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THE HOUGHTON STAR

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

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First of three phases

Helpdesk Relocated, Paine Renovated

BY JOELLA EPPEHIMER

This academic year has brought many changes to the Houghton campus, from the pizza in the cafeteria to the setting for many science lectures. All of these changes are due in part to numerous renovations that have taken or are taking place around campus. Two notable recent projects are the relocation of the Helpdesk and the renovation of the Paine Science Center.

Formerly located in the McMillen House, the Helpdesk is now located in the basement of the Campus Center across from Big Al's. The driving force behind this move was the need for the administrative branch of tech services to move from the Paine Building as a result of the construction. As a result, this office was moved into the McMillen House, and the Helpdesk was relocated to a more central site.

Although the renovations necessitated the move, Director of Technology Services, Don Haingray said it has been a long-term desire to move the Helpdesk closer to students.

Ben Yuly, a student worker, said he thinks the new location is better because "it is closer to where students can get help."

Haingray also lists disadvantages of the old Helpdesk location, such as being out of the way on a road with no sidewalk and the lack of handicapped accessibility, both of which are remedied by the change in location. Among the other benefits resulting from this shift is the available storage space the McMillen House affords tech services, which is a valued commodity on campus.

While the construction on the Paine Center is causing shifts in office and classroom space this semester, Associate Dean for the Natural Sciences and Mathematics Keith Horn is optimistic about the improvements this will bring to the science programs offered at Houghton.

Currently in the first phase of a three-stage development project, the current renovations will adjust for the changes that have occurred within science curriculum and research in the 41 years since Paine

Helpdesk cont'd on page 2

New CC Learning Commons Close to Completion



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

Construction on the Learning Commons began over Thanksgiving Break and should be completed next week.

BY EMILY RINEHART

Where there was once AV Services and a Mac Lab, now is home to an expansive, empty, carpeted room. Construction on this Learning Commons in Chamberlain began over Thanksgiving Break and continued through the beginning of this semester.

According to Professor Gaerte, communication department chair, the renovations are the result of a generous donation from an unnamed donor couple. While touring the campus the couple observed students working in the Mac Lab. Dave Huth, Assistant Professor of Visual Communication and Media Studies, answered their

questions about the increasing demand for the limited number of resources – 12 computers and 16 seats. The donors were interested in how the experiences the Mac lab could offer would enhance student ability to perform well in the worlds of journalism, broadcasting, etc.

Gaerte and Scott Wade, Vice President of Development and Marketing, later visited the couple at their home in Rochester and discussed the growth of the Communication department. Gaerte reported the stress that the department, and the Mac lab in particular, was experiencing. The donation was finalized around the conclusion of this past summer.

Huth and Gaerte both emphasized

that the previous lab was used by a large number of students with a wide variety of projects besides art and communications work, including SPOT videos and psychology projects. Three departments hold classes in the lab space. The professors called the Mac lab a "college lab rather than a communications lab," and said that the expansion will provide greater access for all Houghton students as well as opportunities in other departments. Some ideas currently being discussed include work in recording and sound, journalism, and internships. This year

Commons cont'd on page 3

Praxis: Binding Up the Brokenhearted

BY ALEXANDRA DAGGERT

"Praxis' means practice, which distinguishes itself from theory," said Praxis committee member Emily Rinehart, senior, when referring to the title of this week's series of lectures and activities. This year's theme "To bind up the brokenhearted," comes from Isaiah 61:1: "The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners" (NIV). Later in Luke 4:16-19, Jesus quotes this passage from Isaiah in order to announce His ministry, a ministry that dealt entirely with the broken.

During Monday's chapel service, Paul Young, professor of psychology, spoke about the theme of brokenness and focused upon the idea that "Brokenness is all around," as stated by C.S. Lewis. His approach to the verse in Isaiah and to the theme of brokenness was from the angle of psychology, looking at outward brokenness versus inward.



PHOTO BY ANDREA PACHECO

Students view the artwork in the Campus Center during Praxis week.

Young emphasized Jesus' ministry and his approach to three categories of brokenness: how he restored the social outcasts, encouraged reconciliation, and restored those that were socially and spiritually broken.

The goal of Praxis week is to take scriptural truths and apply them in practical ways. This initiative is found in the lives of this week's speakers, who include Maria Garriott, author of *A Thousand Resurrections*:

An Urban Spiritual Journey; Rev. Craig Garriott, of Faith Christian Fellowship and Baltimore Christian School; Rev. Barbara Crafton, author of *Jesus Wept: When Faith and Depression Meet*; and Ron Minor, as well as others from the Community of Jesus.

"The speakers are actually doing

Praxis cont'd on page 3

Engaging the World

How should we, as a nation, respond to tragedy?

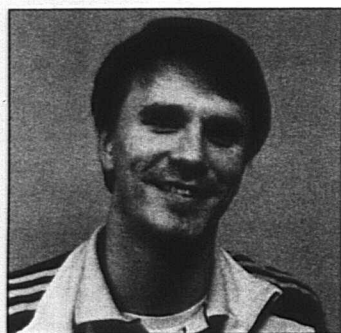


PHOTO BY DANIEL PEIXOTO

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

There is nothing more essential to the advancement of society than the safety of its citizens. Without the confidence that we will wake up today and be able to live our lives without the fear of death or harm, the very fabric of our society will crumble. As with many aspects of daily life, we look to our leaders in government to assure our safety. As James Madison put it, "the safety and happiness of society are the objects at which all political institutions aim, and to which all such institutions must be sacrificed." Last week, our nation was faced with a chilling scenario: one mentally deranged, 22-year-old man walked out of a grocery store, pulled out a gun and fired 25 rounds into a crowd of people. Six people were killed, including a federal judge and a 9-year-old girl, while 14 were injured, including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, who was the primary target.

What are we supposed to do after

a tragedy of this magnitude? If a federal judge, a 9-year-old girl and a Congresswoman are not safe, no one is. The fabric of our society begins to crumble. The only thing we can do is hope and pray for Congresswoman Giffords' recovery, as well as others who were injured, and trust that this tragedy can be a lesson from which our politicians, local leaders and institutions can learn.

