressed and, although it's unlikely that mandatory attendance will be abolished, we are looking seriously at the structure of that attendance, our requirements, and the possibility of alternative chapels."

Brittain also spoke about the possibility of alternative chapels, which could serve as a supplement to the basic requirements. Ideas for alternative chapels might include activities like the recent New Vision Week forums, rather than reinventing chapel itself.

The committee is also looking at altering the part of the policy that deals with the repercussions for not fulfilling the chapel requirement. As it stands now, the policy simply calls for a warning after the first semester of neglect, the second semester results in disciplinary probation, and the third semester of violation may result in the student

being expelled.

Brittain is concerned that this policy encourages students to not take the requirement seriously. "In some ways, we have created the worst of all possible worlds," he said, noting that, in comparison, Houghton is the "only school that lets things drag out" by not strongly confronting the issue after the first semester of violation.

Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes, in charge of enforcing the policy, agrees that the current policy makes it difficult to get students to take their first violation seriously. Hynes does not want to simply send a letter of warning, but still tries to work within the policy as best she can:

"I try to meet with students who fall significantly short of the requirement to discern what happened in their particular case. This helps me to gain a better sense for the individual situation of each student."

Sanders shares the concern about the importance of discerning between individual cases. "There's been a lot of inconsistency when it comes to the disciplinary procedures, and a lack of communication," she lamented. "Some students slip by, some students get hit really hard, and that does not get across

what the chapel policy is meant to communicate."

When students actively protest campus issues by refusing to scan, as in Giles' case, Brittain feels it would be more beneficial for "students to confront the problems directly if they want to see a policy changed" by talking to a student representative on CSL. He continued, "Some people use scanning to make a conscientious objection. Here's the problem: we are a voluntary society."

In Giles' case, it is unclear what his punishment, if any, will be for his choice to not scan.

"My purpose," he said, "is to challenge students to really talk about it, and it has worked. You're not always going to agree with everything, even if you choose to be a part of the community. You have to learn how to deal with the parts you don't like, and this is my way of trying to do that."

"It's an interesting balance, that balance between institution and Christian community," Giles added. "I think more people have concerns about that balance, and hopefully this is way to show people that they can voice these concerns."

The CSL will be conducting research to gather student opinion on these issues in coming weeks.





## Men's Soccer Team Travel to Rio Grande For AMC Playoffs

By Nick Fredette

As the American Midwest Conference playoffs begin, the Houghton men's soccer team falls to sixth place with a tough loss against Roberts Wesleyan College. In the bitter cold at Roberts, a hard-fought battle was won by the Raiders, facilitated by a goal early in the second half.

The game was not one-sided; both teams controlled the ball well, and neither conceded many opportunities. Possession was



Photo by Mike Wise

The Highlanders will travel to Rio Grande this weekend for the first round of AMC Playoffs.

roughly equal, as is always the case with games in this rivalry. The Highlanders came back onto the field after a 0-0 score at halftime ready to play. They controlled the ball well, and kept it in the offensive third for much of the early second-half. However, just six minutes into the second half, Jake Schindler scored a goal for Roberts. He was assisted by Femi Arogundade. Houghton continued to play hard, keeping their heads up after the goal, but didn't manage to capitalize on a few offensive opportunities.

Houghton's record is now 9-7-1, and 6-4-1 in the AMC. They will go on to the playoffs, where they will face the number 3 seeded University of Rio Grande. This matchup looks like it will be a tough one for the Highlanders, but an interesting game nonetheless. The last time Houghton faced the Red Storm, the Highlanders found goals from Justin Farnsworth and a beautiful side-netting goal from Chris Cruikshank, but it wasn't enough to topple the previously number one ranked Rio Grande, who won the game 3-2.

