

**HOUGHTON SINGERS:  
"ON MY WAY HOME" |**  
FEATURES, P. 4

THE PUZZLING  
BRAD WILBER |  
FEATURES, P. 5

CHRISTIANITY IS A HUMANISM |  
OPINIONS, P. 6

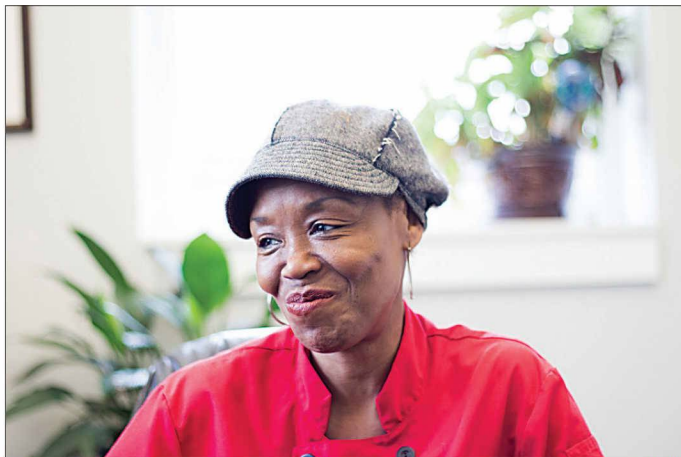
(UN)WRAPPING IT: WE NEED  
COMPREHENSIVE SEX ED |  
OPINIONS, P. 6

**ARTIST OF THE WEEK:  
MARIA TRICARICO**  
FEATURES, P. 8

## Alumane Collaborate to Give Voice to Homeless



[HTTP://WWW.HIUANKANGHAAGA.COM/29-STORIES-OF-FEBRUARY](http://www.hiuanhanghaaga.com/29-stories-of-february/)



[HTTP://WWW.HIUANKANGHAAGA.COM/29-STORIES-OF-FEBRUARY](http://www.hiuanhanghaaga.com/29-stories-of-february/)

A collaborative work of three Houghton alumnae, "29 Stories of February" is a compilation of photos and stories of homeless individuals and their advocates in Washington, D.C.

MICAH CRONIN

Throughout February, three Houghton alumnae, Hi Uan Kang Haaga '06, Jaime Colman '13, and Heather Hill '08, collaborated to respond to the epidemic of homelessness in Washington, D.C. Their project, titled "29 Stories of February," is a compilation of photos and stories of homeless individuals and their advocates. The 29 Stories of Feb-

ruary project can be viewed on Haaga's website: [www.hiuanhanghaaga.com/29-stories-of-february/](http://www.hiuanhanghaaga.com/29-stories-of-february/)

Haaga is an artist who finds herself "inspired by [artists] who give their lives to meeting people where they are and taking the time to see their humanity." Hill and Colman are employed by D.C. organizations which address homelessness. Hill is currently employed as the Human Rights Co-Chair of

the United Nations Association of the National Capitol Area, and Colman with the National Alliance to End Homelessness in DC. The three came together through Hill's connection with each of them, and through their shared undergrad education at Houghton.

While Haaga photographs, Hill and Colman converse with homeless individuals as well as others working to end homelessness. Also involved are two

other occasional collaborators, Charmaine Runes, a research assistant at the Urban Institute's Center on Labor, Human Services and Population, and Reverend James Ellis III, a local D.C. pastor.

Hill commented that homelessness is certainly a denial of human rights, pointing out the United Nations' Universal Dec-

See **D.C.** page 3

## Exhibit to Showcase Student Artwork

CARINA MARTIN

This Friday March 11th will mark the opening of Houghton's Annual Student Juried Art Exhibition. A tradition for twenty-seven years, this exhibition offers Houghton students an opportunity to submit artwork for consideration to a professionally-juried show.