Unfortunately, American politicians seem intent on playing politics with this tragedy. Liberals immediately blamed the Tea Party and its leaders who had used extreme and sometimes violent language and imagery during the 2010 campaign. Sarah Palin was especially targeted, with critics pointing to a page on her Web site which placed crosshairs on Democratic Districts to target, including Gabrielle Giffords'. Conservatives, even those who were not criticized, immediately responded by attacking Liberals for politicizing this tragedy, a political statement in and of itself.

Tragedies such as this should not be taken as opportunities for politicians to score cheap political points; rather they should be chances for us, as a people, to unite behind our similarities and learn from our mistakes. Rather than immediately attack opponents, we should think about the state of our education system and together, Republican and Democrat, seek a solution. We should think about the way we deal with the problem of mental illness and how we seek to rehabilitate those who suffer from it. We should think seriously about

gun control but understand that it was a troubled individual using a gun that killed those people, not the gun itself.

On Monday we celebrated the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the greatest social, political and religious figures of the 20th century. Dr. King taught us that it is alright to be an extremist, as long as such radical passions have their basis in peace and love. After this terrible tragedy in Arizona, we can look to the words of Dr. King to guide us. He said, "If we are to go forward, we must go back and rediscover those precious values—that all reality hinges on moral foundations and that all reality has spiritual control."

What are those values? They are peace and unity as Americans; they are a society that cares for those who are in need; they are an education system that seeks to train children in what it means to be critically thinking and active citizens, not simply to pass a test. New York Times columnist David Brooks commented that "we find meaning—and can only find meaning—in the role we play in that larger social enterprise." If we as a nation want to learn from this tragedy, our first step cannot be division and derision, it must be a unified message of struggling together for a common purpose. Singing of Dr. King, James Taylor put it this way: "We are bound together by the task that stands before us and the road that lies ahead." If ever there was a time in our nation's history where that was true, it is now.

Helpdesk cont'd from page 1

was originally built. Instead of lecture halls like Little Schaller, single-level classrooms with reconfigurable laboratory furniture and large demonstration spaces will be used in order to allow for "lecture-laboratories," according to Horn.

Another reason for the renovations is to accommodate new majors that have developed since Paine's construction, such as biochemistry, that were not adequately serviced by the old building. In the first phase of construction, about 3000 square feet of space will be added to the building, resulting from the space vacated by technology services as well as more efficient use of the present interior.

The catalyst for this project was an alumni donation of over \$3 million, in recognition of the need for an updated science facility. This has made it possible to complete the first stage without depending on bonds. Horn emphasizes that those involved are "making the necessary decisions to avoid all debt." The final two stages of the renovation will depend upon future fundraising.

In keeping with Houghton College's commitment to environmental stewardship, the plans for this project include many energy saving features. In order to reach a silver LEED energy status, a number of measures are being taken, including the implementation of "sophisticated energy models, upgraded heating and chilling systems, lighting controls, [and] passive solar energy" said Horn.

Upon full completion, the facility is projected to be about 22,000 square feet larger than its current area, and will use the same or less energy to heat and cool, based on models.

While this is great news for the approximately 300 math and science majors who frequent the Paine Center, the changes will also benefit the majority of the student body who are required to take a lab science to fulfill IS requirements.

Phase one of the project is scheduled to be completed in mid-August of 2011, allowing for use of the facility for the fall semester. ★

The World OUT There

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

House Votes to Repeal Healthcare Reform Bill

The now Republican-controlled House of Representatives voted Wednesday to repeal the Health Care Reform bill championed by President Obama and passed by Congress last March. Because of Democratic control of the Senate and President Obama's veto power, this repeal—dubbed the "Repealing the Job-Killing Health Care Law Act"—is more a symbolic gesture on the part of Republicans to fulfill their campaign promise to repeal this unpopular reform. This is also due to the fact that Republicans have yet to propose an alternative bill to replace the \$900 billion Obamacare, which extended health insurance to 32 million Americans.

Lieberman Announces He Will Not Seek Re-election to Senate

Connecticut Senator and 2000 Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate Joe Lieberman announced Tuesday that he would not seek re-election to the Senate in 2012. Lieberman has become a controversial figure in the Democratic Party due to his many diversions from the party line. During the Monica Lewinsky scandal, Lieberman was one of the first to publicly criticize President Clinton. The Senator has also taken a more conservative stance on the war in Iraq, resulting in a Connecticut primary challenge and ultimate defeat in 2006. During the health care debate, Lieberman was the deciding vote on many provisions that Democrats believed would strengthen the bill but were ultimately defeated.

Obama and Jintao Meet to Discuss Issues

On Wednesday, President Obama hosted a state dinner for Chinese President Hu Jintao, the first such event for China in 13 years. This dinner was the start of a three-day summit between the two leaders to discuss issues of the global economy, international security, the environment, and human rights. On the economic front, Presidents Obama and Jintao took the opportunity of the state dinner to announce China's approval of \$45 billion in new contracts for U.S. companies to export goods to China. While the two presidents may have differing views on human rights, President Jintao commented that "China and the United States share broad common interests and important common responsibilities."



photos courtesy of promotehealth.info, blog.beliefnet.com, and economicmoniter.net

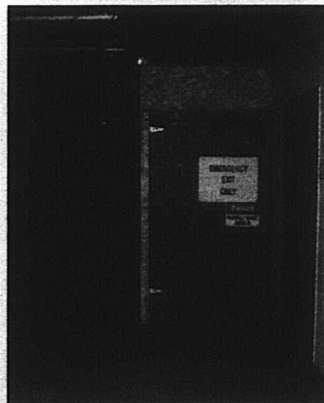


PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

Phase one of the Paine Center renovation project is expected to be completed in August of this year, which will allow for use of the facility in the fall semester.

Wesley Service Corps: Facilitating Year of Service for Houghton Grads

BY KRISTEN PALMER

Western New York AmeriCorps is "an independent non-profit organization [that] creates opportunities for all individuals to serve, challenging citizens to turn their ideals into action and their passion into positive change," according to WNY AmeriCorps. Houghton College has maintained a collaborative relationship with WNY AmeriCorps for about 12 years, during which approximately 250 Houghton students and graduates have served, according to Charles Massey, professor and Coordinator of the Office of Urban Connections. It was this past year, however, that the College decided to create its own branch, Wesley Service Corps.