As the team heads out to Rio Grande to face this tough competitor, they will be diligently preparing, with hopes of pulling an upset in the first round of playoffs. "We've set a goal as a team this week to pour our hearts out in practice; give

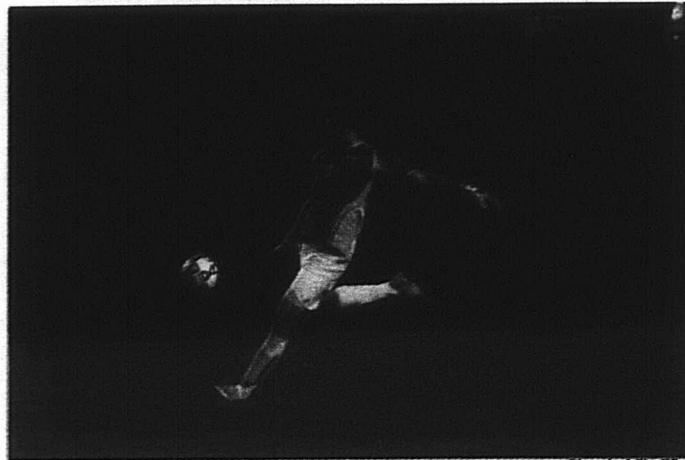


Photo by Mike Wise

After making one of eight saves against Rio Grande, goalie Erik Lefebvre attempts to kickstart an attack for the Highlanders.

everything we have in preparation for the game against Rio Grande", said defender Chris Davis about this week's practices. "We need to continue to play as a unit and have the right mind-set coming into the game. If we want it more we will take it."

The team will look to juniors Dan Brubaker and Steve Grudda, who are currently leading the Highlanders in points, each with six goals and two assists. When asked about the upcoming game, Grudda responded "We look forward to the challenge of playing Rio Grande. They are an accomplished team. Competing against them for the

privilege to advance will demand our full effort." This effort will also have to come from players like keeper Erik Lefebvre and striker Jonathan Brooks, both of whom have shown excellent performance in recent games. On the defensive side, the Highlanders will look to stop Ederson Lopes and Callum Morris, the leading scorers for the Red Storm. If the Highlanders can manage to control the flow of the game and work together as a team, it should be an excellent game.

The game will be held at the University of Rio Grande on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, at 2 P.M. Good Luck Highlanders!

## Long-Awaited Christian Horror Film *House* Released Today

By Mary Valvo

Set to debut today, *House* is the long-anticipated movie based on the 2006 novel co-authored by Christian suspense novelists Ted Dekker and Frank Peretti. The recipient of a controversial R-rating by the Motion Picture Association of America for "some violence and terror," *House* has broken new ground in the Christian film industry, as this rating is both a dissuasion and attraction for many viewers.

The movie begins with Jack and Stephanie Singleton, a couple whose constant bickering is just one suggestion that their relationship could use the marriage counseling they are speeding through the back roads of Alabama towards. A sudden clangor and an abrupt halt suspend their journey: two flat tires send Jack and Stephanie looking for help on a road that is about as teeming with life as is the Dead Sea.

Thunder cracking above and rain slashing through quivering tree branches, Stephanie and Jack make their way to an ominous structure: a dark house boasting the name of

Wayside Inn. Met by a similarly vehicle-less and perplexed couple inside, the Singletons plan to just use the inn's phone and leave.

It soon becomes apparent that a solution cannot be so simply reached: this inn is operating under an entirely different set of rules (and I don't mean hotel fire regulations) that can be summarized quite

**"House has broken new ground in the Christian film industry."**

simply: kill or be killed. The four travelers trapped within discover that their struggle to escape the house is not just hindered by the sentient, but by an evil whose implacable power only one thing can quench.

Although no movie can exactly replicate the book upon which it is based, *House* does a respectable job of instilling in the audience the same sense of adrenaline-charged fear as the book. The constant shifting back and forth between the frenzy in the house and flashbacks of the characters causes some confusion regarding the direction of the plot, yet through this a deeper understanding is reached of the complexities of those characters who seem rather predictable in the

beginning of the movie.

While not the most original film in terms of setting and special effects, *House* ultimately offers much more than the typical Hollywood horror/suspense film.

Instead of nauseating the audience with graphic chainsaw chases and flesh-searing sequences, *House* portrays a kind of terror that hits the discerning moviegoer in an intensely resounding way. It suggests that the evil each one of us is capable of is far more dangerous than any outside threat, both to ourselves and to others. *House*, in all its heart-wrenching terror, begs us to consider that sin is much more than a religious idea.