This year's guest juror is Katarina Riesing, Assistant Professor of Art at Alfred University, whose work has been featured in exhibitions in New York and Berlin. Throughout her career Riesing has worked in painting, drawing, and photography, and is currently expanding her studio practice to encompass textiles and fiber design. Her work aims to use a diversity of media to portray the

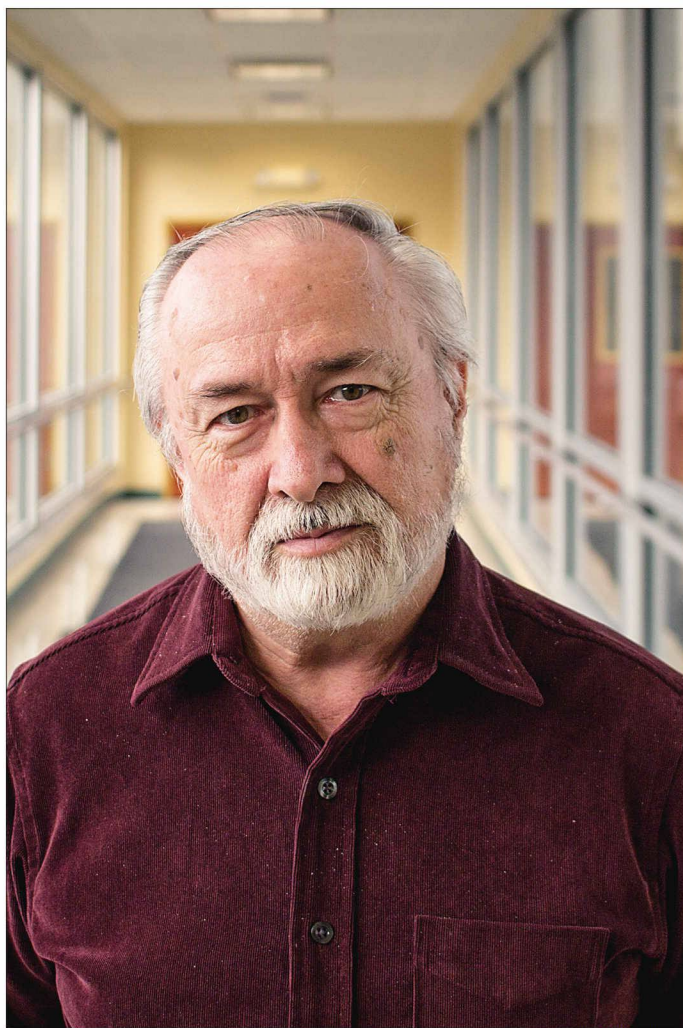
See **ART** page 3

## SGA To Hold Elections

HOLLY CHAISSON

On Monday March 7 the Student Government Association (SGA) held their eighteenth Executive Council Meeting of the year. One of the primary purposes of the meeting was to review and approve type two funding requests from clubs. Additionally, a proposal was heard for the formation of a new club: Chess Club. The club was approved unanimously and will now be recognized as an official club. Another purpose of this meeting was to discuss upcoming SGA elections. According to Student Body President Joanna Friesen '17, SGA will be electing both class cabinets and positions in the executive cabinet. Commenting on the

See **SGA** page 3



ANTHONY BURDO

Psychology professor Richard Stegen will retire at the end of this semester after teaching at Houghton for 34 years.

## Stegen: Retiring After Three Decades

ANNA WRIGHT

Professor Richard Stegen will retire at the end of this semester, after over 34 years of working at Houghton. The college will not be searching for a replacement for the 2016-2017 academic year. According to the Dean's office professor of psychology, John Van Wicklin; department chair of psychology and sociology and associate dean of social sciences, Paul Young; and director of the counseling center, Bill Burrichter will take on teaching the psychology courses Stegen will leave behind. According to Young, they will divide the courses amongst themselves.

"Doctor Burrichter, the new director of the Counseling Center, will take responsibility for all the internships, as well as teaching Child Psychopathology. Doctor Van Wicklin will take on more of the introduc-

tory psychology courses that Doctor Stegen had been teaching, and I'm going to take on Abnormal Psychology," Young explained.

Stegen first came to Houghton in 1969, transferring in his junior year of college. He played on Houghton's first intercollegiate soccer team under Coach Burke and on the baseball team, scoring the first home run against Mansfield University. He graduated with a degree in Psychology and went on to get his masters at Temple University in Philadelphia and then doctorate in Clinical Psychology from St. John's University in New York City. He then worked at Staten Island Children Community Center for several years before being invited back to Houghton to fill a teaching position that had been empty.