"Wesley Service Corps is a special service program Houghton developed in collaboration with WNY AmeriCorps so we could recruit our graduates to serve in the placements we developed, under our supervision," said Massey.

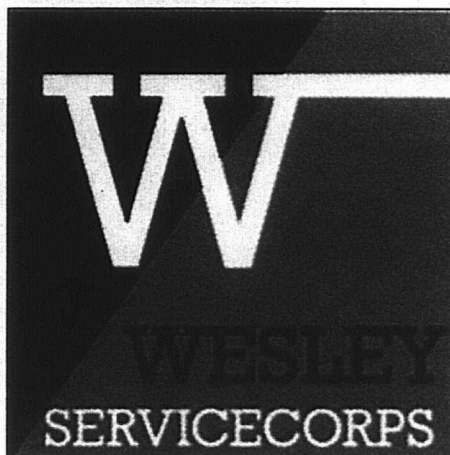
Still in its first year, Wesley Service Corps is currently providing 14 Houghton graduates with the opportunity to serve with organizations committed to education and anti-poverty initiatives. The graduates are committed to serve for a year, and with a wide range of responsibilities. One graduate is serving at Fillmore Central School, working as a teacher for special needs students, providing an instructional program for them. The remaining 13 Wesley Service Corps members serve in Buffalo.

"Three work at the Grant Street Neighborhood Center," said Massey. "A branch library was closed, and several different organizations took it over to try to use it as a community center but had little staff, so three graduates are developing a program for this center; they run after-school programs, offer services for adults, and are trying to get a library up and running."

One graduate works with a family justice center, available as a one-stop site for people who

are caught in domestic violence. Another is a librarian at a teen center charter school and oversees a Saturday reading program. Several Wesley Service Corps members work as case workers at the Hope Refugee Drop-In Center, while one works with an after-school tutoring program for middle school-level refugee students and another works as a nurse's assistant at Jericho Road medical practice, to name a few of the many positions Wesley Service Corps members hold.

Suzanne Derksen, Wesley Service Corps member and 2010 graduate, is the Program Support Coordinator



for Jericho Road Ministries, a non-profit working to empower refugees in the west side of Buffalo.

"I do mainly PR, marketing, and development," said Derksen. "I also work closely with one of the Jericho Road's flagship programs, called the Priscilla Project, which mentors medically at-risk pregnant refugee women to improve birth outcomes and health disparities."

To be a member of Wesley Service Corps, one is technically a WNY AmeriCorps member. Each of the members receive a living allowance of \$11800 for the year, and at the end of their terms of service, will receive an education award of \$5350, which must

be used to either pay off loans or pay for further education. The members live in two Houghton-owned houses in Buffalo — six living in one, and seven living in the other.

"There are many students who are interested in some type of service or ministry opportunity after graduation but may have college debts, making it extremely difficult to serve," said Massey. "With this program, you have enough to live on throughout the year and then will receive the Education award at the end. The program saves for you, and is handy for those wanting to pay off debt or further their education."

Brian Reitnour, Coordinator of Career Services at the College, is involved with the on-campus planning, coordinating, and marketing of some of the Wesley Service Corps events.

"Becoming involved acts as a year of real-world preparation," he said. "It allows graduates to defer loans, earn a paycheck, and accumulate experience and responsibility. Many Houghton students want to dedicate their lives to service professions, but many graduate schools or employers in those fields want experience in addition to academic accomplishments, so this is a great way to build toward those goals."

Those involved with the organization visited and held a Wesley Service Corps Day at the College last Friday. Students were able to talk with alumni currently serving with the organization.

"We had a great response to our recruiting day," said Derksen. "There seems to be a lot of students interested in serving the Buffalo community, and I'm excited to see how Houghton will continue to invest in such a unique opportunity for alumni and for local non-profits."

"Organizations like Wesley Service Corps are not for everyone, but the mission they present, and the work they do is a tremendous benefit," said Reitnour. "Members of the Corps enact many of the teachings of Jesus: to help the helpless, without expectation of payment in return; to create justice; to touch the untouchables; and to love."

Commons cont'd from page 1

the music department's audio recording classes will be working with ProTools in the space.

CC 127 is being utilized as a temporary lab, while Audio Visual Services has moved across the hall from their original location. Despite the delayed arrival of the new Mac computers, Gaerte said that affected professors have made adjustments in their schedules and continued on as usual, using the old Macs when possible. But, the new computers will be dual bootable with both Windows and Mac.

The donor project is only one part of the renovations. The education department is involved with the installation of a smart classroom, and is still in discussion with BOCES regarding, as Gaerte put it, "mutually beneficial" collaboration. The Development office is also involved with expanding curriculum via the opportunities that new facilities provide, a few ideas being advanced video work and 3D animation. Huth and Gaerte added that the variety of projects the Mac lab is used for will depend on the creative ideas of the faculty and students. As has been the case in the past, open hours with

a proctor will be established.

As for the emptiness of the room, Gaerte said in senate that they are "scrounging things around campus" in order to make the space usable next week. Gaerte and Huth added that a dedication ceremony is planned for mid-March and they consider the renovations a "good thing, beneficial to the college." ★

The Houghton College Lecture Series Presents the 2011 Staley Lecturer

**Dr. David Solomon,
W.P. and H.B. White Director of
The Notre Dame Center for
Ethics & Culture**

**"Biomedicine Without Human
Dignity: Can the Center Hold?"**

**Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011
8:00 p.m.
Wesley Chapel**

Free and Open to the Public

Praxis cont'd from page 1

ministry, they aren't just theorists," said Courtney Coiro, junior.

Maria Garriott's talk Tuesday encapsulated this sentiment when she described her experiences with brokenness in her ministry with her husband to the diverse inhabitants of an inner-city community in Baltimore, Maryland.

