

SPOT 2012 REVIEW | CULTURE, P. 4

# the houghton STAR

Houghton College's Student Newspaper Since 1909

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## Vandalism on Campus

by ANDRE NELSON

During the nights of February 6 and 7, unknown students vandalized the College. The words "get some" were spray painted in front of Shenawana, and the words "Keep the Flats" were stenciled on multiple buildings, including the Campus Center, Paine, and Luckey, as well as on the sidewalk to the right of Fancher and next to President Mullen's parking spot.

The College immediately responded with a campus wide email which was sent out February 8, pleading the student or students responsible to come forward to the Safety and Security Office by noon the next day. The email promised that no charges would be filed against them for these acts if they turned themselves in; the matter would be handled in house by the Student Life Office. However, no one stepped forward and complaints have been filed with the police who are now investigating the matter. Because the police are now involved, those found responsible will not only be held accountable by the College, but also by the legal system.

These acts reminisce the graffiti

that happened during the black out two years ago, which cost thousands of dollars to clean up. The vandalized areas are now being cleaned, and the cost of the damage has not been fully determined. The cleaning products alone could amount to several hundred dollars, and the necessary amount of working hours could bring the cost to the thousands, according to Dean of Students Dennis Stack.

These two cases of spray painting are not believed to be related; however, Stack commented that it is nevertheless of the utmost importance to deal with both seriously so that it does not become the norm. He commented that "we have to take all of it seriously," and that an understanding of "community ethos" should inspire the community to keep high standards and maintain a clean environment. When people begin vandalizing, standards drop.

The stenciling of "Keep the Flats" was a reaction to the recent decision, made as part of the budget cuts, to close the flats. However, as Stack stated, "if the purpose is to protest the decisions, it doesn't inspire conversation."

See VANDALISM page 2

## Faculty Lecture Preview: Aaron Routhe On Evangelicals and Climate Change

by EMMA HUGHES

Professor Aaron Routhe, sociology, will continue the Faculty Lecture Series next Wednesday with his lecture on contemporary evangelical positions on global climate change.

Routhe's lecture, "Evangelicals and Climate Change: what they believe and why," addresses a topic near to his own heart -- the subject of ongoing research for his doctoral dissertation on environmental sociology.

"This is a reflection of professional and personal interests," said Routhe. "In the last 10 years, there's been a lot of dialogue about evangelicals and whether or not they care...What's the relationship between religion and environment? We know a lot about 'elites-think' and what the people who say they speak for the rest of the evangelicals think, but what do the 'others' actually think and do about climate change and the environment?"

For Routhe, the subject his dissertation approaches is a deep reflection of his own faith journey throughout his career. The question of environmentalism does present some particular challenges and questions for evangelicals. Depending on how the evidence is viewed, there is some proof that religion discourages

such environmental concerns, as well as evidence to the contrary -- that religion actually does encourage environmentalism and proper stewardship of the Earth.

"We deal with a kind of theological question here: does scripture give us any clues?" said Routhe. "Because of my personal interest in this, as well as the professional interest in it, I decided when I got to my doctorate, for better or worse, to research something I care deeply about."

Routhe was first drawn into the world of environmental sociology after being a biology major with specific interests in ecological biology. After taking a sociology class during his final semester at Houghton, he realized his deeper interest in the human element of interaction with the environment and eventually pursued sociology in graduate school.

Routhe's journey has resulted in this dissertation, and as a side result, this lecture. For his research, Routhe has been doing face-to-face interviews with professing evangelicals on what they think about global climate change, whether it is happening, and why they think the way they do. Currently, he is in the process of consolidating the data, and the upcoming lecture this Wednesday will be one of the first presentations on this research. ★

## State Department Shuts Down Embassy in Syria



Protesters in front of the U.S. Embassy in Damascus before it was shut down.

by DEREK SCHWABE

The U.S. Department of State issued a statement last week announcing its suspension of all embassy operations in Damascus, Syria. As of February 6, U.S. Ambassador to Syria Robert Ford and all American personnel are evacuated from the country.

In the past week, other nations including France, Italy, and the six Gulf Arab states have also recalled their ambassadors. The Swiss government announced this week its plans to close its embassy in the coming days.

The State Department cited recent surges in violence as the most immediate reason for its decision to pull its embassy workers. Two bombings in Damascus on December 23 and January 6 were highlighted as examples of costly security breaches which the Syrian government failed to prevent. Both attacks, which occurred near government offices in the center of the city, reportedly killed 70 people and injured at least 229. The Syrian government continues to blame Islamist terrorist organization Al-Qaida for the bombings.

The statement clarified that Ambassador Ford will remain the United States Ambassador to Syria and continue to engage with the Syrian people as head of the Syria team in Washington. The Ambassador and other officials will maintain contact with the Syrian opposition and continue to support a political transition.

U.S. leadership maintains that the uncontrolled violence has escalated under the controversial regime of President Bashar al-Assad, who has held power since his unopposed election in 2000. In March of last year, Syrians initiated the largest national protest in decades, calling for political reform and the reinstatement of civil

rights. Since March, leadership around the world has expressed abhorrence at repeated instances of the regime's violent repression of such peaceful demonstrations. President Obama released a statement earlier this month to this end: "The suffering citizens of Syria must know: we are with you, and the Assad regime must come to an end."

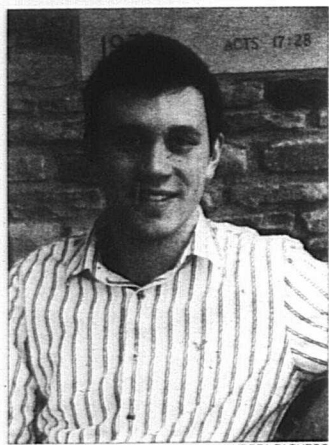
Early this month, Russia and China vetoed a UN Security Council resolution which called for current Syrian president Bashar al-Assad to resign in a vote that countered all 13 other council members. U.S. Ambassador to the UN Susan Rice expressed "disgust" at the two countries' veto, accusing them of supporting "a craven tyrant" and selling out the Syrian people. "For months this council has been held hostage by a couple of members," said Rice. "These members stand behind empty arguments and individual interests while delaying and seeking to strip bare any text that would pressure Assad to change his actions. Any further bloodshed that flows will be on their hands," she added.

The UN General Assembly will vote on an Arab-sponsored resolution strongly condemning human rights violations by Assad's regime and supporting an Arab League plan aimed at ending the 11-month conflict. Though non-binding, the resolution is expected to place greater international pressure on the government of Syria by sending a more unified message of world opinion.

Rights groups report that more than 6000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed since Syrian forces began to crack down on the democracy protests begun almost a year ago. ★



# SGA / Update on Senate Meetings



by JOSH MERTZLUFFT

Lately, the SGA has had some fairly long Senate meetings which can only mean that times have been fairly busy for the organization. There have been several funding requests, a few resolutions passed, talks about the restructuring of the Campus Activities Board (CAB) in the next year, and discussions about the College-wide budget cuts.