All elements considered, don't expect a movie of the Stephen King or M. Night Shyamalan varieties, as this film is less about terror and more about truth.

*House* possesses what few other movies of its kind can assert: a conclusion that invites the audience to consider more than the possibility of aliens, but the existence of "houses" of our own making.







## Ryan Adams and The Cardinals' *Cardinology* Now In Stores

By Luke Sanford and  
Jesse Woolsey

Ryan Adams and The Cardinals released their latest album *Cardinology* last week. Adams' original folk rock sound carries through into this album, making the songs unique and intriguing.

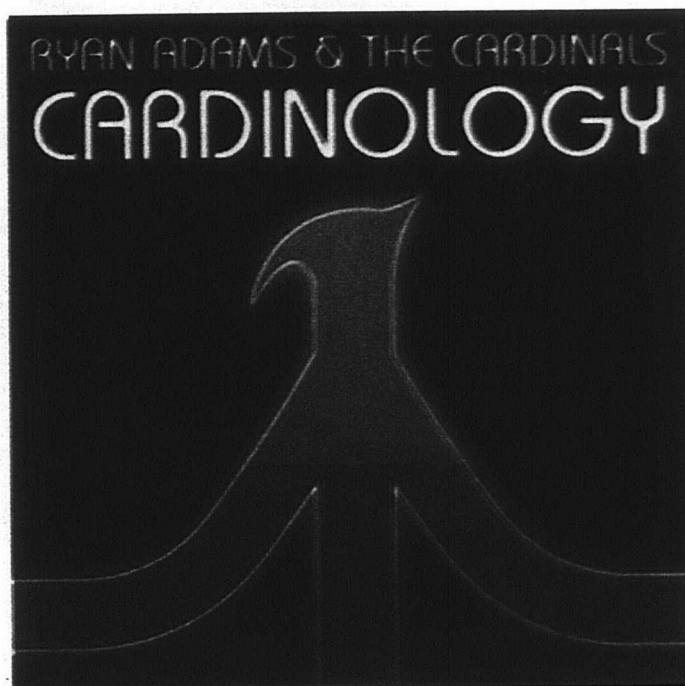
Adams started his solo career in 2000 with *Heartbreaker*, an album which Elton John claimed changed his life. Adams' sophomore album *Gold*, released in 2001, may be his most popular album to date. He received multiple Grammy nominations for the album, including Best Male Vocal for "New York, New York" and Best Rock Album. Adams made three more solo albums, though none had the success of *Heartbreaker* or *Gold*. He then joined with The Cardinals, who made their first album *Cold Roses* in 2005.

Joining the band changed Adams' sound, adding fresh qualities to his unique sound. A more noticeable folk tone was added to his customary rock style. Adams' vocals are unique, and Neal Casal's ability to compliment him vocally gives The Cardinals more musical variety. The Cardinals have a secret weapon in John Graboff's

steel guitar that gives the group a bit of a country twang at times.

*Cardinology* is the band's fourth album following last year's EP, *Follow The Lights*, which featured several re-recorded songs and three new titles. Despite his self-proclaimed fickle blogging, which includes the posting and un-posting of deeply emotional spouts, diatribes, and occasional nonsensical poetry, Adams has written relatable and heart-felt songs on this album. His long history of drug and alcohol abuse is reflected in the depressing tone of some of his earlier songs; however, Adams has been sober for a couple of years now and has recently even stopped smoking.

This provides some explanation as to the numerous light and dark metaphors throughout *Cardinology*, especially noticeable in the lead song "We Were Born into a Light." The biggest hit from this album is most likely "Fix It" the third track on the song list. The Cardinals turn up the tempo with a little harder electric sound in "Magick," but mellow back down with a steady tempo in "Cobwebs". The middle third of the 12-track album has a steady tempo and tone and contains one of the album's top songs, "Sink Ships."