According to her, God has healed her brokenness through her involvement with those who are broken and by "seeing people give out of their poverty." She spoke about being a white woman in a community so racially diverse, that it became easy to long for and cling to the culture she had been a part of her whole life. Materialism can easily snare us and prevent us from recognizing sorrow and pain; it is easy to desire that which is so far from one's experience that it blinds the individual to others. She said that those that gave despite their circumstances astounded her, and caused her to ponder her own attitude towards such people. She maintained that in order to minister to the broken we must meet them in their sorrow. Her comments about grieving touched upon the need for humility when dealing

with the broken. Communities grieve differently, which also influences their rituals. The praxis of urban ministry from Maria Garriott's perspective is distinguished by the following: connection with other groups, openness to being mentored, embracing of diversity, researching and reading upon the subject, as well as dispelling the myth that one has to be perfect in order to assist in healing.

Another desire of the Praxis committee is to influence the Houghton community to get involved in the process of ministry. Student organizations such as the Lanthorn, the Artist's Guild, and various departments within the college lent their gifts and time in order to influence contemplation upon the theme of Praxis. On Monday and then again on Thursday, the Artist Guild sponsored events in conjunction with the Lanthorn. Artwork was gathered from various individuals within the art department and was created with themes of joy or brokenness. Writers also submitted pieces for the Lanthorn chapbook also falling under the aforementioned themes.

The hope and intent of the Praxis committee is that this week people will deeply reflect on what it means to bind up the brokenhearted and implement those ideas in their lives. ★

Two Raw Films That Will Leave You Speechless

True Grit Review

BY MARK LAUER

I knew very little about what to expect going into *True Grit*. I knew it was a remake of a John Wayne movie from 1969, the only film in which he won an Oscar for best actor, which I have never seen. In fact, I can't recall ever watching a Wayne movie; a travesty or luck, call it what you will. The movie itself is based on a novel written by Charles Portis, which was published in 1968.

The plot focuses on the story of Mattie Ross, a 14-year-old girl whose father is senselessly murdered by an unruly hired hand, Tom Chaney, and U.S. marshal Reuben J. "Rooster" Cogburn, whom she hires to aid her in bringing the criminal to justice. Cogburn is a surly, eye-patched lawman, infamous both as a skilled bounty hunter and for the high body-count he has accumulated in his short time as a marshal.

It should be mentioned that *True Grit* is the newest film by the Coen brothers. Many of their past movies, such as *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* and *Burn After Reading*, are known for their ironic, dark humor and quirky characters. A few of their other films have been more serious and gritty in tone and are often inaccessible to many audiences, such as *No Country for Old Men* (a movie that, without fail, continues to incite arguments between me and my brother over whether it contains excellent performances and superb dialogue or too long representations of "empty husks of people").

True Grit is certainly no exception in some of these aspects. The performances of the actors are certainly top notch. Hailee Steinfeld, who plays Mattie Ross, in particular is outstanding. Not to say that the others are less so, but Steinfeld, who was just 13 during shooting, holds her own like any veteran actress and steals the scene more often than not. She and Jeff Bridges (as Cogburn) do an excellent job playing off of one another, creating one of the more enjoyable odd couples I've seen in a while.

Matt Damon, who plays Laboef, a Texas Ranger who is also after Chaney, joins Steinfeld and Bridges in creating a character that is a pleasure to observe. Laboef tries to play the tough guy, constantly talking about the "Texas Ranger" way of doing things. Instead, he tends to sound like he is overcompensating and is even at times more feminine than Mattie. Laboef and Cogburn also butt heads during their time on the trail together, exchanging biting, witty banter between one another. Not to be outdone, it is Mattie who usually talks the two men in circles.

The dialogue itself is perhaps the highlight of the film. In writing the script, the Coens took much of the dialogue straight from the 1968 novel. Lines that should feel overly antiquated and forced are delivered in a way that sounds natural. Terms that have long gone out of use are employed throughout, leaving the audience to infer the meaning for themselves.

Details like this are what allow the movie to create a world that feels vibrant and alive. It transports the viewer into an Old West that feels both wildly fantastic and starkly real. Every character, even the minor ones, are at once both exotic and mundane. Is this movie Oscar worthy? I don't know; I'm never quite sure what finally decides such a thing. But as a breathing story, let alone an exceptional Western, one would be hard pressed to find a film with more grit. ★

Black Swan Review

BY ERIK BEALS

At first glance, the films of Darren Aronofsky seem totally unconnected in subject matter, ranging from math to hard drugs to the world of professional wrestling. Upon closer examination, however, it becomes clear that all of his films are about people who are obsessively trying to fulfill their dreams at the cost of themselves. When viewed in this light, *Black Swan* fits perfectly into his canon, and makes a lot more sense than thinking about it as "a movie about ballet from the guy who made *Requiem for a Dream*."

Make no mistake about it, *Black Swan* is a horror film. In fact, the closest film to compare it to would probably be David Cronenberg's 1983 *Videodrome*. Both films portray the main character's descent into madness by showing hallucinations from their perspective. They are both extremely visceral and intense. *Black Swan* also shares a lot of similarities with the anime film *Perfect Blue*, which Aronofsky purchased the rights to so that he could recreate scenes from it in his own films, and the claustrophobic, kinetic cinematography of Japanese filmmaker Shinya Tsukamoto, whom Aronofsky has cited as a huge influence. However, for a film with such obvious outside influences, it is wonderfully original, and one of the most gripping and powerful films to come out in recent years. Both times I saw it, the audience did not leave the film discussing it; they left saying things like "wow" and "holy cow."

Every actor delivers an amazing performance. The director of the ballet company could have easily come across

as a pervert and a jerk, but Vincent Cassel portrays him as a visionary leader who knows how to optimize the performance of his dancers. Many will go into this film having doubts about Mila Kunis and Wyna Ryder, but it's hard to imagine any other actresses in their roles. Natalie Portman, however, steals the show in what may be her greatest performance to date. Few actresses could so convincingly show Nina's complex transformation from quietude to insanity, all in the context of her obsessive dedication to dancing. Her dance as the Black Swan near the end of the film is one of the most chilling and awe-inspiring scenes in modern cinema.

Much has been made of the lesbian sex scene between Natalie Portman and Mila Kunis. While it is somewhat explicit, it is not an erotic scene. Within the context of the film, it is an intense and disturbing scene. If you are the kind of person to hate a movie because of a sex scene, you will probably end up disliking *Black Swan* for other reasons anyway; this is not a film for the faint of heart.

