

SWITCHFOOT'S LATEST | CULTURE, P. 4

# the houghton STAR

Houghton College's Student Newspaper Since 1909

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

SPIRITUAL STARVATION IN A LAND OF  
PLENTY | OPINIONS, P. 7

TRIBUTE TO NOBEL LAUREATE  
WANGARI MAATHAI | NEWS, P. 3

## ARTIST OF THE WEEK:

TRICIA POWLES | FEATURES, P. 8

Sept. 30, 2011 • Vol. 108, No. 4

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## Faith and Justice Symposium Offers Students Opportunities for Engagement and Reflection

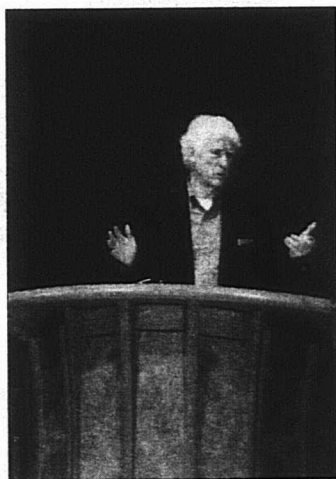
by GREGORY YOUNG

This week, the College has challenged itself to wrestle deeply with refugee and immigration issues. Since Wednesday and through tomorrow, the Buffalo Faith Center's Faith and Justice Symposium offers the community a variety of workshops, seminars, movies, and other opportunities for thoughtful engagement.

Nicholas Wolterstorff, a distinguished professor of philosophical theology at Yale University, began the conference Wednesday in chapel with a lecture entitled: "As You Did it to the Least of These." Echoing one of Christ's most chilling assurances, he called the student body to contemplate these issues with greater awareness and intensity. Wednesday evening, he followed with a second lecture on "Why Justice Matters."

"Dr. Wolterstorff has spent most of his academic career on justice," said Professor Kristina LaCelle-Peterson, religion. "He is arguing that, as Christians, we don't just need to talk about love, but also justice, and how we can work for a society in which injustice is not perpetuated."

After this, Symposium participants pursued how justice



Nicholas Wolterstorff of Yale spoke at Wednesday's chapel service.

functions in social existence. Thursday night offered a reception in the Van Dyke Lounge, followed by a meeting called "Music for Justice." This theme continued into today's services, beginning with a chapel service by Dan Kosten, Vice President for U.S. programs, World Relief, with a message entitled "Welcoming the Stranger." The coordinators of the event intentionally designed this flow from philosophical engagement to messages with more sociological

content.

"My view of this Symposium is to start debate, the theoretical exploration, but then to go beyond that and ask how belief becomes application," said Professor Aaron Routh, sociology.

Following Kosten's message, a series of workshops this afternoon will focus intensively on possible avenues of application. The first track will discuss "perspectives on immigration and refugee issues," and sessions include: "The Theology of Immigration and Refugees" by Jose Velazquez from the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), "The Role of FBOs/NGOs in Addressing Refugee and Immigration Issues" by Anna Ireland of Jericho Road Ministries, and "From Global to Local: A Focus on Immigrant Issues in Upstate New York" led by Bob Lynch, director BOCES Genesee Migrant Center. The second track of workshops, "The Effects and Impact," will feature Nicole Wood, Director of Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking (FAAST), who will speak on "An Intersection with Refugee and Immigrant Populations;" Rev. Joan Harrell from Chicago Theological Seminary, who will speak on "The Public Square: Immigration,

See JUSTICE page 3

## Professor Ben King Retires After 28 Years of Teaching

by BRIAN LUSTIG

Dr. Ben R. King is retiring from his position as Director and Associate Dean of the Greatbatch School of Music. King has served on the College faculty for 28 years and has taught studio voice, Foreign Language Diction, Music in Christian Perspective, Opera Workshop, and Music and Listening. He has also served on a number of college committees and even served as the Resident Director for the "Houghton Down Under" program, Fall 2005.

Music major Adam Boynton, junior, described King as "widely loved." Boynton recalled his freshman year when King would consistently ask how his lessons were and about his general well-being.

According to Professor Gary Stith, music education, King truly attends to every person and said he sometimes answers e-mails for upwards of six hours per day.

King has devoted many years helping to make the School of Music what it is today. "We [the Greatbatch School of Music] strive to make good music in a rigorous academic environment and help young men and women think through how their music making relates to their faith," said King.

However, Stith added that King has "tremendous vision" for not only the School of Music, but Houghton as a whole.

As he moves on, King said he hopes Houghton continues in the same path it is now on. He hopes Houghton can be a place of stability, which will be continued due to the good work of students and the faculty team. In Houghton's future, King said he does not envision anything revolutionary but sees things developing "evolutionary in the way they have been."

King recalled two main projects he assisted with during his time at Houghton: the construction of the new music building in the late '90s, and the faculty team's efforts to use and nurture the Greatbatch endowment. For the latter, King sought to enhance the undergraduate music experience through the addition of the graduate program.

According to Stith, hiring new faculty members means a great deal to King, and he will personally seek out a qualified candidate. As King

## Chapel Time Switch An Adjustment For Students

by SARAH WRIGHT

Chapel services, an integral part of the Houghton tradition and experience, are a concentrated attempt, by those who attend, to draw closer to God through worship and listening to God's word. Chapel begins at 11:30 and usually runs for 45 minutes, give or take a few stories from the speaker, different from last year's chapel schedule.

Last year, chapel ran from 10:15 to 10:55 am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. There was a 10-minute break between the end of chapel and the start of 11:05 classes. With this schedule, there were approximately two class periods before chapel. After chapel, classes would run from 11:05 until the last class at 5:30. This left the day rather unbalanced, and a committee was formed to attempt to change the daily schedule.

Margery Avery, who works in the Academic Records Office, was a part of the committee. "With chapel ending at 12:10, the thought



Students dash to classes or the cafeteria after chapel ends.

was that some of the student body would go to their 12:30 classes and the others would head to lunch," she said, which would even out the stream of people heading to lunch. A survey about chapel and its timetable was released last year to the student body and faculty, and approximately 30% of the students who answered said that they were dissatisfied with the chapel schedule, with the rest citing

no opinion. In order to balance the classes during the day and to attempt to fit chapel into a better time slot, the time was changed for the 2011-2012 school year.