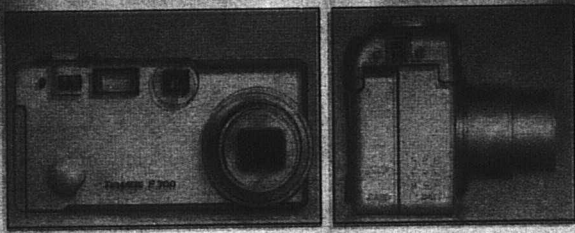
The conclusion of the album, Cardinal's notable talent.

"Stop," is soft with a piano solo by Adams, carrying tones reminiscent of "Sylvia Plath" from *Gold*.

What makes this album so worthwhile is the sheer variety of sound found within it. It starts out fairly upbeat but has an increasingly heartfelt ending, providing the listener with the full scope of The

In the authors' opinion, this is the best album that The Cardinals have made, and Adams' best album since *Gold*. If you are interested in folk or rock genres or are looking for new musical to taste, get this album. It has a little bit of everything, and the captivating lyrics, alone are sure to entice you.

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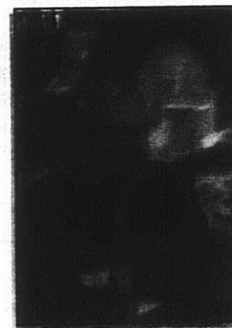
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## Capitalism vs. Individualism: A Reader Reponds...

Professor Peter Meilaender critiques last week's article on higher education in a capitalist society.

by Peter Meilaender

I enjoyed reading Micah Warf's Oct. 31 editorial, "Pavlov's Nation." In general, I sympathize with his cautions about thinking of higher education primarily in consumer terms. But I fear he is insufficiently appreciative of the virtues of capitalism and therefore locates the blame for the problem, at least to some extent, in the wrong place.

We should indeed be very careful about thinking of what we offer as primarily a "product" to be tailored according to consumer preferences. The difficulty here arises from a difference between what we are selling and the typical consumer product. When I go shopping for a car, or sneakers, or breakfast cereal, or whatever, I already have in mind the sort of product that I know I want, and it's entirely appropriate for me both to shop around to get it and to expect that businesses will attempt to tailor products to the desires of me and my fellow consumers.

But what an institution like Houghton offers—a liberal arts education—is different, because consumers (often) don't actually understand what it is they are undertaking to buy before they buy it. Many of them don't really understand until they get here what a liberal education is. If we tailor our product to their pre-existing desires, therefore, we simply cease to offer what we claim to offer at all. We thus stop being the kind of institution we say we are, abdicate our responsibility to sustain liberal education, and even at some level fail to offer the consumers the product for which they are really shelling out huge sums of money, even though

they don't know exactly what that is.

Having said that, I would hesitate to finger capitalism as the chief culprit here. After all, without capitalism, Houghton as we know it would not exist at all. Nothing even remotely resembling American higher education could possibly exist in the absence of a society capable of producing enormous wealth, in ways that only capitalism makes possible. Indeed, the provision of universal, publicly-funded elementary education, which has made literacy commonplace, also requires the same basis. (I say this as someone who thinks the public school system has plenty of problems. Still, it is a remarkable achievement.)

Two factors Micah fails to note play a major role in the phenomenon he is criticizing:

(1) The college advertising efforts he describes near the end of his editorial ("Houghton is the place for YOU") I would chalk up not to capitalism, but to a different product of modernity, expressive individualism. There are no doubt links between these, but they are nevertheless distinct. Expressive individualism owes a great deal to Rousseau; no fan of capitalism, he — and defenders of expressive individualism — frequently deplore "bourgeois capitalism." Capitalism does indeed involve a form of individualism, but one that is deeply embedded in a social network—it requires not only consumers, after all, but equally producers, whose success necessitates constant

attunement to the needs and desires of their fellows. Expressive individualism, by contrast, is bound up with a characteristically modern longing for "autonomy," a longing that (rightly) understands itself as in tension with capitalism's rewarding of sober virtues such as thrift, industriousness, honesty, reliability, and the like, all of which make it hard just to "be myself."

After all,  
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Houghton as we  
know it would not  
exist at all.

(2) The influence of market forces in the academy also owes a great deal to the rampant politicization of higher education wrought by the left beginning in the '60's. When academics began making it their chief cause to deplore the West, chastise dead, white, European males, demolish the traditional curriculum, and in general express scorn for the values of most of their customers, those customers reasonably began asking questions about the "product" for which they were, after all, paying huge and ever-increasing sums of money. I, at least, find it hard to blame them.