See **STEGEN** page 2



# International // U.S. Airstrikes in Somalia



ANTHONY BURDO

DANI EATON

On Saturday, March 5, the United States led airstrikes against an al-Shabaab training camp in Somalia. The attack, which is said to have killed at least 150 al-Qaida fighters, took

place 120 miles north of the country’s capital, Mogadishu and involved both drones and manned aircrafts. Al-Shabaab, according to Reuters, whose name means ‘The Youth’, “Seeks to impose its strict version of Sharia law in Somalia, where it frequently unleashes attacks targeting security and government targets, as well as hotels and restaurants in the capital.” African Union peacekeeping forces pushed al-Shabaab out of Mogadishu in 2011. However, since then the al-Qaida linked group has launched several attacks in an attempt to overthrow the “Western-backed government.” The group was also responsible for attacks in both Uganda and Kenya, nations who contribute to an African Union peacekeeping force in Somalia by supplying troops. According to CNN, the training site where the airstrikes allegedly took place, called “Raso Camp,” had

been under U.S. observation for several weeks, where there were believed to have been at least 200 fighters. According to Pentagon spokesperson, Captain Jeff Davis, the camp was struck after U.S. intelligence indicated that there was preparation being done for a “large scale attack” on both American and Somali troops. Davis said, “We know they were going to be departing the camp and they posed an imminent threat to US and [African Union] forces.” The target of the pre-meditated attack was the African Union’s military mission to Somalia. According to the New York Times, when the attack took place the fighters appeared to be assembled for a graduation ceremony. Drones and American aircrafts dropped missiles and precision guided bombs onto the field where the fighters were gathered. While there is believed to be no civilian casualties, Pentagon officials

have said there is no independent way to verify the claim. The attack is the deadliest on the group since the American campaign against the group started 10 years ago, and the most significant American attack since 2014. The attack also differed from previous American strikes. Previously, American strikes against the group focused on the group leaders, not the foot soldiers. Additionally, according to the New York Times, the strike was another measure in what has come to be known as “the latest battleground in the Obama administration’s war on terror.” This term refers to the United States’ and other allied nations attempts to stop the spread of an Islamic State in Libya. According to the New York Times, American officials estimate that “with an influx of men from Iraq, Syria and Tunisia, the Islamic State’s forces in Libya have swelled to as many as 6,500 fighters, allowing the group to capture

a 150-mile stretch of coastline over the past year.” The presence of the Islamic state in Libya has increased fear of the group’s reach spreading to other North African countries. Working with allied nations, the United States has been working to stop this from happening by having forces fighting Al Qaeda in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso; the Boko Haram in Nigeria, Cameroon, and Chad; and the Shabaab in Somalia and Kenya. ★

*Dani is a junior majoring in communication and writing with a minor in political science.*

STEGEN from page 1

“I came in January of ’82,” he recalled. “Three-quarters teaching and one-quarter working with students at the counseling center. I did that for four years until Houghton offered me a position as a full time professor. As a counselor I saw the students of the heavy weight of grades and it made

me different in the way I wanted to give my work; the deadlines and grades.” Stegen’s syllabus states, “As a professor of the liberal arts, I give you liberally of the arts and sciences to liberate your mind.” It continues, “So that you can know and think, feel and value, apply and act as you never could before for the purposes for which you were created.” This has been Stegen’s philosophy of teaching during his

time here at Houghton. He calls it the ‘psychological trinity,’ “To think and feel and act like you never could before for the glory of God.” After he completes this final semester as a full time professor, Stegen plans to take a bit of time off initially. He said, “I’m going to take a year or two off, but I am trying to write a book called The Life Equation: A Framework of Meaning, about a theory concerning how mean-

ing is produced. I wrote about it twenty years ago, actually, and presented it twice but have never published it as a book.” Stegen also has plans to speak at churches, specifically those in the Assemblies of God-the denomination in which he was raised--on a variety of topics pertaining to mental health and psychology. He stated, “They [the church] are really not educated about mental health issues; they tend to spiri-

tualize everything. I want to do seminars on parenting. I have a lecture I’ve given before, about the meaning of life and death, about grieving and loss. It is for older people in regard to how they keep meaning in life in the later years.” Stegen plans to give these seminars in order to educate people but also to raise funds for the young people in the church, to have scholarship money for college and other activities.★