With regards to the College budget cuts, there are several points that are important to take note of as they significantly impact student life here at Houghton. First of all, as everyone is well aware, the flats are going offline for the next year. At the February 1 Senate meeting, Vice President for Student Life Sharra Hynes explained that this was not a decision easily reached but was made to avoid the need to eliminate more positions. This is a small part of the overall cut of \$2.5 million of the current \$35 million that makes up Houghton's operating budget. Two major changes reflect the cut that will be made to the Campus Services Budget (the portion of the Student Life Budget that the SGA allocates for all student organizations). One of these changes is the restructuring of CAB. Since there will not be enough money available to fund CAB in its present format, the SGA and the Student Programs Office will need to develop a leaner system of on-campus event programming.

## VANDALISM from page 1

Despite students' negative feelings about the loss of the flats next year, most reactions toward the graffiti have been sheer disappointment and resentment toward the measures the vandalizer(s) took. "We are a Christian college," said senior Caleb Johnson. "I would expect higher standards from the student body. Besides, defacing a building is not a very intelligent way of getting what you want." Senior Renee Roberts commented, "Public defacement, while effective at getting your message across, is probably not the best way to gain favor with the campus administration or bring change to campus...unless you are Banksy." Regardless of how students feel about the Administration's decisions, it is clear that defaced buildings with graffiti are a poor reflection on the student body as a whole.

The Office of Student Life will continue to conduct their own investigations alongside the police. ★

The other change that proceeds directly from the cut in the Campus Services Budget is a \$15,000 cut to the Boulder. For students, this will mean that we may either have to sign up to receive a yearbook or a small fee will have to be charged.

In speaking about the overall cuts that must be made to the College budget, Hynes explained that it is important to note how the tuition discount rate works. The discount rate is essentially the actual tuition that students pay after financial aid is taken into account versus the list price. Since the class that is graduating this year is the largest class and had the least average financial aid per student, there is going to be a significant deficit to account for when planning next year's budget, being that Houghton is a tuition-driven institution.

Two other very significant resolutions were passed by the Senate during the last few weeks. The first of which was a recommendation to Residence Life and Housing to move the due dates for townhouse applications two weeks later. This was in order to accommodate for the necessary decisions and adjustments that many students now have to make if they were anticipating living in a flat next year. This was accepted by Residence Life, and two days after it was passed an email was sent out to the campus stating that the dates

were modified. The second resolution that was passed at the February 8 meeting was a recommendation from the Senate for the administration and faculty to consider changing the time of chapel back to 10:15 a.m. Originally, an idea was proposed to move the afternoon classes to a time 15 minutes later to expand the lunch hour, but the point was made that this would be detrimental to athletics and music groups. At the conclusion of a discussion that has been ongoing for the last few months, the recommendation to move chapel to last year's time was the best suggestion that could be made.

Don Haingray, Director of Technology Services, was a special guest at the February 8 Senate meeting as well, and he explained some exciting new changes to the Internet system at Houghton as well as answered many questions regarding Tech Services. He explained how the department is currently working on improving the wireless system as it was originally built for the most coverage and not necessarily the most traffic. It is important to note that there is no intention to have less coverage, but to improve the amount of traffic the system can handle. Tech Services has also applied for a \$200,000 grant to put in all new wireless but has yet to hear back as to whether Houghton will receive the

grant or not. Haingray also discussed the changes in the service that will be provided for students' devices as the College transitions out of the Laptop Program. Houghton students will still have access to many of the software deals that the School is able to provide, but the Helpdesk doesn't have the available funding nor the staff to be able to provide services such as re-imaging for non-Houghton issued laptops. He likened it to a car repair man knowing how to fix one specific car completely, but then having his repair shop be opened to any car. Clearly, not everything will be known about the new devices that will be coming into the College over the next several years. He noted that there is no intention to drop any services for Houghton-issued laptops belonging to junior and senior students.

In the next couple of weeks, the SGA will be gearing up for elections for next year's leaders. Senators Gordon Brown and Christopher Clark were nominated and confirmed as the election co-commissioners for the upcoming elections. If you are interested in running for any position within either the SGA or your Class Cabinet, contact either of these gentlemen, and they will be able to provide the information needed to run. ★

## MAN ON THE STREET:

STUDENT OPINIONS ON THE RECENT BUDGET CUTS.



**LUKE LAUDER, Freshman**  
What do you think about the decision to close the flats?  
I don't think it's a good idea. I think it's a bad idea. I think it's a bad idea.

What are your feelings regarding meal plan changes?  
That does affect me, and I think it's a kind of a way to get people to pay more money. And I know I'm not going to be eating three meals a day, even this semester.

If you could suggest one financial change at Houghton what would it be?  
Probably something like not having all the academic programs to have and while giving more money to sports things.

Do you think these changes will change prospective students' view of Houghton?  
It might, but as a prospective student I don't think you really notice these things.

Do you personally feel good about the financial investment you have made in Houghton?  
Yeah, I do. I think it's a good investment.

What do you think about the decision to close the flats?  
I don't think it's a good idea. I think it's a bad idea. I think it's a bad idea.



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**AUDREY KUSASIRA, Alumni**

What do you think about the decision to close the flats?  
I don't like it. I think it's a silly idea.

What are your feelings regarding meal plan changes?  
That's not fair.

If you could suggest one financial change at Houghton what would it be?  
I have no idea.

Do you personally feel good about the financial investment you have made in Houghton?  
Yeah, I do.

What do you think about the decision to close the flats?  
I don't like it. I think it's a silly idea.



# POLITICS / Thoughts from CPAC

by CHRIS HARTLINE

The crowd's reaction was mixed. Boos and angry shouts of "No!" clashed with cheers of vindication as Mitt Romney was declared the winner of the annual Conservative Political Action Conference Straw Poll. This three-day conference — the largest and most famous of its kind, with over 10,000 participants — is an opportunity for conservatives to join together in small-government, traditional-values brotherhood, but is it good for the conservative movement, and is it good for the country?

The mixed reaction to Romney's straw poll victory was indicative of the nature of today's conservatism. Based on his policy positions, he would probably be the most conservative presidential nominee in recent history. He is pro-life, pro-second amendment, pro-traditional marriage, strong on immigration, strong on defense, espouses austerity, the Ryan Budget, and the repeal of Obamacare and Dodd-Frank. And yet, he is inadequate for some conservatives.

The conference was chock-full of varying personalities, but not varying opinions — I'll get to that later. It involved journalists, like Jonah Goldberg and Cal Thomas, giving insightful analysis and thoughtful recommendations for future action. It included former political figures, like

Herman Cain and Sarah Palin, engaging in unabashed self-promotion in an effort to maintain their grip of some sliver of the conservative population and to sell more books. It also involved current political figures, like Senators Rand Paul and Jon Cornyn, Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell and Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, clearly and passionately espousing the principles of conservatism in a way that reflected positively on themselves, their states, and their cause.