For all of the horrific imagery and frightening subject matter, *Black Swan* is also an extremely beautiful film. The biggest contribution to this is the score, which is almost entirely derived from the music of Tchaikovsky's ballet, *Swan Lake*, and takes a central role in this movie. Longtime Aronofsky collaborator Clint Mansell transforms the original music into a powerful beast, much as Aronofsky did with the original story in creating this film.

Rarely does a film as powerful as *Black Swan* come our way, especially in American cinema. It's certainly not for everyone, but those who can handle it are in for a treat. ★

Gunning Gets Actors Ready for Their Big Engagement

BY AUDREY KUSHINIKOV

I overheard someone complaining how little there is to do on campus. "Do?!" I wanted to exclaim, "Have you seen the events calendar yet?" We have been back for barely two weeks and the semester schedule is already overflowing with events for students, faculty, and guests to attend. Without going into great detail of the numerous athletic events, the abundant CAB festivities, the various student recitals, and the special artist series, every weekend for the next two and a half months of school will be having a major drama production extravaganza that should not be missed. In February is the Houghton Musical Theater Player's second annual musical performance, which will be *Stage to Screen: A Broadway Revue*. And after a much needed ten-day break, March holds four more productions that will be of interest: Encore's *Doubt: A Parable* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Father of the Bride*, a Nicolas Gunning production, and the Lyric Theatre will conclude March and begin April with the opera, *The Merry Widow*.

Whew. You need a calendar to

keep track of all of these events. Nicolas Gunning remarked that while there may be a lot of things going on, it is a good thing. The more there is to do, the more opportunities students have to participate in activities they may not normally consider doing. This is one of the many reasons why Gunning specifically chose *Father of the Bride* for the spring play.

Many people may associate this title with the 1991 film starring Steve Martin. Others may recall the 1950's Spencer Tracy version. Even fewer might be aware that the play was adapted from the Edward Streeter's novel of the same name. Whatever the case, the overall theme and plot of the play are quite similar: Stanley Banks (Eric Mikols), is the happy husband to wife Ellie (Rachel Stowe), and proud father of daughter Kay (Patricia Powles), and sons Ben (Nathan White) and Tommy (Nick Cannistraci). But when Kay unexpectedly announces to the family that she is engaged and will soon be marrying Buckley Dunstan (Chris Tortorello), everyone is excited except Mr. Banks, who is in a state of denial that his daughter is "all grown up". The play covers the debt-accumulating prenuptial rituals and the wedding day, as well as Banks' mental and emotional state as he struggles to accept the fact that Kay is no longer

Daddy's little girl. Needless to say, the play is nothing short of a comedy with a few emotional scenes between the characters that realistically portray the complications, celebrations, and anxieties of the union of two families.

When asked why Gunning chose this specific play, he explained the selection process. While he reads a variety of scripts, he tends to go for the ones that are off the beaten track, where the story is familiar but not overdone. After that, he goes for the general feel of the play, the character dynamics, set involvement, cast size, and numerous other details that are important to the production. What caught Gunning's eye for this play was not only the interesting characters and humorous plotline, but also the cast size.

"This show is a good ensemble piece. Because the story is so broad and involved, each character contributes to the overall story, no matter how big his or her part is." Gunning likes keeping to smaller cast plays because it allows the cast members to bond and develop friendships with others that they may not normally have the chance or opportunity to encounter.

He also keeps in mind that spring semesters are incredibly busy for students, which is why the play selected this semester is a good one. Not only does it count for

two communication credits for each member participating in the production, but it also offers many smaller roles to give more students a chance to act and flexible rehearsal schedules, which can help reduce the amount of stress that is usually involved in a large drama production. Gunning, however, teaches the participants more than just acting.

"I usually have the cast meet regularly for workshops and to discuss not only the production, but how to advertise for the performance as well," he said. "I try to give the educational aspect of it, teaching the behind-the-scenes part of theatre." He hopes that he will one day be able to do bigger productions so that more people can participate. "Everyone is always welcomed, with or without prior acting experience. I want to open up more possibilities for students interested in drama."

Father of the Bride will be held on March 10 and 11 with two shows on the March 12 at the Houghton Academy. Other cast members include: Amy Coon, Tracy Cullen, Kaitlyn Fisher, Mengfei Li, Hannah Lily, Ethan Ocock, Joe Perrotti, Aubrey Thorlakson and Rosa Torres.

Finding Inspiration in "Time and Space"

BY MEGAN SPECKSGOOR

After years of instructing, critiquing, and supporting young Houghton artists, professors Ted Murphy and Gary Baxter are bringing their own work into the spotlight. "Time and Place," a retrospective display of selected pieces, highlights Murphy and Baxter's favorite works of art which collectively span from the past few decades to the present and take inspiration from a variety of places familiar and meaningful to each artist.

Murphy's versatile medley of work stretches from photo-simulated landscapes to detailed floral still lifes; from miniature watercolors to larger portraits sketched with utmost precision, and from symbolism steeped oil paintings to a section of abstractions. Ranging in canvas mediums from wood, to paper, and even to copper, Murphy utilizes a broad assortment of technique and craft. A wall is devoted to several pastel charcoal portraits of Houghton students, each drawn from life in a period of ninety minutes, which attempt to capture the "pigtails with personality," the "ferocious beard," and other unique characteristics described by the artist. "I think there's nothing more beautiful than the human face," said Murphy as he singled out each individual trait in his student subjects which touched on this natural "beauty."

Represented in his paintings are places as far away as Milan, Venice, Maine, and West Virginia, and as recognizable or localized as Belfast, Fillmore, and Murphy's own back yard. Murphy says of his portable watercolor paints, "I always have them on me, in a bag or a pocket, at a ball game, on vacation, or even in a parking lot." Whether it is twenty minutes sitting in



Baxter's ceramic vessel and Murphy's watercolor, respectively

a car or an hour of time set aside for work, he manages to produce around two-hundred and fifty watercolors per year. "I have a lot of failures, but I don't fret over it," said Murphy.