So while Micah's essay was thoughtful and insightful, I would modify his critique. In particular, I would always want to distinguish carefully between (a) the prudent attempt to be alert for the extension of market-thinking beyond its appropriate sphere and (b) a critique of capitalism as such. Whatever its shortcomings, the free market remains the best economic option we have, and an essential component of a free society.

*Peter is a professor of Political Science.*

and I'm thoroughly impressed at the many ways the College has come together to support Emily Crikelair and her family. From the green bracelets gracing the wrists of her faithful supporters in prayer and finance, to hand-made signs seen on pretty much every surface the campus has to offer, its easy to see that Emily's situation is still constantly in prayer.

It has also been a theme of chapel this semester to give regular updates on the progress that Emily's making, to pray for the missionary work in a specific country, and to lift up corporately the prayers of community members on campus. These are legitimate concerns, but I think that as Christ-followers it's imperative that we conscientiously expand our vision and our prayers, not looking further around the globe, but further toward those people we just don't like.

Why don't we try something new: let's pray for those Iraqi insurgents shooting at our brothers and sisters, and for their families who are losing just as many sons and daughters. We have good human reasons to not want to, but the Bible doesn't leave us that loophole. I don't want try to craft an argument to support or not support the President Bush's ridiculous War on Terror, I simply want us as a community to remind ourselves to pray for those people who are not so easy to love as Emily.

It's important that we pray for the Crikelair family, just as it's important that we bring every concern before the Almighty. Yet if the only people who find to time to remember in prayer are those we like, agree with, and remember laughing with, we've missed the point. Christ called us to love our enemies. It's nice to think that if Osama bin Laden decided to visit Houghton we would lovingly welcome him to share lunch with us, but somehow I don't think we're going to have that chance any time soon. Instead, we have the opportunity every day to pray for those people that our nation calls enemies and truly learn to love them. It may not look like actually feeding the hungry and clothing the naked every day, but the real challenge will always be in transforming hearts.

-Daniel Metzger, class of 2009

Dear Editors,

I am afflicted today with a feeling I must admit to having never felt before. It is a feeling that has made this last day pass as if a dream, for today, Wednesday the fifth of November 2008, I have a true hope in humanity's potential to do good. Last night Barack Obama was elected President of the United States of America, and last night America proved that she felt change was possible. And not only did she prove this but she proved that change is possible by electing the first black man into the highest office of our country.

### Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,

I'm writing to all of our dear bikesnatchers on campus:

Let me express my deep affinity with you. You and I are united together in one unique, but strong bond: our love of bikes. This note is to all of you bike-lovers who enjoy a community where bikes are not chained to iron bars, but left to roam free, ever coming and going at will.

To the person(s) enjoying my lovely blue mountain bike (his name is Mt. Fury, as is written on the bar): Although I would not mind having it back, I do hope you are enjoying it. It has traveled many a mile and will no doubt continue to serve you well. You might want to replace the brakes before attempting a big hill. If you get tired of it (and this is for all wonderful bike snatchers) don't trash it, just return it to a place where we can reunite with our beloved

bikes -I speak on behalf of others who are currently parted from their bikes as well.

The long walks to my place off campus are good reminders of how much we owe our dear bikes, so thank you for this opportunity to appreciate my bike more. In the meantime, take care of it and kind regards.

On a more serious note, part of what makes Houghton the wonderful community it is, is that we are able to trust each other by leaving backpacks, laptops, and other such things (bikes included) "lying around" without fear of their being stolen. Despite Captain Jack Sparrow's entreating to the opposite, borrowing without consent, not withstanding one's having "every intention of returning it," is stealing, as he was appropriately reminded.

-Gerad Gentry, class of 2010

Dear Editors,

It's great when our community can come together and support one of our own. I'm new to Houghton,

**The HOUGHTON STAR** is dedicated to the free exchange of ideas, and encourages community members to participate in the discussion. Ideas expressed in these pages reflect solely the opinion of the writer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit any contributions for reasons of length or decorum. Letters to the editor (signed) should be 350 words or fewer and be submitted by Monday at 7 p.m. to [STAR@houghton.edu](mailto:STAR@houghton.edu).