This year, with chapel ending around 12:15, students have varied opinions on how this fits in to their daily routine. "I find it fits with my

See CHAPEL page 3

See BEN KING page 3

# World / Putin Seeks Presidential Reelection

by CHRIS HARTLINE  
and DEREK SCWABE

The amiable yet complex diplomatic relationship between the United States and Russia has taken another turn in the last week. Former Russian president and current Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has announced that he will seek reelection in 2012 to the presidential office, which he held from 2000 to 2008.

Putin, a former KGB operative and Communist Party member, has maintained a love/hate relationship with the United States during his time in public office. American representatives and leaders have perceived a Cold War attitude from the post-Cold War presidency.

Over the past few years, United States presidents and President Putin have butted heads over issues such as the unofficial reunification of Soviet bloc countries, the use of natural resources—particularly natural gas—to detach Germany from the Atlantic Alliance, and the Russian invasion of Georgia in 2008 for which former

President Bush called the Russian leader “cold-blooded.”

Putin has also been criticized for instances which many considered violations of human rights. In 2009, Russian attorney and anti-corruption activist Sergei Magnitsky suffered a gruesome death after being in police custody for 358 days. In 2003, billionaire Mikhail Khodorkovsky was arrested and charged with fraud, embezzlement, and money laundering after giving financial support to multiple opposition parties.

Putin seems to be attempting to adapt to 21<sup>st</sup> century geopolitical realities while remaining a Cold War leader at heart. Ralph Peters of the Washington Post maintains that Putin is a successful leader in that he has somehow mastered this balance. “Not one of his international peers evidences so profound an understanding of his or her people, or possesses Putin’s canny ability to size up counterparts,” he said.

Peters goes on to lay out Putin’s general strategy—which he calls genius—of reconciling the tactics of

the Soviet Union and the realities of the current world. “You need control only public life, not personal lives.” In other words, the KGB has been replaced by the Press Service. While the instances mentioned above may prove to be counterarguments to that statement, Putin’s successful reign as president and prime minister are evidence of his competent leadership.

In 2008, Putin was disallowed from running for reelection in Russia due to the country’s mandated term limits. He was replaced by Dmitry Medvedev who subsequently appointed Putin as prime minister leading to the belief that Medvedev was merely a puppet of the former president. Walter Russell Mead, in *American Interest*, describes Putin’s announced run for president as the “Russian decision to take off the Medvedev mask and put Prime Minister Putin back in the top spot.”

Putin’s efforts to become president once again have put the United States in a difficult position. There are diplomatic conflicts with Russia, and there are personal conflicts with Putin.

But there are also areas of agreement and mutual benefit. Neither the United States nor Russia wants China to dominate Eurasia. Neither wants Islamic fundamentalists to destabilize the region.

Russia, led mainly by Putin, has used its excess of natural resources to gain influence with multiple Western countries. As Peters stated, “seduced by Kremlin policies—from oil and gas concessions to cynical hints of strategic cooperation—Western leaders have too many chips in the game.” The United States and other Western countries are now dependent on Russia for natural resources, geopolitical stabilization, and United Nations support, but they must now deal once again with Vladimir Putin.

Putin’s popularity in Russia is more one of image than policy. According to Peters, he has “renewed Russia’s confidence in the country’s greatness.” He is loved and admired, because he is a *nastoyashi muzhik*—a “real man.” A Putin presidency may be great for Russian morale, but is it good for the world? ★

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## IN THE NEWS

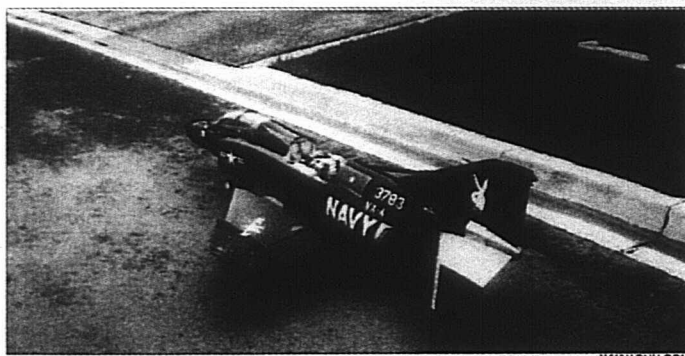


WWW.USATODAY.COM

**PALESTINIAN BID FOR STATEHOOD CONTINUES** | On Wednesday the United Nations Security Council agreed to send the Palestinian bid for statehood for review by the admission committee. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is seen here at the UN.

### Bolivians March in Protest to President Morales's Forceful Crackdown

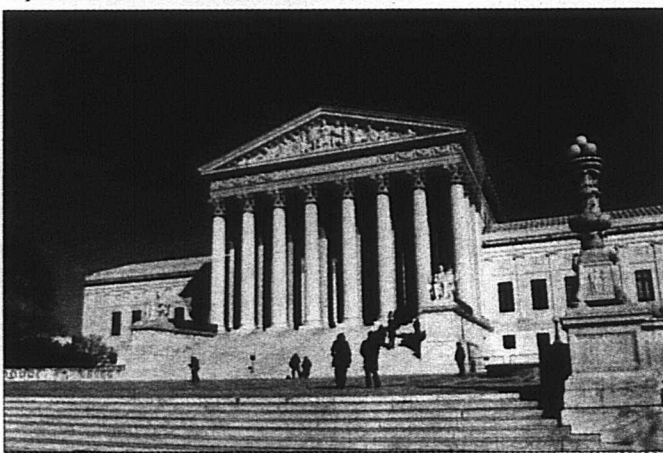
Thousands of Bolivians marched in protest to President Morales's forceful crackdown on indigenous tribes that had been trying to stop the construction of a highway from being built on their reservations last Sunday. According to marchers, four people were killed and others injured by police during Sunday's protests. The road project has now been suspended in face of the conflict.



WWW.CNN.COM

**TERRORIST PLOT APPREHENDED** | Rezwan Ferdaus was arrested for plotting to attack the Pentagon and the Capitol using remote-controlled planes carrying C-4 plastic explosives.