Whether it is across the sea or across one's own lawn, we observe and commemorate our environments. "When you're at a place, you give definition to it," commented Murphy, who also quoted Wallace Stegner's line, "A place is not a place until it has had its poet." Just as Robert Frost's poetry paid ode to New England and Emily Dickinson's verses immortalized Central Massachusetts, Murphy said that "Houghton has had a wealth of poets, people who make art of some sorts...and when people look at my art I'd like them to think, 'he was here,' and 'these things were important to him.'" To Murphy, seasons are a key factor of time, especially transitional points like September and August where one can "smell the changes." In Western

New York "it's palpable"; "we live in an area where these things are still real and the change of season impacts us," said Murphy. This vitality of nature is something he attempts to express in his watercolors, intentionally scaled down to parallel the reading of small poems.

Professor Baxter also uses a wide selection of styles and approaches in his ceramics exhibit. He opted to integrate a few pieces from each of ten series which were first chosen from an estimated forty series, created over thirty years of teaching. Considering the process of selection Baxter noted, "It's hard to quantify or categorize; it's just a feeling based on making work and looking at others' work which allows me to intuitively respond." His pieces range from "wheel-thrown functional pottery high-fired in a gas kiln, to terracotta figures smoke-stained in burning sawdust." The frustration of making pottery and sculptures that run such a high mortality risk in the firing stage

is an obstacle Baxter counters with the pleasure of reward upon instances when something truly worthwhile emerges unscathed. "In every firing there are five to six pieces which break immediately," said Baxter, "but there's also something happening in the kiln that's out of my control, which allows five to six pieces to become sublime."

Like Murphy, Baxter's art was also significantly inspired by places. "Almost any work is about a place," he said, "...one that causes some kind of epiphany which we incorporate, interpret, and record into a work of art." Baxter uses mental images of the scenic views or natural environments that imprint themselves upon his memory in some profound way as models for his work upon returning to his studio. Whether it is Australian rock formations or a serene lake inhabited by amphibians, Baxter says that his memories of these places "conjure up forms." From satirical sculptures to straightforward bowls, Baxter employs what he referred to as "the hope and celebration of creation." Baxter said, "I have tried to include in all of the work a sense of hope and a celebration of beauty. I see both even in a dead frog sinking to the bottom of a pond" and that "sometimes these ideas take the shape of narrative images, other times a generous form or extravagant surface." It is this preciousness of nature and awe of creation that Baxter desires to communicate to his viewers.

The opening reception of "Time and Place" is tomorrow from 7-9 p.m. in the Ortlip Gallery. Professor Murphy and Professor Baxter will be present and willing to comment on their pieces during the "Artist Talk" portion beginning at 7:30. ★

A New Frame of Mind

Shaped by History: 9/11's Formative Effect on Gen. Y

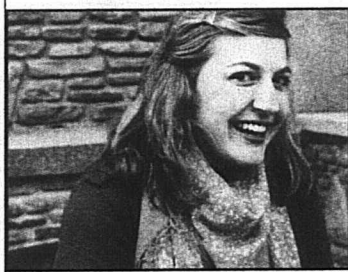


PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY ERIN CARR

"We Will Never Forget": these words are deeply ingrained in our national psyche, forever impressed onto our collective memory. That bright September Tuesday, now more than nine years ago, I was told that I would remember the attacks for the rest of my life: where I was when I heard, what I was doing, how I felt. We were told everything would change. As a sixth-grader on the border of adolescence, this was a strange and sudden launch into personal and historical awareness.

Certainly, it's now natural to hear

qualifications such as "post-9/11" in conversation, to accept heightened security measures while traveling, to pick up on a national sense of anxiety – the feeling of "what next?" and the loss of control. For those who mark the prosperous '90s as their formative years, there was little perspective on national or global events to preface the attack; vague rumors of the Monica Lewinsky scandal and Princess Diana's death were the only points of reference I could recall within my lifetime. Pearl Harbor was in my mind – I drew the connections and in a dawning of self-awareness, realized I would someday be asked to retell the story to my own children and grandchildren.

In a 2009 article focusing on college students' memories of Sept. 11 entitled *Children of 9/11 Grow Up*, Peggy Noonan wrote, "It was their first moment of historical consciousness. Before that day, they didn't know what history was; after that day, they knew they were in it." She quotes one college student, 12 at the time of the attacks, as he explains the repercussions of that day: "I would say it made everything real to a 12-year-old. It

showed the world could be a dangerous place when for my generation that was never the case. My generation had no Soviet Union, no war against fascism, we never had any threats. I was born when the Berlin Wall came down. It destroyed the sense of carefree innocence that we had." For senior Sally Murphy, the fear stemmed from a sense that "something bigger than I could understand was happening."

Many of my peers expressed feelings of confusion and detachment from the situation – perhaps due both to a lack of maturity and a lack of communication. Some schools or parents didn't fully explain what happened – some not at all. The news footage was the first shocking exposure for the majority of people I've spoken with, in fact. The sense of helplessness was only intensified by the bewilderment of those who were previously assumed to be in control: parents, teachers, firefighters, officials, America.

Though not the first factor in my informing, the media certainly remained key in my mind for days and years to come. Noonan aptly noted of our age

group that "The video of 9/11 has firmly and ineradicably entered their brains. Which is to say their first visual memory of America, or their first media memory, was of its towers falling down." It is true; and I have been drawn back, time and again, to documentaries and magazines, which retell the occurrence in greater detail than I could comprehend upon first exposure. My reaction has never been emotional – a source of guilt for me, I must admit. Only in recent years have I been able to empathize with mature onlookers of that day – to understand the perceptions of the adult world at the time.

While some prefer not to discuss or dwell on the horrific elements of that day and following months, I find myself drawn to them. Perhaps this is because I don't have personal ties or a loss involved. Perhaps my continued fascination with the details and range of responses in the midst of the mayhem is my way of compensating for what I perceive to be a lack of feeling. Perhaps it is just the one way, among the infinite daily reminders of a world profoundly changed, that I choose to remember. ★

Specifically Christian: the Universality of Virtue



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY MEGAN SEAWOOD

A man jumps in front of a car to save a woman that he has never met. A woman devotes her life to social work, helping young children from bad backgrounds find loving homes. And a stranger donates a kidney to a dialysis patient allowing him to spend more time with his wife and kids.