Those of you still on the fence may think I feel this way because of victory, this is not so. Obama was never my candidate. I personally disagree with many of his political views. So no, I do not feel hope because of victory, I feel hope because of what I saw in the American people last night. It was not until Obama delivered his acceptance speech that my reluctance to hope began to fade, and it was not until he called "Yes, we can" and a multitude of men and woman cried in response "Yes, we can!" that I believed as many across do, that we can change, and that we can change for the good.

But I must admit, though I will remember the way I have felt this fifth of November, all days from here on are a challenge to both our country and our President. As a country we have proclaimed that change is possible and that we can be that change, these ensuing days are our test. Let us not fail. Even more so, Obama is in many ways the reason so many Americans have this hope, his actions as President will now illuminate weather or not he believes what he so vehemently preaches. There is a worry in my heart (as much as there is a hope) that Obama has convinced our country to believe that he is what we want when in fact he is not. I pray our hope is more founded than our worry. And let these next four years be for the betterment of Washington, America, and the World.

-Matthew Whittemore, class of 2009-

Dear Editors,

If the church is going to pursue its Biblical mandate to seek justice and redemption in our world, we'd better make sure we pursue policies that truly fulfill those ends. The United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, endorsed by a representative of the Micah Challenge at chapel this past week, does not.

The United Nations' program attempts to provide healthcare, education, environmental protection, and even change the cultural values of third world countries, in an essentially socialist plan that takes money from more developed nations (often without their

taxpayers' consent) to foot the bill. By providing these programs, even for good intentions, the UN will be taking immense, unchecked, power over the lives and society of the third world. The UN is held accountable to no one. We the people have no direct representation in the United Nations. The third world also has no representation in the UN except via their corrupted dictators (the ones who are partially responsible for their current economic conditions in the first place).

Without representative power, the people lose their voice and no one is there to keep their liberty or even their lives from being taken away. If the people say "ouch," no one is there to represent them. If the right people gain an ability to use these programs for their own purposes, such as brainwashing, lining their own pockets, or assist the corruption in the local governments, the people who will suffer are not there to say or do anything about it. Power corrupts, no matter how benevolent the initial intentions of those who possess it.

The United Nations has already shown itself to be easily corrupted. Though elements of the UN have sought bringing justice to the Darfur region, Russia and China have effectively used their force in the UN to put all efforts to a stop, for their own benefit. Why are we offering such power to a body that has proven itself to be so easily corrupted?

This plan furthermore throws money and bureaucratic programs at problems that run much deeper. These complex problems are only solved through a redemptive force that only the hands and feet of Christ can provide. The state can't be the world's saviour; disaster results anytime they attempt to be.

The dangers of unchecked government power led to the slaughtering of millions during the atrocious genocides of the 20th century. Have we forgotten history so quickly? By supporting this UN endeavor, I fear that the church would essentially add to the injustice and brokenness of our world. No matter how pure our intentions, this plan turns the gospel on its head.

-Kyle Johnson, class of 2012

From the Editors' Desk...

## Operation Feel Good Inc.

What messages are we sending around the world in shoeboxes?

by Joel VanderWeele

As the Christmas season draws near, we have once again been asked to participate in Operation Christmas Child. For those of us who delete our Campus Wide E-mails and tune out chapel announcements, Operation Christmas Child is a charity event where people pack shoeboxes full of goodies and send them to those less fortunate than them in an attempt to "place a smile on the face of a child who will receive a gift for the first time."

I have mixed feelings about Operation Christmas Child. While I am undoubtedly a hard-hearted cynic for not immediately being warmed to action by the promise of a smiling poverty-stricken child, I can't shake the feeling that we're attempting a sort of hoodwink evangelism.

It's a no-brainer, right? When given the opportunity to brighten a stranger's life, we should take advantage of it. Even more, the teachings of Jesus call us to perform similar acts of goodwill all the time. Surely this is an opportunity to graciously thank God for our material blessings by giving to those less fortunate than ourselves; a chance to let go of our own obsession with earthly belongings and reach out to those who are really in need.