The general drift of the proceedings, however, was an unflinching, unequivocal, and stunningly tactless bombardment of President Obama and the policies of the last three years. Obama was described as a radical, a socialist, a failed president, hater of the rich, hater of the poor, and — my favorite — an argument in favor of contraception. Speakers and participants alike railed against welfare (which breeds dependency), Social Security and Medicare (which are bankrupting the country), gun control (the essence of liberal overreach), and gay marriage (disgusting). In some of these areas their points are valid, but the level of anger and, at times, heartlessness with which the participants viewed these issues is a recipe for electoral disaster.

Which brings us back to Romney. For all his conservative bona fides, many conservatives don't believe he's gone far enough, or is passionate enough. Foster Friess, a wealthy investment banker

and Santorum supporter, introduced the former Pennsylvania Senator and began with a joke: "So a Liberal, a Moderate and a Conservative walk into a bar and the bartender says, 'Hey Mitt.'" In his remarks, Santorum argued that Romney disqualified himself from the Republican primary race by passing and continuing to defend Romneycare, a Massachusetts health care reform bill with many similarities to Obamacare. Gingrich called Romney "timid" and "moderate." Without using his name, Texas Governor Rick Perry spelled out the conservative dissolution: "We do the American people no great service if we replace the current embodiment of Big Government with a lukewarm version of the same."

Current conservatism views Mitt Romney, whose own policies would put Ronald Reagan and William F. Buckley's to shame, as a "lukewarm version" of Big Government ideology. Is this viewpoint good for the conservative cause or good for the country? I don't think so. And this attitude applies to my larger point about CPAC itself.

As I walked through the halls and the lobbies of the D.C. Marriott, two things struck me. First, I was amazed by the overwhelming sense of otherness and isolation that hovered over the hotel like a heavy fog. The three-day conference progressed completely devoid of outside influence and alternative opinion. It was as if the

conservative movement was acting out their own version of Gilligan's Island, stranded on the sandy beaches of small-government philosophy, bolstered in their conservative camaraderie, and surrounded by the seas of liberalism and the circling sharks of the Obama Administration. They must act in unison if they want to survive. Social Psychologist Jonathan Haidt describes the phenomenon as a Matrix-like "consensual hallucination," an unwavering, psychological adherence to their image of the political world. But the lack of disagreement and dissent will only weaken the conservative movement and deter its success.

Writers such as David Brooks, who has written about the political skill and admirable leadership qualities of President Obama, or Andrew Sullivan, the gay conservative blogger who opposed the war in Iraq and the torture of detainees, are not welcome at CPAC. Politicians such as John McCain and Lindsey Graham, who have been willing to compromise and work across the aisle, are also not welcome in more conservative circles. These figures are viewed as disloyal to the cause of conservatism. But as Edward R. Murrow stated, "We must not confuse dissent with disloyalty. When the loyal opposition dies, I think the soul of America dies with it." In this case, the death of loyal opposition within the conservative movement is a precursor to the death of conservatism as we know it.

The second thing that struck me is a result of the first. Without dissent and debate, the participants of CPAC carry the cross of conservatism with a biblical surety and unwavering passion. The result is a myopic vision of America and its political landscape. Participants immediately dismiss welfare and deem its recipients lazy, manipulative malcontents without even considering the plethora of factors (low education spending, lack of law enforcement, poor health care and health education) which deprive millions of the opportunities we enjoy. They dismiss any type of gun control as a massive overreach of statist government without considering the thousands who die every year from gun deaths. They dismiss what they see as the homosexual perversion of marriage without even considering the implications of personhood for the LGBT community.

In many ways, their positions are fundamentally sound. The welfare system is flawed and does, in some cases, breed dependence. Universal gun control does infringe on the rights of those who hold their second amendment rights dear to their heart. Gay marriage may negatively affect the fundamental values of our society. But the way the conservative movement carries itself, most clearly portrayed in the three-day proceedings of CPAC, lacks tact, nuance, and the ability to compromise — all valued skills in politics and in the basic art of persuasion.

Mitt Romney may not be the most conservative candidate in the Republican field. He may lack a certain fluency in conservatism (most likely the result of being a result-focused pragmatist for much of his life in the private sector). But a Republican Party that decides Romney is not a conservative at all is a Republican Party doomed to failure. And a conservative movement that lacks nuance and rigorous internal debate does nothing but harm itself and the country at large. ★



KAYLA POWELL, Junior

*What do you think about the decision to close the flats?*  
It's a good decision in my opinion.  
*What are your feelings regarding meal plan changes?*

Good to me. It doesn't hurt me much — it really doesn't.

*If you could suggest one financial change at Houghton what would it be?*

The renovation of Gillette. I've been living in the flats this whole year because I'm an RA, but if I didn't I would probably be living in Gillette.

*Do you personally feel good about the financial investment you have made in Houghton?*

It depends on where my money went. If my money went to good things, of course. If it didn't, in that case, sure, where my money went. I don't know where my money went. I don't know where my money went. I don't know where my money went.



GORDON BROWN, Senior

*What do you think about the decision to close the flats?*  
I don't live there so it doesn't affect me very much, but they are saving a lot of money. Although I've heard rumors that they're not going to be shutting off heat and stuff like that so it's possible that it might be a waste of a location.

*What are your feelings regarding meal plan changes?*

I haven't really thought about it.

*If you could suggest one financial change at Houghton what would it be?*

Honestly, I think there are some things that they could do better, and I think they need to get students more involved in making the decisions.

*Do you personally feel good about the financial investment you have made in Houghton?*

Yes.



KURTIS PERRY, Freshman

*What do you think about the decision to close the flats?*  
I can understand why students are angry about it, but I understand the rationale behind the decision.

*What are your feelings regarding meal plan changes?*

I'm skeptical that it will have the desired effect.

*If you could suggest one financial change at Houghton what would it be?*

How about you stop spending money on student's personal lives and spend more on academics.

*Do you personally feel good about the financial investment you have made in Houghton?*

I'm not devastated by it.

INTERVIEWS BY  
CHRIS CLARK,  
PHOTOS BY  
ANDREA PACHECO



## A Provocative Spring SPOT



by LINDSEY HOUGHTON

Last Saturday marked this semester's SPOT, with seniors Chelsea Ellis, Zina Teague, and Sarah Wangai hosting. This SPOT celebrated (and poked fun at) Houghton's peculiar quirks and oddities. The humor was often poignant and at times possibly painful, directed at specific institutions and even specific people.

However, the hosts of this semester's SPOT welcomed such humor, attempting to make this SPOT about satirizing certain college policies and college and student organizations -- a trait that past SPOTs have traditionally had. According to Teague, "Our goal was to get back to what SPOT was originally for, to make fun of the many things that happen here at the College...We went out there and had fun; we enjoyed the experience and the opportunity we had of putting SPOT together."

SPOT featured a large number of performers, ranging from comedy duos and trios to musical acts to parody videos. The hosts each gave examples of the eccentricity and at times downright strangeness of Houghton life, drawing from their own experiences and the experiences of others to point out the flaws and idiosyncrasies of living at a Christian liberal arts college in the middle of nowhere with a population of 1300.