**SUPREME COURT TO REVIEW HEALTH-CARE LAW** | The Justice Department has requested that the Supreme Court review and make a decision regarding the constitutionality of the health-care law that was passed in 2010. The SC is expected to reach a decision sometime next summer.



WWW.WASHINGTONPOST.COM

### Anti-Roma Demonstrations Spread in Bulgaria

Anti-gypsy demonstrations have spread in over twenty cities in Bulgaria, including in Sofia, the capital. The protests have risen in response to the killing of a man that is thought to be linked to Roma crime boss, Kiril Rashkov. The Bulgarian government has responded to the demonstrations by arresting 125 people that they believe have been inciting tensions and, as a precaution, have sent police to guard Roma neighborhoods.



# Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai: Shining Light for Justice and Peace



Wangari Maathai was the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

by SARAH WANGAI

Many have spent the week paying tribute to Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai, first African woman to win a Nobel Peace prize, who passed away Sunday, losing her battle against ovarian cancer. Maathai was awarded her Nobel Peace prize in 2004 for what the Nobel committee called

"her contribution to sustainable development, democracy, and peace." She is one of the most widely respected women on the continent of Africa; she was an environmentalist, advocate, feminist, politician, and professor.

Her efforts were mostly geared toward the Green Belt Movement, which she founded in 1977. She began this movement because of her belief that environmental degradation and unbridled development were among the main roots of poverty. Through the Green Belt Movement, she encouraged women to collect native tree seeds in the wild, cultivate them, and set up tree nurseries for livelihood; she then paid the women a small sum. One of Maathai's goals was to ensure that poor families had access to sustainable firewood for cooking and also water for drinking. According to the United Nations, her Green Belt Movement has resulted in the planting of more than 30 million trees in Africa, helping nearly

900,000 women.

Maathai also fought against government corruption and corporations that put profits and development ahead of the interests of the population. She has been attacked, tear-gassed, and imprisoned for her efforts, but her indomitable spirit has brought justice to Kenya and the whole world. "Her award of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, the first to be bestowed upon an African woman, rightly underscored the important nexus in her work between sustainable development, peace, and human security," said former Secretary General to the United Nations, Kofi Annan, upon learning of Maathai's death.

"Throughout the world, Wangari Maathai was a shining light for issues of justice and sustainable development," said Professor Ndunge Kiiti, intercultural studies. "Her life should challenge each one of us to action, just as she so consistently and graciously modeled." ★

BEN KING from page 1

meditates on his decision, he believes that his retirement from Houghton feels "right and complete." He exemplified thankfulness to God to have been the steward of the call to administration and said he is thankful "to whatever degree it has been successful."

According to King, he will miss his "wonderful colleagues and students." "I will miss the people," he said.

Looking forward in his college career, Boynton said he hopes to know other faculty who care for the students, the School of Music, and the College in the way King does. ★

JUSTICE from page 1

Religion, and Media;" and Molly Short, the executive director of Journey's End in Buffalo, on "Why Policy Matters."

The workshops serve as the crux of the convention and suggest many answers to the integral questions of the conference. Students and selected panelists will conclude the afternoon with a discussion of the various workshops. Later tonight, students have the opportunity to kick back and watched "The Visitor," a movie that contains many themes addressed in the conference. This also concludes with a discussion led by Harrell.

Tomorrow morning, participants have the opportunity to follow reflection with action by serving in field and service events. While not all will be able to attend, those who are hope to experience a significant factor of the Symposium.

"I hope the service learning provides an opportunity for the students to question why service is an indispensable component of learning," said Professor Ndunge Kiiti, intercultural studies. "I hope they will find themselves asking, what is the relationship between theory and praxis?"

This integrative vision inspired Kiiti to coordinate the Symposium, and reflects Houghton's broad interest in viewing the world holistically. Organizers hope the Symposium is not only fostering new ideas and innovative contemplation, but it is also developing what was already established here.

"When I started working with Journey's End last fall," said sophomore JET leader Elizabeth Wallace, "I enjoyed how Houghton provided an opportunity for service in conjunction with my major."

The conference closes Tuesday with a follow-up discussion at Brown House. After the conference closes, many contributors hope it will be only the beginning of Houghton's careful consideration of issues like immigration and refugees in accordance with its views of faith and justice.

"I want everybody to be able to say I can take a piece of this and study it further, and engage even more in my journey as a scholar and a believer," said Kiiti. ★

## Houghton EMTs in Need of Regular Volunteers

by HANNAH JENNINGS

The Houghton Emergency Medical Technician Department is finding itself in more need of permanent community members for year-round service. As a number of volunteers are stepping down, the department must turn increasingly to students to take responsibility—a suboptimal solution according to some.

At any given point during the day, the siren can be heard throughout Houghton alerting everyone within earshot of the need for Emergency Responders. Regardless of their schedules, certified EMTs respond to the call to come to the aid of the person placing the emergency call. In addition to relying on the community members who live in Houghton year-round, there is a team of students who undergo a rigorous application and certification process to become members and be voted into the ring of EMTs.

During the school year, there is a schedule dividing up the responsibilities of being on-call. However, during the summer there is no such schedule because such a large number of responders

are students who are absent during the summer months, leaving a greater responsibility for resident Houghton volunteers. This year is different in that a significant portion of the community members of the department are lapsing their certification, a three-year expiration window, in order to hand in their badges, so to speak. Various factors—jobs, families, and other responsibilities—inhibit them from returning for another term of service.

Mary Jo Cronk, in her 15th year of voluntary service to the department, finds herself in the aforementioned situation. Cronk cited the need for fresh, younger community members willing to join and said, "to have the backbone of community members to hold things steady is important."

Because students must be in their second years, at least, to take the certification course offered, there are only two years of eligibility for actual service following training.

"Students are only effectively here for two years, if they are even on campus for those two years," said Cronk. "Always having turnover is difficult for establishing experience within the crew."

Student volunteer Peter Kroening, senior, is aware of both the

responsibility and the commitment required of student responders. Although there are 12 students on campus who are trained and certified to respond, a smaller number are consistently active in responding.

"Part of the problem is getting students involved," he said. "It is a good policy not to allow freshmen to take the class, but a bigger problem is finding students who are committed."