Stories of modern-day heroes are constantly circulating through e-mail chain letters and various news sources. Just recently, one of the citizens involved in the Tucson shootings received much public recognition for his selflessness

as he ignored the spray of bullets and rushed to the side of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.

As a spectator of these seemingly fearless and heroic acts, I can't help but think that these are really good people that are doing these things. Let's be honest, we sometimes imagine what we would do in the same situation. We imagine ourselves saving the little old woman from certain death by truck or standing up for someone we don't know. We would like to think that we wouldn't have done it for the recognition, but rather because that is the kind of person we are...no, that is the kind of person God is. We imagine that such good deeds are nothing but the re-

sult of good servants answering the age-old question: "What Would Jesus Do?"

But the truth of the matter is that a lot of the people that can be considered heroes don't ask, nor do they care what Jesus would do. Selfless love, acting justly, and being merciful are not characteristics that only Christians possess. There are countless men and women from varying religious and ethical backgrounds that encompass virtues that some claim as exclusively Christian such as love, grace, and selflessness.

Just recently, a friend and mentor of mine proclaimed that they were leaving the Church and

abandoning their faith altogether. This came as shocking news to me and the first thing I thought was, "The Church really is losing a wonderful person with a huge heart for the world." But once I thought about it, I realized that even though the Church was losing her, the world was not.

Too many times we as Christians put certain actions in a box, assuming that only Christians can fully encompass these qualities and perform these actions. In doing so, we end up putting God in a box as well. Who is to say that God cannot work through an atheist man or a Muslim woman? Just because someone does not do something in the name of Jesus, does not mean that He is not in it.

There are no actions that are specifically "Christian," but there is a God who is specifically sovereign.

Megan is a junior Christian Formation and Writing major

**Selfless
love, acting
justly, and
being merciful
are not
characteristics
that only
Christians
possess**

The Penultimate Word

The Potential Price of a Paycheck



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY ELISA SHEARER

I think that in most ways, we are freer in college from the more cliché pressures to conform than we were in high school. Cliques and wedgies and mean cheerleaders and other things that television has informed me high school is all about are less obvious at Houghton College. But humans' urge to conform to their social environment is not easily overcome, and the same problems we faced when we were younger – the tendency to obsess about fashion, for example, or the moments when listening to music became less about music and more about knowing lots of band names – still present themselves to us, but in different and subtler ways.

As young adults – specifically, young adults going out into that "real world" everyone keeps talking about – we are under just as much, or more, pressure to present an agreeable image of ourselves. Where we used to seek approval from our peers (we still do), we're now pressured to seek approval from potential employers and graduate schools.

We've been falsifying our identities for our entire lives – we do it when we pretend to have read a chapter we didn't, or when we suck up to a professor even though we dislike them because we're hoping they'll write a glowing recommendation. We do it when we participate in a charity and grumble that we're only doing it so we can list it on our resumé, and when we pursue a profession for its

paycheck or social stigma, instead of the passion we have for it.

It's natural to want to impress people who might give us money on a regular basis. But as overachievers (and most of us are; it's what makes us so annoying) entering a tight economy, we might at some point be deceived into thinking that it's necessary to sacrifice our honesty and integrity for the sake of our dream job.

The immediate benefits of this might be tempting – we might want to go after a job that we hate because it's lucrative, or do something unethical to avoid losing face. But our integrity and values are worth infinitely more than our next paycheck (or, one might venture, all of our paychecks ever), even though it might seem otherwise during the third month of living in a studio apartment eating nothing but bologna sandwiches.

When we present ourselves in an affected way so that our peers, or employers, or admissions officers might approve of us, we craft a new identity according to their expectations. When we lie in an interview, when we pretend we know more than we do (or, worse, pretend we are blends together with the person we want to seem like. We begin to lose track of what we actually think and feel and enjoy, and instead keep track of what everyone else wants us to think and feel and enjoy. Our self-worth will depend on their opinion of us. And if we depend on others' opinions of us for validation, what miserable people we will be.

The pressure to compromise our values in order to win approval does not stop at graduation. But it's vitally important to remember that no job, employer, social position, or salary, will ever be worth the sacrifice of our integrity.

Elisa is a junior Psychology and English major



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**AS HOUGHTON
SEARCHES FOR SHARON
MYERS' REPLACEMENT,
WHAT SHOULD BE THEIR
HIGHEST PRIORITY?**

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From the Editor's Desk

"Nothing More Dangerous than Conscientious Stupidity"



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY MONICA SANDRECZKI

A documentary screening and live chat with the director; a community march in the city; "skate to commemorate"—these are all activities that took place on Monday to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Wait a sec, I don't remember a skating party in the gym, or a film

viewing in Wesley Chapel," you say. That's because these events happened across the city of Rochester while the day's events plodded along as per usual in Houghton, NY. No tip of the hat. No change. No flinch.

For several years, the missing recognition of MLK Day has been disappointingly obvious. I have talked to several students about this and have oft heard that it's no shock that this day isn't commemorated because Houghton does not celebrate any national holidays—Veterans Day, Labor Day, Presidents' Day—which is true. Besides another Highlander Connection Day over Memorial Day weekend Houghton does not organize and celebrate any national holiday.

Of course we are all aware that Houghton is a private school and therefore not required to observe federal hol-

idays with a day off, like a public school is, but that seems like a poor reason to disregard recognition of these days. To ignore a day of remembrance such as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, is to discount the monumental strides in racial equality, spearheaded by Dr. King, which transcend language and national borders. For holidays such as MLK Day and Veterans' Day, simply nominally recognizing these could get repetitive year after year. But they could be used as the perfect platforms for discussing current issues.

President Mullen, a strong advocate of liberal arts, has often talked about the inquisitive minds of intellectuals in a place like Houghton: so, instead of having a day off from school (which isn't exactly a trend at Houghton), we could have set up a Monday evening viewing of a film with a panel discussion on rac-

ism in contemporary America. Or, for Veterans' Day, we could have a lecture on war and the military in a Christian context. Houghton is a place where slicing into the meat of an issue and examining its parts is encouraged; and it should be applied here.