Unlike previous years, however, this year's SPOT seems to have generated an air of controversy. I have heard from several people that they thought SPOT was too harsh this year, saying that it was mean-spirited. While I can see where these objections are coming from, I am not sure

they are completely fair. The only two skits that I felt even a little uncomfortable during were the skit pointing out the flaws of the basketball team and junior Sarah Jacoby's song about the first-year class.

About the song: I thought it was hilarious and, drawing from my own recollections of myself as a freshman, pretty accurate. I only worried that to some first-year students it would seem like a personal attack, though that was clearly not what it was meant to be. However, I didn't think it was mean-spirited, simply because everyone either is or has been a freshman. Everyone knows or remembers what it is like, and recognizes that being a freshman (and all that comes with it, both good and bad) lasts only for a season. Everyone has been there.

I found the basketball skit a bit harder to stomach -- it's so hard to toe the line between witty satire and hurtful commentary. I thought it went a bit too far to call out specific members of the team by name and to point out the specific flaws of each person and the team as a whole -- it made me feel uncomfortable and bad for the team members. Granted, I know almost nothing about Houghton basketball, but it seemed harsh to call out a group of people for failing to do what they, presumably, are trying their best to do.

However, I feel certain that the SPOT hosts did not mean for the skit to come across in this way. It is difficult to know how a skit will seem to a live audience, and how much satire is too much.

All in all, I thought that this semester's SPOT was hilarious. It accomplished its goals of being both funny and provocative, and I for one had a great time. ★

Black Heritage Club Feature:

## The Black Panthers: Another Face of Freedom Fighting

by GORDON BROWN

If you were asked to think of people or events associated with the Civil Rights movement, chances are you'd think of Martin Luther King Jr., non-violent protesters attacked by police dogs, the Freedom Riders, sit-ins, or the march on Washington. Chances are, you probably would not think of young black men and women, wearing black jackets, black berets, and carrying shotguns. You probably wouldn't think of a packed auditorium of men and women of all ages, white and black alike, some wearing traditional West African clothing, and all cheering as a speaker likened the police to an occupational military force. You probably wouldn't think of a black activist, sitting in a jail cell, calling on white students to simultaneously denounce America's involvement in Vietnam as well as the deplorable condition of African Americans at home.

None of these images would likely be

conjured up by the phrase "Civil Rights movement," and yet these people and these events were as much a part of Civil Rights and African American history as King's iconic "I Have a Dream" speech or the Little Rock Nine. So who were these people?

The Black Panther Party for Self Defense, or more simply, "the Black Panthers," was an organization founded by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seal, two young activists living in Oakland, California, in 1966. Inspired by the writings and works of Malcolm X, Ernesto "Che" Guevara, Franz Fanon, and Karl Marx, the Newton and Seal created an organization to address not merely the issues of racism and bigotry, but *all* systemic injustices facing both African Americans and oppressed peoples across the world. Rejecting Martin Luther King's strict doctrine of non-violence, the Newton and Seal asserted that only through arming the black community could they defeat racism. Police who had been terrorizing black communities, they

argued, would not dare attack black men or women with the will and means to defend themselves against brutality.

Indeed, the Black Panthers' earliest activities included the "Policing of the Police," that is, having armed groups of men and women follow police patrols, ensuring that they did not abuse their power or use undue force in making an arrest. In the event that someone was arrested, the Panthers would follow the police to their stations and provide bail for the individual being taken in. Despite gaining notoriety for their high-profile "cop watching," the Panthers asserted that an integral element of defending the black community was through organization, creation of mass consciousness, and education.

The Panthers provided their communities with a wide range of services, including free clinics, free giveaways of groceries and shoes, education programs, transportation for the elderly, prisoner support, and provision of legal aid -- though perhaps their most notable achievement

(Oskar) plays his part so well that, at the end of the movie, the audience finds relief in the fact that it is only a movie. Horn effectively portrays his fury toward and confusion with life during an argument scene with Bullock, and has the constant look of anxiety that fits Oskar's paranoid and borderline-autistic character.

As with most films based on books, the screenwriter alters quite a few details and eliminates, with immense regret I hope, some of Oskar's most precious quirks and ticks that provide the reader of the book with understanding smiles and frequent snickers, albeit its heavy content. While it is understandable that a 129-minute-long-movie cannot contain all the wonder that is 326 pages of Foer, the movie is too busy showing Oskar's imagination of his father falling through the air in slow motion (an unnecessary image that will leave you feeling distressed) that it completely disregards about half of the novel, which deals with the relationship between Oskar's grandfather and grandmother and the story behind them -- a beautiful non-love story that leaves the reader with nothing but tears.

The mistake that the film director Daldry made with "Extremely Loud" is that he stripped from the book too much of the humor and postmodernist questions in his effort to give the movie an inspirational Hollywood ending. As a result, what is left of the beautifully painful novel is just Daldry's sentimental take on a disturbed boy's treasure hunt for his lost father, forcing you to choke up with his hands around your throat. This, not the original novel, fails to earn the right to use such powerful and horrible images from "The Worst Day" and thus its 46% rating on [rottentomatoes.com](http://www.rottentomatoes.com) is well deserved.

On a more personal note, as a *relative* outsider to the tragedy of 9/11, (being Korean and too young to understand the situation at the moment) the movie itself is a beautifully filmed heartbreaker, and this affirms the point made by Oskar, that hardly anything is beautiful *and* true. I will half-heartedly encourage my fellow Highlanders to go to the movies, but I do insist -- read the original novel written by Foer. ★

Go to [www.houghtonstar.com](http://www.houghtonstar.com) to read the entire article!



# WHAT THE GRAMMYS LACK

by LUKE DOTY

Last Saturday, Whitney Houston died. The next day, singer-actress Jennifer Hudson performed a tribute at the 54<sup>th</sup> Grammy Awards Ceremony. Rapper LL Cool J, host of the evening, opened and said, "We've had a death in the family." He offered a prayer. The show went on. Adele won six Grammys. The Foo Fighters took five.

The night has been described as both somber and victorious, which is not unimaginable if the community of musical artists is indeed a family. Every year there are deaths, new additions, successes, and dramas to account for -- all competing on stage. The Beach Boys performed, to mixed reception. Chris Brown made a comeback following his assault on Rihanna in 2009. Adele performed for the first time since microsurgery on her throat. She took six Grammys, including three of the big ones. It is involving.

And if it feels highly-produced, it should.

But is it all orchestrated? The nomination and voting process for the Grammys is often poorly understood. Voting is done by members of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, which functions primarily to sponsor the Grammys. Voting membership is not difficult to attain; an applicant must be credited on six commercially-released recordings (12, if they were released digitally). If you helped make six songs for sale on Amazon (12 on iTunes), you can vote on the Grammys.

This differs from the Emmys academy, which requires several years of specialized experience for voting membership. For the Academy Awards, voting membership works by invitation only.