Kroening, along with senior Heidi Harrington, is a student Crew Chief, meaning he heads up the crew dispatched when he is on-call. Responding to a call requires a time commitment of between two and four hours—day or night.

Junior Jody Crikelair is a first-year EMT also aware of the stresses of the responsibility. "The senior EMT members are always good to have around, providing the experience, authority and confidence necessary to adequately addressing the needs of the call," she said. "Those people are stretched thin; a lot of responsibility is put in not a lot of people's hands."

The Houghton Fire Department is hosting an open house October 10 as part of Fire Prevention Week to provide information to community members who are interested in joining the department. ★

CHAPEL from page 1

schedule well," said sophomore Joyce Crissman, but she added that this isn't the case with some of her friends. "They sit in the back rows and have to beat the rush to the cafeteria so they can eat before their 12:30 class."

"There are always people who leave chapel early, but this year it's more consistent," said Benjamin Hardy, sophomore.

The main cause for leaving early

is the desire to have lunch before class, especially if one has back-to-back classes after chapel. When scheduling classes, students were encouraged to avoid scheduling a 12:30 class and a 1:45 class on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. However, this is the case for approximately 160 students.

"What appears to be a very tempting 20 minutes between chapel and the start of class," according to Avery, leads students to believe that they can quickly get lunch and head to class. Often, these students find

themselves struggling to get through the line quickly enough to be on time for their class.

Avery said the College is aware of the struggles caused by the change. A significant part in making changes is taking surveys into consideration. Students' roles in changes to college life depends largely on if and how they respond to polls and surveys. According to Avery, the committee plans to meet to discuss the benefits and detriments of the current chapel schedule. ★

# Faculty Art Exhibit Arrives Early This Year

by RENEE ROBERTS

I walked into the Ortlip Art Gallery last week without any expectations. I find this is the best way to go into artistic endeavors. The gallery is where I work, amidst the sometimes bare but usually not walls. But last week was different. Usually when I walk into the gallery, I see the work of an artist I am not familiar with; I must go home, do a Google search and try to piece together what the artist is like, what the meaning is behind her work.

Last week was not like that.

When I walked into the gallery, I was surrounded by the work of some of our own beloved professors. Today marks the opening reception for the annual Faculty Art Show. Professors Ted Murphy, Ryan Thompson, Jillian Sokso, Gary Baxter, Dave Huth, and John Rhett will each be showcasing their talented and varied work.

At the show, you will see Murphy's vibrant watercolors and Thompson's meteoric photographs. Sokso presents her vinyl and wallpaper installation pieces juxtaposed next to Baxter's commissioned college vessel. Finally, Huth's inspired paintings and photographs explore nature and humanity while Rhett's African panoramic photos and watercolors bring a different perspective to similar subjects.

Maybe as you are reading this you are thinking that "art isn't your thing"—and that is valid in some senses, but it doesn't



ANDREA PACHECO

The faculty work currently displayed in the Ortlip Gallery spans a range of media, from laytex wall installations and digitally manipulated photographs, to watercolors and oils.

mean you should limit yourself and skip the event. Junior Andrea Pacheco, art and intercultural studies double major, is attending because "the exhibit is so diverse that it has the potential to move people from completely different backgrounds, opinions, or aesthetic preference. And this, in particular, is invaluable, because this is what art is all about."

If that doesn't sell you on this tonight's opening, perhaps the artists discussing their colleagues' work will pique your interest.

In reference to Huth's work, Murphy said, "Dave is interested in the 'otherness' of things. In the natural world he finds the flow of life: that which happens around us in our yards, woods and fields to be a sort of parallel universe. For Dave the

connectivity of life, the way things take in air, see, and move yet are completely unaware of us, has a profound capacity to move him."

Sokso appreciates the story Murphy's pieces evoke and said, "What I like most about them is the luminosity and richness of the palette. It seems true to life, but a bit altered or exaggerated, and therefore seems to have an emotive pull on me—I feel that for this reason, though the works are mostly observational and formally considered, they have a bit of a narrative."

Baxter said of Sokso's work: "Jillian's work strikes me as being poetic and ethereal. It seems to hover somewhere between imagery and music, somewhere between two and three-dimensional space, somewhere between shape and pattern."

The sheer diversity of the Faculty Art Show and the feelings, images, and questions it suggests cannot be encapsulated in an article for a student newspaper. You must come and experience the art and let the questions and beauty wash over you.

If you are still unsure, still contemplating other activities, let me leave you with this last thought from Murphy: "If it were not for art (not just visual but the whole kit and caboodle), I would not be a believer."

The opening reception is tonight from 7 to 9 p.m., with live music and refreshments provided. The exhibit will be open until October 29. ★

## Beauty and Pain: Find Them in Switchfoot's "Vice Verses"

by DAN SENDKER

There are two things that are bound to happen eventually. Someday, Pixar will make a bad movie ("Cars" came *this* close), and Switchfoot will make a bad album. As far as I know, neither has happened yet.

"Vice Verses," Switchfoot's highly anticipated eighth album, came out Tuesday and seems to be worth the hype. The album is about life's dualities and polarities, and how every good thing is mingled with pain, and vice versa (hence the title). Nowhere is this more evident than in the poignant title track, though the theme runs throughout the entire album.

Musically, this album seems to be a slight departure from its wildly popular predecessor, 2009's "Hello Hurricane." While "Hello Hurricane" relied heavily on guitars and keys, "Vice Verses" puts more of an emphasis on rhythm. Songs like "The Original" and "Rise Above It" are dominated by drums and bass, and it is all sorts of good times. I blasted "The Original" from my iPod speakers today, and now one of my speakers is full of static and can't go as loud. So there's that.

Powerful, heartfelt lyrics have always been central to Switchfoot's music, and "VV" is no exception. The words to "Restless" make me smile and sigh at the same time. "Souvenirs" invokes powerful nostalgia that's neither happy nor sad, but manages to somehow be both. Obviously, though, the album's not perfect. "Dark Horses" has the weakest lyrics on the album. The words feel campy and juvenile, like something for preteens on the Disney Channel. However, this may be intentional on Switchfoot's part. It turns out that "Dark Horses" was written for homeless kids in the band's hometown of San Diego.