## WORD ON THE STREET

### What are your thoughts on recent primary election results and/or candidates?



“So I’m not really sure what to do now because the people that were running that I thought would be good are now out of the running, so we’ll see what happens I guess.” -Emily Wing, Junior



“I don’t really know too much about the election right now. I can’t really say that I support anyone wholeheartedly, but I definitely know who I don’t like. Seeing things in the news about Donald Trump kinda scares me. Whether or not he gets the Republican nomination, I don’t think he’s going to be president, so it’s whatever. Yeah, I just hope we get someone good, I don’t think there’s any one perfect person to run the country.” -Joe Miner, Sophomore



“I think it’s disappointing to see how much support Donald Trump has gotten, and I wish more people would pay attention to John Kasich because he’s one of the more moderate voices in the campaign right now.” -Greg Wagner, Senior

“I think if there were less candidates you would see Trump not doing as well. I think you’d see Cruz or Rubio doing better because right now I think a lot of people are extreme Republicans or extreme one-sided are voting for are the more mainstream Republicans that are being split between between Cruz and Rubio or Kasich.” -Jonan Pilet, Junior



“I’m a little frustrated at the lack of integrity of some of the candidates, and I think the most important thing that we need to focus on is working across the aisle. Unless candidates are willing to work across the aisle I don’t know how our country is going to go forward.” -Lauren Bechtel, Senior



“I guess for the election I would have to say I’m pretty cautious about the candidates.” -Ian Patrick, Junior





ART from page 1

constantly shifting concepts of identity, memory, and personal history.

On Friday the 4th, Riesing and a panel of other jurors reviewed student submissions and selected the pieces which will comprise the exhibit. Students whose work has been accepted will be notified shortly, and the exhibition will be open to the public from the opening on March 11th through the 8th of April. Fellow Houghton students and community members are encouraged to come out and support the arts on campus.

Riesing and the other jurors will also select this year’s prize-winning entries. Multiple honors and awards are available, including the Ortlip Award for Best in Show, the Paul Maxwell Memorial Award for 1st place, the Alumni Award for 2nd place, and the Robert and Roslyn Danner Award. Cash prizes will be awarded along with these distinctions to the winning pieces.

Alicia Taylor, professor of art and director of the Ortlip Gallery, praised the exhibition’s unique potential to showcase students’ progress and success over the past year. “This exhibition is always an exciting opportunity to see what Houghton students are making and thinking about,” she said. “It is a

chance for all students to have a voice in visual culture by showing their work in a professional gallery space.”

Morgan Loghry ’16, who has submitted work in the past and now works a gallery assistant, had similar praise for the event. “I had had this idea in my head that this exhibition was for real artists; that my work couldn’t possibly be up to par,” she said. “Once I had submitted my work I was much less intimidated with the idea. There is a vulnerability that comes with putting your work out there. In a way you release control. I find a terrifying freedom in that.”

Students submit works in an eclectic array of media, from painting and photography to

sculpture, ceramics, and videography. During the jurying process, jurors will select pieces that reflect Houghton students’ artistic imagination and diversity. Art exhibitions also give artists of all disciplines and media a valuable opportunity to get out of the classroom and share their work with the wider community. “Students of all ages, backgrounds, majors and media come together as a whole,” said Loghry. “It is truly beautiful.”

In addition, this event also offers the students who hold assistantships at the Ortlip Gallery valuable practical experience in working alongside artists, designing an exhibition that incorporates a variety of media, and installing a show. Mason Wilkes

‘16, another gallery assistant on staff for this year’s show, commented, “Seeing others’ work is a valuable experience for all involved, as it allows for one to not only experience another’s perspective, but also encourages dialogue between viewer, artist, and the other pieces in the gallery.” Loghry agreed: “I gain understanding about the artist when I see his or her work and through understanding and respect.”