The result for the Grammys is a relative democratization of the vote. At present, there are over 1200 registered voting members. All voting in the Grammys is done by these members, and the initial round of voting is often quite laborious. This year, there were over 17,500 entries for consideration to be nominated. Voting members are sent a list of such initial entries and may then vote as they like.

Again, this differs greatly from other awards. Voters for the Academy Awards are invited to screenings of the films under consideration. For the Pulitzer Prize, distinguished jurors in specific fields are employed to comb through initial entries. The Grammys provide no categorization or access to listed entries. A bassist working at Starbucks has to locate and listen to the thousands of hours

of entries himself.

The process becomes a game of picking out recognizable names. The 17,500 list is narrowed down to less than a tenth of that; from a glut of entries to what is more or less the Billboard 200. Only entries which are already nationally famous and commercially successful become nominations.

Within this, the 1200 voting membership is small enough to allow for minor upsets. This year, Bon Iver won the Grammy for Best New Artist over more widely-known artists Nicki Minaj and Skrillex. In 2011, the lesser-known Arcade Fire won Album of the Year over Eminem, Lady Gaga, and Katy Perry.

Still, the pre-nomination list is disproportionate to the size of the voting class. The voting population's lack of expertise is another factor. The Pulitzer is ultimately judged by 19 experts and academics whose identities and affiliations are public. Subsequently, Pulitzer-winning books are seldom chart-topping in national popularity, whereas it is rare for a Grammy entry to even receive a nomination if it has not reached #1 on national sales charts.

The Grammys' deciding factor is fame. Blake Shelton has been recording and performing in the country music industry for over 10 years, but this was the first year he was nominated for a Grammy. In fact, he was nominated for three, hot on the heels of his debut television role in the popular series, "The Voice." Still, Shelton lost two Grammys to the better-known Taylor Swift and the other to Lady Antebellum.

Shelton and Adele, as well as Whitney Houston, are not the honorees of the Grammys but the products. Digital sales of their music experienced the "Grammy bump," a significant increase in sales following their presence in the Grammys. The business principle is keen: it is easier to brand and market a few artists of wide, certain appeal than a multiplicity of more creative artists.

In this sense, the Grammys have more in common with the Superbowl than an awards show: it becomes a high-level competition. The award does not exist for the competitors but to involve the viewers. Although both Bruno Mars and Katy Perry lost to Adele for Best Album, all three will benefit. The show is subtly polarizing, increasing traffic to winners and losers alike to the neglect of new and substantial art.

In the Grammys' final act, Paul McCartney led Joe Walsh, Bruce Springsteen, and Dave Grohl in a Medley of "Abbey Road." Everyone wore black except for McCartney, who wore a blue collar shirt and suspenders. He sung poorly, and they all soloed noisily over each other. They looked overjoyed, each of them, to be playing together.

Most award receivers do not criticize the Grammys on stage, but some do. When Pearl Jam won a Grammy in 1996, Eddie Vedder said, "I don't know what this means. I don't think it means anything." This year, Bon Iver's Justin Vernon said while accepting his award, "It's really hard to accept this award. There's so much talent out here...and there's a lot of talent that's not here tonight." ★

## WORLD-FAMOUS VIOLINISTS FEATURED

by LIZ SPAULDING

In continuation with Houghton's widely anticipated Artist Series, the College will feature violinist Arnaud Sussman and pianist Michael Brown tonight.

Native born in France and holding degrees from The Juilliard School, Sussman has quickly gained acclaim throughout the world. He has performed in several countries as both a solo artist and part of a chamber group. His career was kick-started in 2009 when he was awarded the Avery Fisher Career Grant, and since then he has been asked to perform in such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall, The Louvre, and the Smithsonian Museum. Sussman's passionate performances on the violin have enraptured audiences all across the globe and have inspired fawning critics to write rave reviews. His own particular brand of dark, brooding good looks that strike audiences as he bends lovingly over his violin certainly don't hurt either. The Times Herald Record described one of Sussman's performances: "His resonant bowing soared and sang until a long cadenza of trembling arpeggios and glissandos brought the movement to a forceful close."

Brown, too, is a major talent, whose piano playing has been described as "vividly characterized and rhythmically free-spirited" by The New York Times. He too has performed in Carnegie Hall, as well as Avery Fisher Hall. He also matches Sussman in terms of education, as a graduate of The Juilliard School. Brown has been lauded as a performer with great passion and confidence -- characteristics that set him apart from his fellow performers. He also holds the title of composer; many of his works have been performed by renowned symphonies in various countries. A hugely accomplished performer and composer, Brown's love and devotion to music is rarely rivaled.

Sussman and Brown performing together is certainly a dynamic and promising combination. Though both are fairly young, Sussman and Brown possess talent that is unrivaled by musicians in their age group, and together, their playing weaves a powerful, gorgeous tapestry of sound that would be a shame to miss.

Their upcoming Houghton performance will cost \$15 and take place at 8 tonight in the Wesley Chapel. Student tickets are available today during meal times for free at the base of the stairs in the Campus Center, and can be acquired at the Information Desk in between meal times. Staff and faculty should contact the Music Office in order to receive their tickets. Tickets will not be available for free at the door.

## ATHLETE PROFILE: JENNIFER HUDSON



ANDREA PACHECO

by ANNELISE HEIN

Jennifer Hudson is commended by coaches and professors as a notable student athlete. A member of the women's basketball team, as well as the women's soccer team in the fall, she excels on the court as well as in the classroom. Skip Lord, women's basketball coach and Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, described Hudson as "an exceptional player, who excels in the classroom and is well-liked and respected across campus."

Hudson is from Bloomfield, New York. She entered Houghton with the class of 2013 but will be graduating in December 2012, so this is her last season with the basketball team. She majors in physical and health education and is planning to student teach this

fall. Professor Trini Rangel, physical and health education, said, "She has displayed focus, competence, and grit in taking care of business as a student at Houghton College." In order to complete her college studies early, Hudson has taken Mayterm and summer courses and carried heavy academic loads throughout her time at Houghton. Rangel also described Hudson as a "go-getter," and said, "From day one she has known what she wanted to accomplish as a student and as an athlete."

Hudson's involvement with athletics has allowed her to participate in sports ministry. Over spring break last year, she traveled to Brazil with the women's soccer team, and this past summer she went to the Czech Republic with the women's basketball team. Another ministry she has found through athletics is participating in Operation Christmas Child; each year, the team fills shoe boxes with gifts for children in need around the world.

Although Hudson is very involved in athletics, those who know her recognize her integrity as a student and friend as well. Rangel said, "Having seen her play soccer and basketball for the Houghton teams, I'd say she approaches her degree in much the same way -- she finds a goal and just keeps plugging away until she reaches the goal." Sophomore Melissa Lincoln said, "Jenn is an all around great girl. Yes, she's amazing at both soccer and basketball, but she's also a wonderful friend I can always count on and a great example of Christ. She's an inspiration and role model on and off the field."