One of Switchfoot's greatest feats has always been the ability to thrive in both the secular world and contemporary Christian subculture—a balance that continues in "VV." The title track asks tough questions such as "Where is God in the earthquake?" and, "Where is God in the genocide?"

questions that Foreman can only answer with a feeble yet earnest, "Tell me that you're there." "Restless" invokes the spirit of St. Augustine, who famously said, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." The opening song, "Afterlife" rejects the popular "pie in the sky" mentality and challenges us to make the most of our lives before we get to heaven.

The two most unique and interesting songs are the closer "Where I Belong," and "Selling the News." The latter is a risky song in which Jon Foreman...raps. Well, kind of. Everyone's going to call it "the song where Jon Foreman raps," but it's

more spoken word, or as Foreman himself describes it, "a poetry slam Beck-meets-Beastie Boys style examination of a media-mad nation." It's jarring, overwhelming, and witty, and for as much as I really want to dislike it, I can't. It's definitely not for everyone, but even if you don't like it, you have to at least give him points for creativity.

At just under seven minutes, "Where I Belong" is the longest song Switchfoot has ever recorded. If U2 and the Goo Goo Dolls had a child, and that child was raised in San Diego, this is what it would sound like. The beginning features strong, pulsing drums and claps, airy keys and

backing vocals, and power chords. In true Foreman fashion, the lyrics are full of longing, discontentment, and sheer beauty. Toward the end of the song, the band plays a verse from the opener "Afterlife," a trick they used in the closing song from "Hello Hurricane." This song may take a while to grow on you, but I feel like it will win everyone over in the end.

My biggest complaint? The cover art. It's *Sharpie*. Compare it with the wonderful mess that is "Oh! Gravity." Lazy, lazy, lazy. But it's what's on the inside that counts. At least that's what I tell myself when I look in the mirror.

Go buy "Vice Verses." ★



[Shen bonding] Shawn Schelble, '14



This was taken somewhere out in the woods behind the Field of Dreams. I went with my friend on a walk to take pictures and this is one of the pictures I took. Sarah Slater, '15

## THIS WEEK IN PICTURES

Don't forget to submit your pictures (with photo credit and brief description) to [houghtonstar@gmail.com](mailto:houghtonstar@gmail.com) for next week's Homecoming Issue!



My name is Shawn, and I'm a new junior transfer student from Corning, NY. I have a passion for photography, and there is an abundance of artistic subjects all over the Houghton campus if we look close enough. This picture was taken right outside of our library here on campus in the flowerbeds. I enjoy taking my camera and using my macro lenses to observe the detail that is all around us; it is an excellent way to relax and enjoy God's creation. Shawn Gillis, '13



# KANSAS/PHILHARMONIA PERFORMANCE A HIT

by CORINA GOCHENAUR

As part of their 2011 Collegiate Symphony Tour, the renowned rock band Kansas performed with the Houghton College Philharmonia last Saturday—an event that was in planning since last December. Performing music scored by conductor Larry Baird (London Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic), the tour is an effort to “raise funds and awareness for college and university music programs” ([www.kansasband.com](http://www.kansasband.com)). D’Addario & Company, Kansas’ sponsor, has made a substantial donation to the College’s music program in accordance with this goal.

Originally composed of only two men, there have been multiple editions throughout the years, and the band now consists of drummer Phil Ehart, guitarists Billy Greer and Richard Williams, violinist Dave Ragsdale, and keyboardist Steve Walsh.

Professor Brian Casey, conducting and horn, and director of instrumental activities, said that it was not even Houghton that invited the band to campus, but, in fact, the other way around.

“They invited us!” said Casey.

He noted the investment of the students involved and said, “The students were really enthusiastic and put a lot of effort into it.” According to junior violinist Megan Tennant, “We have been rehearsing for four weeks and even had one Saturday rehearsal. The band is really gracious!”

All the preparation and planning for the concert finally culminated at 8 p.m. Saturday in a performance that was attended by Houghtoners as well as fans from hours away.

When reflecting on the success of the concert, Casey brought up an e-mail he received from drummer Phil Ehart, which



PHOTOS BY ANDREA PACHECO

Above: Sophomore violinist Rachel Spak's solo performance with Kansas became a highlight of Saturday's show.  
Below: Close-up of guitarist Richard Williams and violinist Dave Ragsdale.

read that, out of all the college orchestras Kansas had played with across the country, Houghton's was the most well-prepared.

Even as one rarely enthused by rock music, this concert gave me a certain appreciation not only for the music itself, but also the investment that goes into it. As audience member Jill Schmidt later exclaimed, “They’re just classic. The harmony... beautiful. It’s a blessing that you students can play with them.”

One fan, who drove an hour and a half from Rochester, said, “The last song, ‘Carry On,’ made the price of admission worth it.” She was one of many who found the concert an opportunity to reminisce about Kansas’ early years in the ‘70s.

Professor Richard Stegen, psychology, was particularly stirred by the band’s lyrics: “They dealt with significant existential questions. If all I am is ‘dust in the wind,’ what makes my life significant?” He was also impressed with their character.

“They were genuine. I thanked them and they turned right around and exclaimed how great the college orchestra was,” said



Stegen.

Kevin Jackson, director of sound and recording, also asserted how affable the band had been: “Not once did any attitudes get out of check.” He further emphasized

the benefits of the concert and said, “This showed the community that we could open up our doors and be relevant to the people around us.” ★

## SPORTS RECAP

### FIELD HOCKEY:

**Saturday, 9/24**  
vs SUNY Oswego - W 3-2 OT  
**Tuesday, 9/27**  
at Elmira College - W 2-0  
**Season Record: 5-3-0**  
Upcoming this weekend:  
**Saturday, 10/1**  
at Wells College @ 1:00pm

### MEN'S SOCCER:

**Saturday 9/24**  
vs Rio Grande Univ. - L 0-6  
**Tuesday 9/27**  
at Robert's Wesleyan - L 0-1  
**Season Record: 1-6-2**  
Upcoming this weekend:  
**Friday, 9/30**  
at Point Park @ 12:00pm  
**Saturday, 10/1**  
at Fisher College @ TBD

### WOMEN'S SOCCER:

**Saturday, 9/24**  
vs Robert's Wesleyan - W 4-1  
**Tuesday, 9/27**  
vs Daemen College - W 3-0  
**Season Record: 7-1-0**  
Upcoming this weekend:  
**Friday, 9/30**  
at Point Park Univ. @ 10:00am  
**Saturday, 10/1**  
at Fisher College @ 12:00pm

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

## DIVERSIONS/ Have You Been To Ace's Lately?

by JOSH VITOFF

Students here often encounter a dichotomy in the area of available activities. We encounter great opportunities for activities that foster community, intellectual growth, and spiritual growth, while having limited choices for nearby off-campus social life. Thankfully, they may not be as limited as one might think. There are many hidden gems and treasures just waiting to be discovered by a carpool of Houghton students.