If we are claiming to be a liberal arts college, where part of the intent is to create scholar citizens, training students not to venerate positively world-altering national figures and social justice sojourners means we are not living up to our standards.

Monica is a junior French and Intercultural Studies major

Letters to the Editor

Send to

houghtonstar@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

Until two years ago, I was a tenured member of Houghton's faculty. I moved to a new place because I got married.

Someone I work with here mentioned that her brother is gay and has a partner. "The family loves him," she said, "although we disagree with his lifestyle." I felt like she added the caveat in order to put my mind at ease, but it had the opposite effect. So I asked how this disagreement shows itself. Is he not invited home for holidays? Is he welcome, but not his partner? If they both come home, do they have to sleep in separate rooms? "Oh, no," she said, "we just love them. They just know that we disagree with their choices."

I asked why the family doesn't let go of the disagreement: she said because scripture prohibits same-sex romance, so it is a sin. It is okay that they are attracted to each other, but it is unacceptable for them to act on their attraction. Consequently, they and their church officially disagree with their choices.

So, in this family of Christians, the brother (and his partner) have opted out of that church, and any church, for now. In the same way, many people with a "deviant" sexual identity are also alienated from the church. I believe they are driven by the church straight into the arms of Jesus, who showers them with the warm, passionate care that he reserves for the outcast and oppressed.

Do you picture Jesus saying, when life is done, "Well done, faithful servant. You identified and condemned

sin from a safe, comfortable distance, surrounded by people of like mind." Or do you picture Jesus saying, "Thank you for loving your neighbor with your whole heart, especially those who were strangers among you."

But while Jesus taught and lived radical love, Jesus also expressed very strong judgment. Hear his judgment in this story from Luke 7: A Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus to dine. During the meal, a prostitute brought a jar of myrrh and, weeping, she cleaned and anointed his feet. By entering the room and touching Jesus, she violated not only the social situation but Jesus' body. Women, let alone prostitutes, were prohibited from entering men's dining rooms. Her touch made Jesus ritually unclean. She used her whole body—dripping her tears on his skin, mopping the dampened dust with her hair—in a graphic display that prompted Simon to judge her as a sinner and Jesus as a false prophet. "If this one were a prophet," he thought, "he would have known who and what kind of woman is touching him, since she is a sinner."

Jesus sensed his thought, and rebuked him, saying, "Her many sins are forgiven, for she loved much." And to her, he said, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace." The prostitute had not spoken, but had only wept. She had not asked Jesus to come into her heart. She was not baptized, but instead she baptized Jesus' feet. Jesus did not tell her to change her behavior. Yet he forgave her sins and told her she was saved.

My hope is that some of you reading this letter will deeply consider who you want to align with: Simon, who judged the woman for her clear violations of religious teaching, or the woman, who, knowing she was a sinner, loved him wordlessly and wholeheartedly and, by her faith, was saved.

-Dave Perkins, former Houghton faculty member

Tell us what you think.

Letters to the editor (signed) should be 350 words or less and be submitted to houghtonstar@gmail.com. If letters to the editor don't appeal to you, register at www.houghtonstar.com and comment on our articles online.

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.

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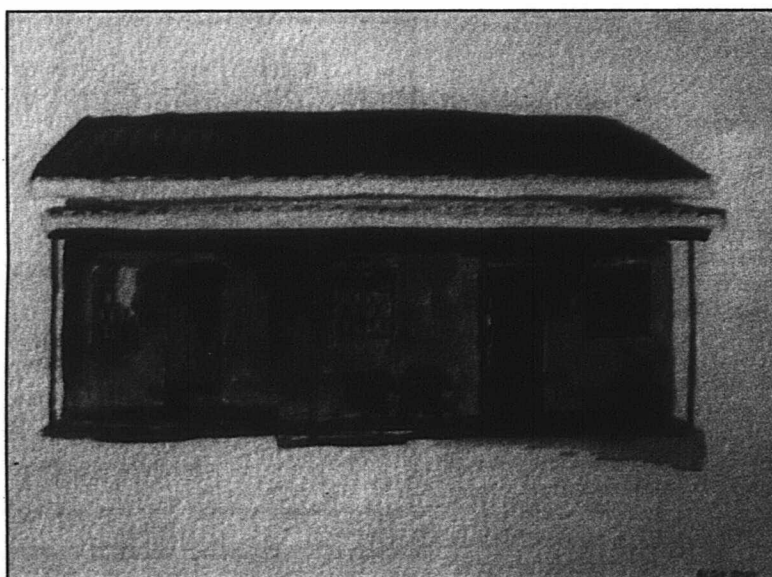
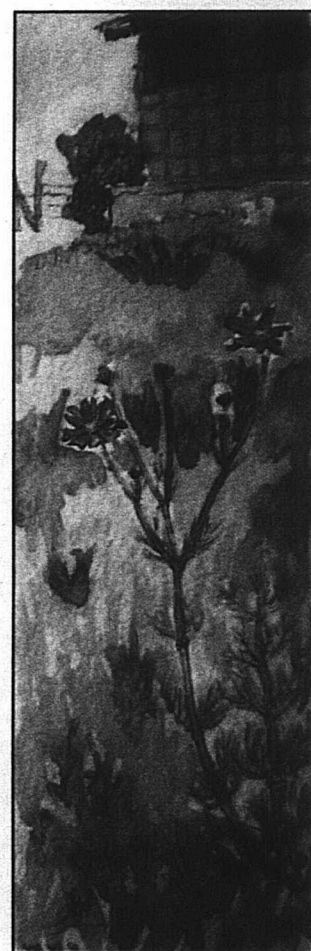
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sarah mast

ARTIST of the WEEK

*The Office, watercolor**Akagera, watercolor***A note from the artist:**

There is something about painting that seems to capture the beauty of a place more completely than my memory or even a photograph. These paintings are a different kind of documentation of my recent trip to East Africa; my attempt to remember the things I've seen.

*Home, watercolor**Growing, watercolor*

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sudoku

CHALLENGE

Bring your friends and family to the STAR Office and enjoy a fun and challenging game of Sudoku.