## SPORTS RECAP

### MEN'S BASKETBALL:

SAT 2/11

vs Wilberforce Univ. - L 64-68

TUE 2/14

at Daemen College - L 61-66

Season Record: 9-17

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:

SAT 2/11

vs Wilberforce Univ. - W 70-62

TUE 2/14

at Daemen College - L 50-74

Season Record: 13-12

### UPCOMING GAMES:

SAT 2/18

vs Carlow Univ. @ 2PM

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



# Leaving Chapel Early is a Matter of Disrespect



by RANDALL SMITH

I was sitting in chapel in the front center row of the balcony. I enjoy chapel; there is a lot of listening involved. I like to listen. The week was PRAXIS week; that is, one week dedicated to Christian life, and how to live more fully for Christ. The topic for the week was listening, which I find important to someone of my caliber — the musician. But the message was not on the nuances of musicology, but rather, it focused on specifically listening to God's voice given primarily through convictions in scripture.

The speaker gave his speech. Suddenly, about 10 to 15 minutes before the conclusion, I heard shuffling behind me. Bookbags were zipping up, feet were marching down the stairs (sometimes falling, as in one case). This continued all

the way through dismissal, where it was then appropriate to stand up and leave. Actually, the music after dismissal is called a recessional — you are supposed to leave at that time. Not during the last prayer as with Nathanael's prayer on Monday. When the final word is given, then you may leave.

I was asked one time to sub for the salad bar from noon to 1 p.m. on Friday. I have a personal commitment to attend every single chapel service — not for any other reason than I want to get something out of it that I did not have before, and it doesn't even matter whether or not I agree with the speaker. I will still get something out of it. Substitute jobs are very few and very far between, so I immediately jump on it, and he asked me to leave 10 minutes early from chapel. I know that this is when the speaker is at the peak of his message, so I simply say that I cannot leave until I am dismissed, and I will be among the first out; the salad bar will not die because of 10 minutes, trust me.

These chapel speakers are flying in from 600+ miles away, giving their time just to speak to you. There are so many more campuses twice our size that they could be going to, but instead they chose here. I have asked the opinions of many on this subject. Zina Teague, senior, puts it very explicitly, "It is extremely annoying as well as distracting when people decide to get up and leave chapel early. It is understandable if some have to leave, but it is ridiculous when a ton of people decide to get up at

the same time to leave chapel. I think that it is also rude and can be disrespectful to the person who is speaking in chapel." Brothers and sisters, if you cannot stay for the entire chapel service, don't even start. You are just as bad if not worse than the scan-and-scrammers who only stay for a few seconds. Are there exceptions to the rule? Yes. For you? Probably not.

It is so disrespectful to the speakers to see upwards of 50 people just get up and leave. Where I come from, this essentially means either "I do not approve of this message, so I will not stay" (Proverbs 14:7), or worse, "I have something more important to do than to listen to you talk." Unless you have a good reason to leave early (such as a medical emergency), you are not justified. Even still, you are being disrespectful, but at least you aren't doing anything wrong. Congressmen attended Barack Obama's State of the Union Address, and I'm sure of a few who definitely did not approve, but also did not leave. It is only out of respect to hear someone completely without interruption.

Junior Jennifer Freeman, our SGA Commissioner of Communications, says, "I hope we can have a class schedule that works with chapel and lunch. All three should be available to all students every time, and if the exterior issues were resolved, I think the number of people who leave early would drastically reduce." I also hope we can have accommodations by next semester; it's on administration's

eyes.

In music, it's just as bad as having a melody line and. Or going to the grocery store and not. But what if everyone would stay for? Or if we would just follow through with the rest of our? Wouldn't chapel be so much more enjoyable if we could let the speakers finish their sentences?

I believe, and correct me if I'm wrong, that there are people on this campus who think going to chapel two times per week is this heavy burden, and it is too much of a chore than what it is worth. This is the exact wrong mindset we need to have towards chapel.

Chapel should be a time between you and God. If you go with your eye on the clock, you are not giving all of your attention to Him who deserves it. If your tuition covers your classes, you have free chapel. We should be going with the mindset of making the very best out of the time that we are given, and if that means listening to someone (heaven forbid it), then why not?

I want to end with this: that in order to have any "revival" on this campus, we have to want it to happen. Going to chapel and leaving in the middle is what the "lukewarm" Christian does. Excuse me for being so judgmental, but prove me wrong.

Randall is a first-year music education major

## The Penultimate Word / A Possibly Depressing Discussion of the Media and the Nature of Criticism



by ELISA SHEARER

I'm generally all about the idea that there's always going to be the same amount of corruption and misinformation in the world. Hopefully that tempered optimism will remain true as the American political system continues its adaptation to the slew of new forms of instant communication. It doesn't seem good, though. Presidential campaign spending is increasing in a way that it never has before, even when numbers are adjusted for inflation, and the miasma of news stations, bloggers, and political activist organizations seems to be large enough to create a perpetual motion machine for the infinite fomenting of bickering, scapegoating, and the instigation of an atmosphere of public animosity. The regrettable decision to read the ample and poorly grammared comment feed below news articles never fails to convince me of this.

For example, a recent action that's gained some attention among political news sites is The Daily Caller's investigation into Media Matters for America, which is a non-profit center dedicated to "monitoring, analyzing, and correcting conservative misinformation in the U.S. media." The Daily Caller accused a variety of news organizations, including The Huffington Post, The Washington Post, and MSNBC, of blindly reprinting liberal-biased talking

points sent out by Media Matters.

That is an issue in itself and I have little knowledge that qualifies me to comment on it.

The problem for me is the intensely unprofessional way in which the information was reported. The Daily Caller's article cited only anonymous sources, at least one a former Media Matters employee but many simply labeled "a prominent liberal" or "someone with firsthand knowledge." It then went on to mock the paranoid antics of David Brock, Media Matters' founder. Tucker Carlson, the editor in chief of The Daily Caller, sent vindictive personal emails to a journalist accused of following Media Matters' instruction. A headline of an editorial on the front of The Daily Caller's website reads "Media Matters matters even less on the Internet." The attack was vindictive, personal, and smug — not to mention partisan. The poorly defended and anonymously sourced snipe at Media Matters took up their entire front page.

This isn't news! This isn't news, everyone! When articles are written with a wink and a nod to half of the country, they tend toward neither construction nor objectivity. Personal attacks and childish vendettas do not constitute responsible public information.

This case of immature cross-media bickering between stations and organizations is reflective of a more general public trend. Political discourse tends toward empty criticism: it's easier than objective analysis, and it appeals to the least common denominator of the public consciousness.

But we're attracted to polemics. Framing ourselves as "good" and everyone

else as "evil" is way more comfortable than objectively assessing and compromising about difficult situations. As much as the two screaming people on either side of the line think they differ from each other, the important similarity is that they're both screaming. We, as a social organism, tend toward simple attack rather than nuanced argument. This makes political discussion sometimes devolve into pure negativity with no positive suggestions in sight.