When I try to think of something to do with friends, food is always the first thing I include in my plans. As far as nearby dining options, there are not many choices within 20 minutes of the school. Big Al's/Sandella's, while serving great food, does business on a limited time schedule. Where is a Houghton student supposed to find great food on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon if they don't want to go to the

cafeteria? My suggestion: try Ace's.

Ace's Country Cupboard is a wonderful family restaurant just down the road from Houghton. It's right on route 19 in Belfast, less than a 15-minute jaunt south from the College's main entrance. If you haven't tried it yet, you should. Don't have a car? Anyone would count it well worth it to take some of his or her friends down to this wonderful hidden jewel of Allegany County.

The atmosphere is light and fits the country cupboard theme, with booths and tables, as well as a 1950s diner style bar. Upon a visit to Ace's you're almost sure to meet someone from the Houghton community.

The food is reasonably priced and is of the highest quality. Ace's gets their fresh ingredients locally whenever possible. They always make breakfast, but also serve wonderful country favorites at the other times of the day.

I specifically recommend both their blueberry and sweet potato pancakes. The fluffy blueberry pancakes are made from some sort of perfect-tasting batter and are chock full of ripe blueberries, topped with creamy butter. The sweet potato pancakes, an even more popular choice, are not dense, as you might expect such pancakes to be. These are pancakes the way you usually imagine them—fluffy, but filled with smooth and creamy sweet potato (the real thing) with no stringiness to be found. They are topped with crumbled brown sugar, which soaks into the top of the pancakes to form a glazed topping with the butter and, if you'd like, maple syrup.

Try my favorite item on the menu, or find your own favorite—be it a meal or a dessert. But if you want to go after church, hurry up, because Ace's closes at 2 p.m. on Sundays. ★

# In Defense of the House-Spouse



ANDREA PACHECO

by HANNAH HANOVER

Until I entered public school in the fifth grade, I was blessed with a stay-at-home mom who sewed Easter dresses, made fancy braided rolls, and homeschooled her children. It wasn't until my high school years that I concluded stay-at-home mothering would never work for me; I have little patience on a day-to-day basis, and even less with children or what I considered mundane housework. In college I took that idea one step further and began viewing stay-at-home parenting as a waste of education and creativity, an effectively sexist institution upheld by males to keep women economically powerless. This was until, of course, my temperamental, highly-intelligent, and educated sister popped out a couple kids...and stayed home. Not only stayed home, but stayed home and was, dare I whisper it? Happy.

At first I asserted this was a waste of her God-given talents. Why should her husband pursue his dreams and career while hers was put on hold to populate an overpopulated planet? Why should any

woman, or man for that matter, do such a thing? Weren't we made in God's image, instilled with burning creativity and passion for life? How many people was this stay-at-home parenting notion helping, anyway? Besides, I reasoned...he cooked better than she did.

Historically, soldiers were men and caregivers were women, roles implemented by societies requiring heavy protection and intensive domestic labor. In many societies these roles have changed; women work in construction, education, and the military while men enjoy careers as nurses, cooks, and caregivers. And yet, with all this gender equality, stay-at-home dads are either viewed with suspicion as "whipped" and emasculated men, or pictured as chiseled models with bottles and babies strapped into chic camouflage utility belts and backpacks. Stay-at-home moms, on the other hand, must become super-women, with superpowers in the kitchen, bedroom, gym, and shopping mall (at least according to the parenting magazines). If you do not subscribe to these emerging stereotypes, obviously you are not a fit stay-at-home parent.

The reality might be that at-home parenting is not glamorous, and may often be unrewarding (the dishes will be dirtied by the next meal), but it is not a waste of intelligence or education. It is wrong for college-aged snobs with grandiose plans of world conquest, career-obsessed women, or hyper-conservative men to ridicule either sex for at-home parenting, because it is simply an increasingly complex and expanding "traditional role."

Therefore, what frightens me is not the continued existence of such roles (unless they are forced, in which case, shame on the sexist enforcers) but the

disrespect assigned to those individuals embracing anything resembling a "gender role." If a heterosexual couple decides that family economics are best met by a mother remaining at home to handle domestic work, and the father working outside the home to fulfill monetary needs, is this a problem? I have heard it described as "backwards" and sexist, but I am not so sure it is either.

Many insist (perhaps more often in secular settings than Christian) that it is a waste of education to be a stay-at-home parent. Though I believe in the active use of one's education I will defend the opposite and uphold the notion that the home is the seat of stability and personal development, and the atmosphere and culture of the home is better left in the hands of the individual with an equal, if not greater, creativity and education of the partnership (if they are so inclined; if they don't have the patience for children, send them to work and don't let them stay home with the kiddies!). Domestic demands are strenuous and require much stamina and far-sightedness. No matter the number of clichés existing about a house versus a "home," we all would prefer returning after a day's work to a clean, relaxing, and creative environment, which is only made possible by a person performing necessary daily tasks without bitterness or resentment towards others.

But you may say, "art and creative expression are the most important contributions these individuals can give to the world!" To this I would reply that, though they are of great significance and deeply life-

affirming, community and family should not be compartmentalized separately from art, but allied with art. The artistry of stay-at-home individuals should become evident in the level of creativity and joy found at large in the community through the active use of their talents, and intimately in the family with the

humble sharing of their gifts.