This "no-brainer" is made even more obvious by the disparity of wealth between giver and receiver. Houghton students are constantly being told that a huge percentage of the world lives on less than a dollar a day, while we spend more than that on a small cup of coffee. The same shoebox of goodies that costs us virtually nothing is the equivalent of a treasure chest to a poverty-stricken child.

Paradoxically, it is for this reason that I have chosen to boycott the Operation for the past two years and will do so again this Christmas season. I have no doubt that those responsible for the Operation have their hearts in the right place, and it would be wrong for me to attack their generosity. But I think it's a worthwhile exercise to examine how we give and how our goodwill can actually produce negative effects.

To the financially blessed, it may seem harmless enough to send "toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries)" to a child who's never seen a light bulb, but perhaps our gifts are sending the

wrong message.

Now, the Campus Wide E-mail announcement doesn't say anything explicitly religious, but isn't this a sort of evangelism? Aren't we giving gifts to these children so that they ask about the unprompted generosity of strangers? And isn't the hope that this curiosity will eventually lead them to someone (perhaps the foreigner who sent the box of treasures) who can explain to them the true reason for the Christmas season?

Part of me thinks this is a great plan. With very little expense to ourselves, we can spread the love of Christ around the world and

plant the seeds of faith. As evangelicals, we believe in doing all we can to share the blessings of Christianity.

But then I wonder, "What is it about a matchbox car that boasts the

blessings of Christianity?" Are we winning over these children with the generous spirit of Christ, or with the factory-made toys that we identify with our own happy childhood? My suspicion is that to the poverty-stricken children receiving their Christmas boxes, the blessings of Christianity appear to be toothpaste, flashlights and harmonicas. In a way, we are telling these children that once they become Christians, they will reap the benefits of modernization: clean teeth, light at the touch of a button and the blues.

These are the questions we must ask ourselves: Are we spreading the gifts of God or just the benefits of westernization? Are we sharing the love of Christ or are we commoditizing our own faith? Is this a worthwhile foot in the door or a shallow trick to win followers?

Forgive my skepticism, but our own history isn't exactly encouraging. America's cultural heritage will forever be tied to the Judeo-Christian tradition, yet the American Christmas has devolved from a meaningful day of religious reflection into a corporate holiday of blinking lights and neatly-wrapped packages. Do we really expect someone who knows nothing about Christianity to reverse our own path and transform a box of western comforts into a sustained belief in the love of God?

Joel is a junior Philosophy and Math major, and serves as Associate Editor.

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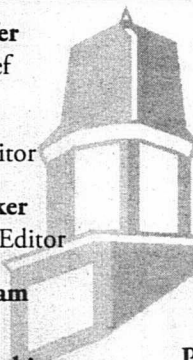
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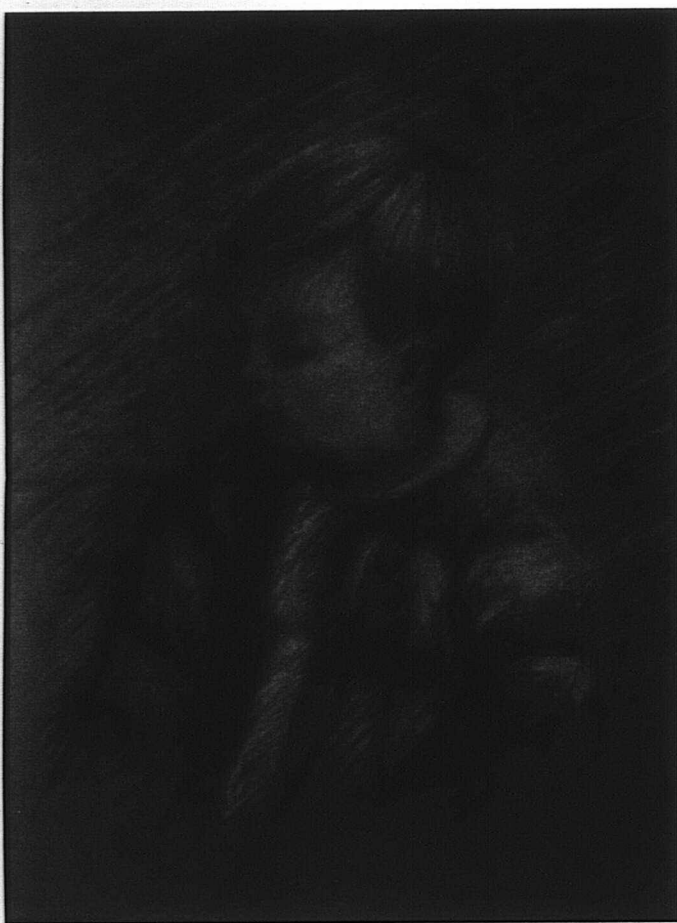
# artist: OF THE WEEK:

# KAYLIE SAUTER

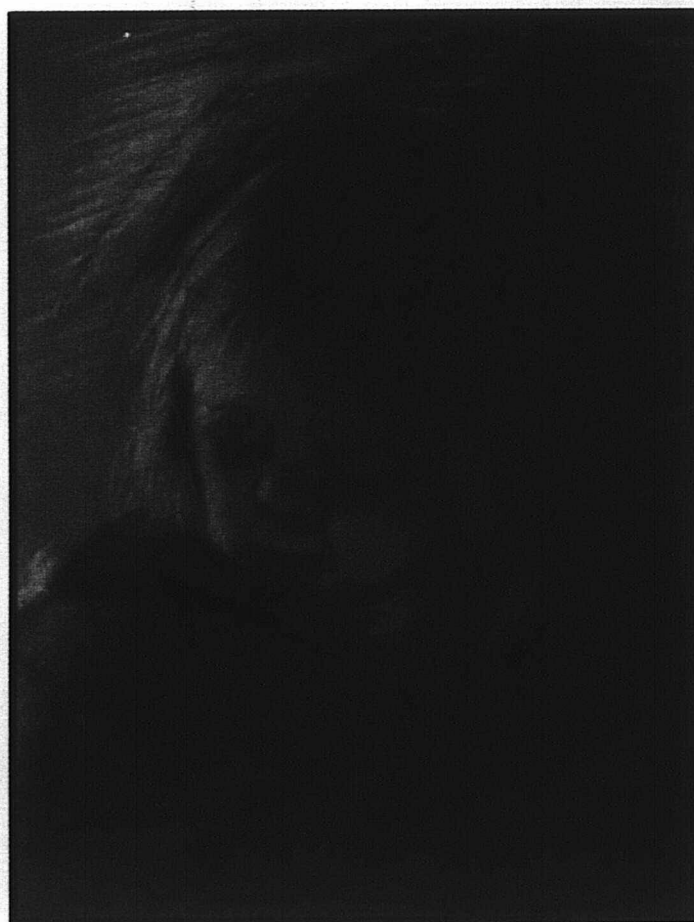
## Notes from the artist:

This semester I decided to work mainly in pastels and as my subject I have been focusing primarily on children. However my subject matter was challenging to find and then has been challenging to sketch as well. First there was the obstacle of finding live models in the area around Houghton, but as word has spread about what I am doing I have gotten the opportunity to know many families and children in the community who I would never have had the privilege to meet except for the reason of my art. Working with children as a subject matter has been fun, exciting, and beneficial to the style of my recent pieces. In the challenges that come from live models I have found strengths. Because children are constantly in motion and do not sit still for long I am forced to make bold and expressive marks and work quickly which has helped me to not overwork the picture- which I has had a tendency to do with pastel. Recently I have been particularly fascinated by Mary Cassatt and inspired by Aileen Shea and how both artists depict women and children and how they handle the mediums. I am hoping as my senior year progresses I will continue to work with children and continue to improve and develop my work as an artist.

*Kaylie is a senior Art major with a concentration in drawing.*



*Untitled, pastel drawing*



*Untitled, pastel drawing*

## SUDOKU

Submit your completed puzzles at the *Star* office for the chance to win a Sudoku book! Congratulations to last week's winner, Katrina Biele.

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