Now, the demonizing of government criticism is what gives dictator states and oligarchies their momentum; this is not what should happen. The criticism of government decisions is a staple of a free society. But the rabid and sneering polemics of bickering media members diverts the public attention away from significant policy changes and toward the dramatized competition orchestrated for the entertainment of (and profit from) the public.

Jon Huntsman said in an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal last year that anyone who disagreed with Paul Ryan's current Medicare reform plan had "a moral responsibility" to offer their own alternative solution. While criticism can be constructive, mere criticism only destroys; if nothing is built or suggested to replace it, it is an essentially destructive act.

There is no law forbidding news sources from criticizing anything. But critics have a moral obligation to be constructive and impersonal. This is not written in any law, but it is essential for the health of society.

I want to be clear that it is not the American government's place to censure these acidic organizations, but it is our duty as individuals to remove the power of lazy and negative political discourse by

refusing it our attention, our money, and our respect. Libel and mud-slinging in political discourse turns the organization of society into a game — the problem is that the stakes don't necessarily lower when the nature of the game becomes ridiculous.

Personally, I wish that I could detach myself from all of this. I wish I could avoid action or making decisions. But I keep bumping into the uncomfortable truth that if I am going to be a member of society, I can't choose to be wholly apathetic. It's not possible to remove oneself from the discussion of social organization, short of actually moving to a secluded area and refusing all of the benefits of organized society (from roads to grocery stores to firefighters). Political inaction IS a decision. And our membership in society incurs in us the obligation to recognize that.

Elisa is a senior English and psychology major

### Letters to the Editor

houghtonstar@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

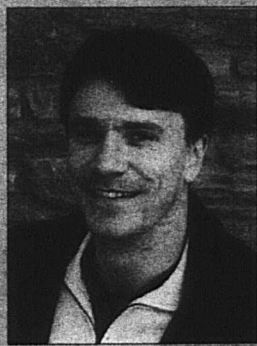
Houghton is not an institution meant to promote the comforts of unchallenged belief systems, or to herald the virtues of homogeneity. It was recommended by a Houghton professor that I read the Star article concerning the Deity prints, because he knew I would be as dismayed by the removal of such art from the Senate office as he. He was correct. I was not only dismayed, I was disgusted.

One reason given in the article for their removal is the presence of "pagan-Roman deities as central figures." Such representation is offensive, perhaps we should cease reading The Aeneid, cancel any honors programs that might expose innocent and religiously-impressionable Houghton students to fine art, and sack

continued on page 7



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK / The Power of an Idea and the Perils of Camelot



by CHRIS HARTLINE

"All men are created equal." As the tip of Thomas Jefferson's quill lifted from the parchment of the Declaration of Independence, the idea of equality was forever sewn into the fabric of the American experiment, espoused in a founding document for the first time in world history. It was unique in its simplicity, radical in its uniqueness.

Centuries later, the idea of equality has not been fully achieved. Racial tensions persist, gender discrimination continues, and anti-gay policies progress. The 2008 election of Barack Obama, however, was a turning point in American history, an opportunity for the bigoted bias of generations past to be forever doomed to the ash heap of history.

Obama is the quintessential American success story. The ability of an African-American man, born in Hawaii and raised by a single parent, to achieve educational, financial and political success is a testament to Jefferson's foundational idea of equality, and to how far we've come as a nation. Obama embodies the American dream.

As a presidential candidate in 2008, he campaigned as the "post-racial" and "post-partisan" candidate. He was going to bring a new level of civility and equity to both the political process and the American system of governance. As then-Senator Obama stated in his 2006 book *The Audacity of Hope*, "What struck me [while running for the

US Senate] was how much of what they believed seemed to hold constant across race, region, religion, and class. I told them that government couldn't solve all their problems. But with a slight change in priorities we could make sure every child had a decent shot at life and meet the challenges we faced as a nation."

It is said in politics that you campaign in poetry and govern in prose. In Obama's case, the poetry of the campaign—the promises of post-partisanship and the ideas of hope and change—attempted to implement Jefferson's fundamental idea of equality. But they were, unfortunately, misguided. In many ways, the idea that most characterizes President Obama's rise to power comes not from the founding of the American Republic, but rather the founding of an American dynasty.

After the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963, his wife Jackie gave an interview in which she referred to the Kennedy Presidency as an "American Camelot," a time of progress and peace, honor and valor. The term "American Camelot" has come to signify the Kennedy dynasty as a whole: the most powerful, picturesque, and influential family in American history. But like the legends of old, where the principles and values of the Round Table were constantly subverted by the humanity of its occupants, the American Camelot also attempted to cloak the mortal failings of the Kennedys in a veil of dynastic tranquility and a manufactured image of serenity.

The Kennedys are great Americans who have served their country for generations and continue to do so, but they often depended on their image to maintain their reputation in spite of their personal failings. Barack Obama's presidential campaign was a testament to the success of image politics. He was portrayed as the candidate of all people, uninhibited by the backwards tensions of race, gender, and even party. But the prose of his governance has been lacking in true substance, lacking in the practical consummation of Jefferson's idea of equality.

While Obama is not the socialist his critics rail against, his political philosophy is centered in the belief that the government can mandate equality, success, and social

progress. He emphasizes the role the government plays in stimulating the economy, lifting the less fortunate out of poverty, and saving the environment. In doing so, he has demonized corporations and the rich while idolizing community organizations and unions.

The Camelot-like image of hope and change has given way to a statist philosophy of governance. His intentions are valiant but the increase in government spending, bureaucracy, and unnecessary regulation actually hinder the idea of equality espoused in the Declaration of Independence. As Jefferson stated, "A wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, which shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government."

In reality, no presidency more clearly demonstrated true equality than that of Ronald Reagan. Reagan should not be deified or idolized like he is by many on the right. He and his presidency were flawed—Iran-Contra and the response to the AIDS crisis come to mind. But his vision of the American dream and the power of the individual transformed America from the malaise-ridden stagnation of the Carter years to the enterprising boom of the 80s and 90s.

The equality that Jefferson envisioned is only achieved when the power of the individual is unleashed and the entrepreneurial nature of the American people unhindered. As Reagan stated, "Only when the human spirit is allowed to invent and create, only when individuals are given a personal stake in deciding economic policies and benefiting from their success—only then can societies remain economically alive, dynamic, prosperous, progressive and free." To that I would add, only then is true equality of

opportunity achieved.

We as Americans must be wary of the Camelot-esque veil that conceals the substance of an individual in favor of a fleeting image. Barack Obama's promises of hope and change have given way to policies of fiscal suicide and liberal timidity, or as David Brooks called it,

"liberal incrementalism" in the face of staggering challenges. His State of the Union lacked bold solutions to the stunning scale of difficulties facing our country, preferring instead the poll-tested platitudes of campaign rhetoric. His recent budget proposal includes more of the same: spending, debt, and liberal mandates. As Liz Peek stated in the *Financial Times*, the budget "stabilizes our debt at 76 percent of GDP—roughly double historic levels." This timid incrementalism is unacceptable.