There is no pretending one occupation is easier than the other. No matter the partnership, no matter how much blending occurs of work and home, and even if both partners contribute equally monetarily and domestically, both occupations should be dearly valued. Simply because physical or mental labor occurs in a different form outside the home does not mean the individual performing the shopping, cooking, and errands is not facing great physical, intellectual, and artistic challenges on a daily basis.

Hannah is a junior writing major

The reality might be that at-home parenting is not glamorous, but it is not a waste of education or intelligence.

## The Penultimate Word: Uneasy Discussions of Charity



ANDREA PACHECO

BY ELISA SHEARER

At Nicholas Wolterstorff's lecture on justice on Wednesday night, he pointed out that poverty is a state of injustice, and what logically follows is that we as Christians have an obligation to remedy that injustice. The tricky part (always) is applying this practically; in this case, in the discussion of how we relate our own personal sense of obligation to the amount of responsibility we place on our government.

The current state of our society now is that leaving charity to the private sector leaves many people with their needs unmet. This is possibly a testament to the greater Christian population of the United States. Are we selling all we have

and giving to the poor? Probably not. At least, I'm not going to speak for you all, but I'm definitely not.

But this is not about the ramifications of an uncomfortably literal reading of Jesus' message in the New Testament – it's the fact that the rights of the poor and destitute aren't being adequately met by individuals, charities, and churches. And no, suffering in the world is not going to be wholly assuaged in the near future, certainly not by an implementation of new government action, but the fact is that what we've got going now isn't working. But can we even consider asking everyone else to give of themselves to help people who need it? How do we impose our definitions of our own obligations onto the rest of society, which may not share our inherent perpetual mild guilt?

How do we apply this to the public sector? Do we, as one student asked Wolterstorff on Wednesday, "petition the government to fulfill these rights on behalf of the impoverished"? I suppose that this hinges on a discussion of the role of government that I'm going to avoid for the moment. Let's just see what happens when we do try to apply the application of social justice to political action:

A strong point is that it would not just be forcing people to give selflessly – the idea behind taxes that go towards social assistance is that creating upward mobility will benefit society as a whole, including those who paid the taxes. That's the idea, anyways. We can get around our own qualms about imposing our own religious values onto others (if indeed we do have qualms about such things) by maintaining that social programs benefit society in general, and that people regardless of religious leaning have a basic desire to do good, but those two things, while comforting, aren't guaranteed.

John Caputo, in his book "What Would Jesus Deconstruct?" (which some of you may have read and possibly hated / adored), uses the idea of Jesus "dipping into my pocket" when government agencies require money for the assistance of poverty. Herein lies the problem: a publicly funded social program is not Jesus dipping into one's pocket – it's not even the abstract "greater good", or "social benefit" – it's what a group of people think might be an equitable way to reach towards the unattainable ideal of justice, strained and sieved through lobbyists and reelection considerations and economic feasibility. At its best, it is an inter-

pretation of the ideal. At its worst, a corruption of it.

Such discussions often just end up meandering unhelpfully about in the abstract, or with grand tones that suggest that the solution to the problem is at hand. So ignore the abstract for a moment and try to apply the argument to actions that can be taken by a student – do I vote for costly social programs because I believe as a Christian I am obliged to make such a sacrifice, or do I vote against them because of the fact that they would also ask sacrifice from others who don't share my personal sense of duty?

The application is always the tricky part; if this discussion does nothing else, at least let it inspire a tone of humility in our grandiose plans for the integration of faith and justice.

Elisa is a senior English and psychology major



# Spiritual Starvation in a Land of Plenty

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



BY SARAH HUTCHINSON

Recently I have been questioning an implication that is often spread amongst Christian circles that we must go somewhere dangerous and exotic if we are truly serving God and that we are somehow making an unbiblical choice if we do not. We sometimes hear that to truly be God-glorifying and God-centered we should not settle for life in the suburbs; rather, we should go to places that take us out of our comfort zone to places like Africa or the Middle East. But whoever said that it was a spiritually safe life in American suburbia to begin with?

Don't get me wrong, it's not like we are not living in the land of opportunity here or that we do not have a truly blessed lifestyle. Your standard-issue American middle-class family probably has enough food on the table, is reasonably healthy, and, despite recent financial strain, can generally cobble enough money together to send their kids to college.

But regardless of the circumstances of our lifestyle, whether we are perfectly well-fed and watered, life on this Earth will never be spiritually comfortable. Nor should we ever so blindly assume that it is comfortable at any point in time, anywhere on the global map. Most importantly, it is debilitating to our selves and our neighbors to think that, just because of our material wealth and security, people in American are not as spiritually starving as they are

halfway across the world. We are called to serve in our own communities too.

A few weeks ago, some friends and I watched *American Beauty*, a film released in 1999 and directed by Sam Mendes. Among the many issues that this film tackled was the idea of looking for fulfillment in a suburban setting and, often, the desperation that a lack of that fulfillment can cause. The main character, Lester Burnham, has a family, a job, a nice house, and a decent car, yet he

still feels something lacking, and the film focuses on his quest to find some sort of satisfaction. As the film develops, he shouts to his wife who is still relying on appearances and a comfortable existence (although his words are pointedly directed to the audience as well): "This isn't life; it's just stuff. And it's become more important to you than

living. Well, honey, that's just nuts!" There are many Lester Burnhams in our country today, each searching for fulfillment in a land of plenty. Limiting our selves to pursuing God's call in foreign countries cuts off opportunities to bring the gospel the Lester Burnhams in our own country, with our neighbors, coworkers and friends.

Living in the Houghton bubble, we talk a lot about outreach to foreign nations and global issues—and this a good thing—but I feel that we don't often address ministry in America. Perhaps this is the bias of a New England church-planter's daughter, but there is much to be said for looking critically at the problems facing our own culture, learning how to minister to the needs that we as Americans face today, and pursuing God's call to serve Him in our own communities.

*Sarah is a junior political science major*

Whatever the circumstances of our lifestyle, life on this Earth will never be spiritually comfortable

## Letters to the Editor

send to [houghtonstar@gmail.com](mailto:houghtonstar@gmail.com)

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed after reading last week's front-page article on food option changes. Only one side of the changes was presented: the good ones. I'm sure it would not have taken much interviewing of students who were not involved with the changes to find dissatisfied opinions similar to mine.

For instance, Jim Ruoff was interviewed about changes to Big Al's, and he should be, he's the most di-

rect source for Sodexo's motives. However, he's also obviously not going to bash his own business or decisions and there was no mention to any negative changes, such as the lack, limit, or change of favorite food items (quesadillas, wings), smaller quantities, or the higher prices. Don't get me wrong, I prefer flex dollars to transfer meals, I just wish I didn't have to pay more for a single item that is less than satisfying than I used to have to pay for a meal (sandwich and side, etc.).

While the report on Big Al's simply left out the negative changes, the report on the dorm desks misconstrued just about everything. Statements such as, "5 bites provides essentially the same products as the dorm desks did" and,

"a wider variety of product offerings" are just false. I can really only speak on behalf of Roth desk, but before, there were not just snacks, but Cup Noodles, Chow Mein, Easy Mac, and Hot Pockets. Now, there are fewer snacks, and only the lowest grade Ramen and Easy Mac. Also, the article says that prices are now fairer because they are the same in all dorms. Except that all prices have risen: cans of soda are now \$0.75 rather than \$0.50, and the price of candy and snacks have risen as well. I'd rather have to make a trip across campus to get a cheaper drink than get ripped off wherever I go. I know a quarter isn't much difference, but if the dorms could do it better and cheaper, why not let them?

One thing I do know: China Star is going to be getting a lot more of my night-time business.

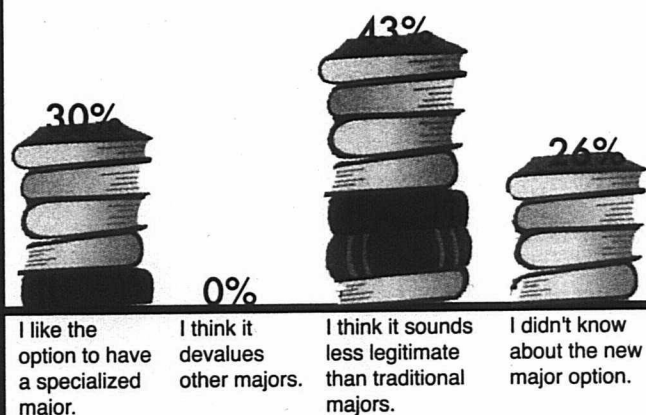
-Colin Lauer, Class of 2014

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less and can be submitted to [houghtonstar@gmail.com](mailto:houghtonstar@gmail.com)

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.

## HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES MAJOR?



VOTE IN THIS WEEK'S POLL AT [WWW.HOUGHTONSTAR.COM](http://WWW.HOUGHTONSTAR.COM)

Out of 23 votes

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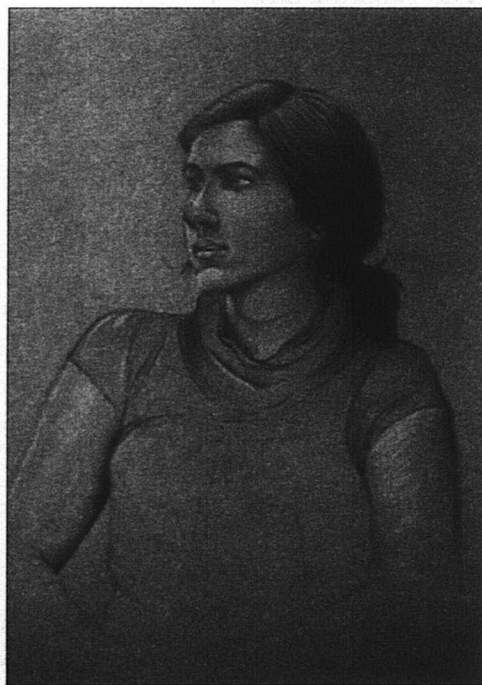
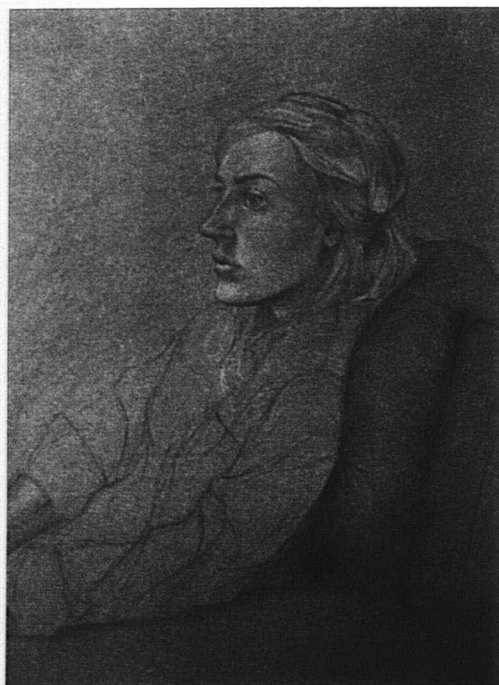
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# ARTIST OF THE WEEK



ANDREA PACHECO

## TRICIA POWLES

I have always been interested in the relationships between contrast and shadow, line and form, and my art is mostly in the business of exploring these relationships. I've been drawing since before I can remember, but upon coming to Houghton discovered a passion for 3-dimensional art as well - especially sculpture. I love art that you can touch, feel, and interact with as more than something hanging on a wall to be looked at. There is a sort of magic to the feeling of a form beginning to take shape under my fingers, which isn't quite the same with most 2-D work.

*Tricia is a junior art major.*

**L-R:** Erin, Joyce, charcoal, graphite, pastel; *Untitled*, clay



## SUDOKU

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Crossword solution from 9/23

SEPTS	INS	HEBE
LILAC	DOH	FUROR
AROMA	OVA	ONION
BEDEVIL	WALKERS	
ROM	AMID	
RIB	SAKI	DERMAL
ERIC	GIRL	DIEGO
RENA	OSSIA	CRAIG
UNARM	SIAL	OTTO
NELSON	CRIB	ZEN
SOAK	GUM	
DUGGARS	ENNOBLE	
UTERI	PAL	DROOL
MANIC	ILL	YALTA
AHEM	CPA	SLAIN

To win a prize, bring your finished puzzle, clearly marked with your full name, to the Star office in the basement of the Campus Center.