But the greater failure is the imposed stagnation of the individual spirit. As the Obama Administration imposes their liberal ideology, the power of individual entrepreneurship is squelched and the opportunity for equality hindered.

In 1984, Reagan said "Recognizing the equality of all men and women, we are willing and able to lift the weak, cradle those who hurt, and nurture the bonds that tie us together as one nation under God." The Reagan Revolution transformed America as we know it. To solve the daunting challenges facing us we need another revolution of equal or greater strength and boldness. But it should be a revolution based on the idea of equality and individual enterprise rather than the cursory image of Camelot.

Chris is a senior history and political science major

continued from page 7

English and art professors alike for promoting the use of texts drawn from cultures that, gasp! were anything but Judeo-Christian and didn't mind a well-depicted nude or two. If those utilizing the conference room did, indeed, find the art ugly then so be it—remove them. But if the reason for removal was because the art wasn't holy enough for students incapable of allowing anything but pictures of a white Jesus carrying around a lamb and a staff in a curiously Western pastoral scene to hang on Houghton's walls, then we should create a scholarship to purchase blinders for their post-graduate lives. Additionally, the irony of removing art prints from a conference room because they might be controversial is rather sharp.

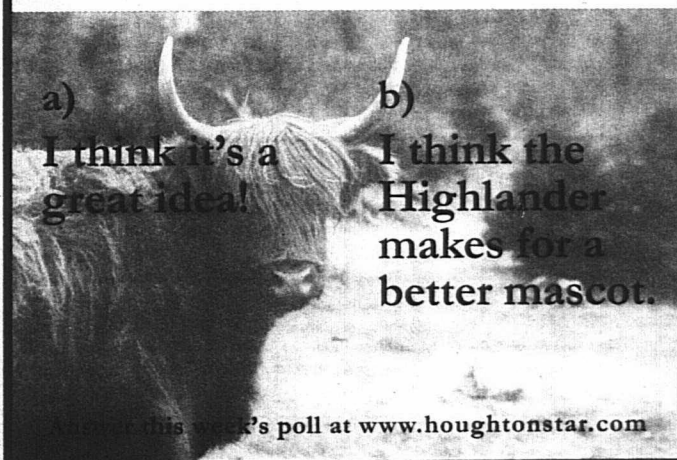
If Dean Brittain does not see the need for their removal who, I might remind the Houghton public, is our Dean of Chapel and representative of spiritual life on campus (not to mention his level of education as compared to our dear college senators), I think it is safe to assert that true Christian intellectuality embraces challenges rather than pulls them down from conference room walls.

- Hamah Hanover, Class of 2013

Your Lady Highlander Volleyball team is going on a sports ministry trip to Nicaragua! Team members are fundraising by selling boxes of Krispy Kremes for \$7. Doughnuts will be available TO BUY INDIVIDUALLY on Feb. 20th. They will be freshly made that morning! Orders can also be placed through Coaches Nancy Cole and Bitsy Mayhle.  
**NOM NOMS**



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



Vote in this week's poll at [www.houghtonstar.com](http://www.houghtonstar.com)





ANDREA PACHECO

## BETH LARTER

All my life I've been dabbling in art, never quite mastering anything, just making my attempts. It wasn't until I came to Houghton that I began to see art as more than a hobby or a showcase for technical skill, but as an exchange of ideas. And that in art, from photoshop to letterpress, using words isn't cheating. Words are powerful and need to be handled with care, but they are, or should be, a form of art. My passion in art is to tell stories, with words and without, and to explore that space somewhere between reality and imagination.

*Beth is a junior communication major with a concentration in visual communication and media arts, and minors in art and writing.*

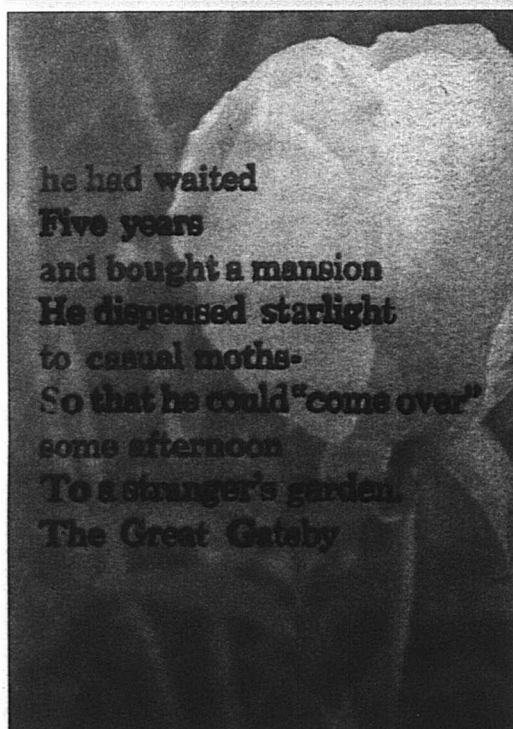
### Top-bottom:

"Untitled", charcoal  
unfinished, charcoal

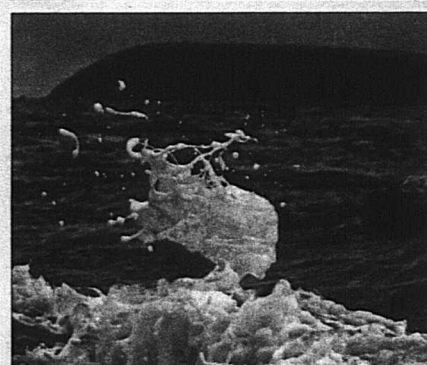
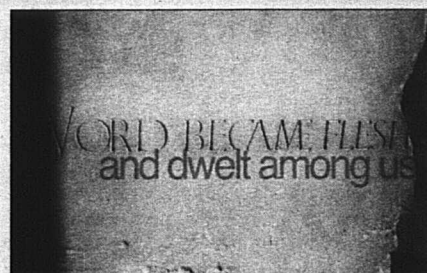
"Erin", graphite

"Angelica Church", watercolor

## ARTIST OF THE WEEK



he had waited  
Five years  
and bought a mansion  
He dispensed starlight  
to casual moths-  
So that he could "come over"  
some afternoon  
To a stranger's garden.  
The Great Gatsby



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

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## SUDOKU

To win a free Java drink, bring your finished puzzle, clearly marked with your full name and CPO, to the Star office in the basement of the Campus Center (deadline: WED 2/22 by 6PM)

### 2/17 Crossword Solution:

FLEAS	TOM	FLIT
BURRO	AVE	FAITH
ISSEI	TAR	LISLE
HEARTS	COURTLY	
LEO	TIDE	
VAT	ENGR	ENVIES
EGIS	IRIS	TINEA
NAME	CUPID	SARI
UPEND	BALI	ERIN
SEXTET	ROTC	MET
BAHT	SAT	
ALABAMA	TYPIST	
BABES	DNA	ORLOP
LIEGE	JAR	NEATH
ENDS	ITO	EDGED

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