The Ortlip Gallery’s 27th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition opens on March 11th. There will be a reception at the gallery opening at 6 p.m. to honor the students whose work appears in the exhibit, with refreshments to follow. ★

SGA from page 1

timeline of the elections, Friesen said, “We would like to have completed petitions shortly after break.” Petitions are located outside the SGA office and the executive positions available

to run for include President, Vice President, Officer of Non-traditional Students, Officer of Student Life, Officer of Spiritual Life, Officer of Committees, and Officer of Communication. Friesen said that the SGA is “looking for leaders passionate

about campus life.” Regarding the role of SGA on campus, Friesen commented that the SGA is involved in many areas of student involvement including “serving on college committees, funding and running events, funding and running clubs, etc.”

For those applying, “SGA is an excellent opportunity to develop professional skills, and is a solid addition of experience to a resumé,” said Friesen. All positions are compensated due to the fact that SGA is a significant demand on a student’s time, but

Friesen advocated that “it is [both] fulfilling and empowering.” SGA is hoping to get all petitions in prior to break and to host debates for the candidates and elections to take place during the span of a week sometime after break. ★

D.C. from page 1

laration of Human Rights (to which the United States is accountable) clearly defines housing, healthcare, food, clothing, and other basic needs as things to which everyone is entitled. However, this project, while certainly bringing basic material needs to the forefront, aims to focus on a more fundamental problem: the silencing and dehumanizing of homeless individuals. Hill stated, “Even when all we do is walk past someone on the street, ignoring them and trying not to see them because it

makes us uncomfortable, we are denying them an aspect of their humanity, ignoring their most basic personhood and quietly crushing them into just another part of the scenery. How is that not a human rights issue?”

“The stories about people experiencing homelessness are important in and of themselves just as the story of any Houghton student or any other human being,” Colman agreed, adding pragmatic goals such as using the project to inspire action are not needed to justify the simple art of photos and a story. “Can this project compel folks to action? Absolutely.” she said.

“[Yet] our hope simply was to tell stories and to connect with neighbors experiencing homelessness.” In regard to the pragmatically minded, however, Colman admitted that encountering these stories without a framework for action can make one “feel hopeless.” For this reason, “29 Stories also sought to provide some practical solutions for its readers and those who encounter neighbors experiencing homelessness.”

Hill confirmed Colman’s assessment of the project’s goals, also noting that appealing to compassion was not the goal either. She said, “We each

came into this project with our own motivating factors, but for me, the goal of this project was not really about arousing either pragmatism or compassion. . . . What I wanted to do was serve as a conduit so people who spend most of their days going invisible could have a chance and a place to be seen--and seen in their own right.”

Haaga further nuanced the role storytelling and inspiration to action, and stated truly helpful action is not possible without seeing those affected by homelessness as humans above all else. “In our experience of meeting with people, most did

not ask us for anything but our company and conversation. . . I asked one man what he thought of his experience in homelessness, and what he felt we as a society should do about it.” This man told Haaga, “We will always have the poor and homeless in our city, but our duty is to treat people with dignity and respect, not pity and scorn.”

Thus, Haaga concludes, “If we do not care about people’s stories, I don’t see how we can care about their housing, food, and care. We have to take the time to listen to their stories first.” ★

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**Across**

1 Traveler’s guidebook

9 Mooches

15 Nun from a teaching order

16 Many people walk by this

17 Kept from leaving

18 Bond portrayal Brosnan

19 Safe deposit box milieu

20 Penniless

22 Constellation near Scorpius

23 Region divided by the Ural Mountains

26 Test for college srs.

27 “Of course!”

29 Pulls along

30 Takes legal action against

31 Alexandria native

33 Maltese and Pekingese, e.g.

35 Auctioneer’s final word

36 Bomb or tank

37 Indian Literature Nobelists: 1913

40 Permanently

44 Grades 1-6: Abbr.

45 Irene Cara’s “Fame” role

46 Leave flabbergasted

47 River through eastern France

48 Traffic sign with a human stick figure

51 “The Sopranos” network

52 German surrealist painter

54 Few: prefix

56 Log-on need

57 It’s turned backward at the ballfield

60 Composer Rachmaninoff

61 Subject of a nostalgic love song

62 Pigeonhole

63 Like some loafers

**Down**

1 Breakable housewarming gift

2 You might put it down in the foyer

3 Where saltwater meets freshwater

4 Twofold

5 Crème de la crème

6 Relatives

7 Opposite of WSW

8 1984 Patrick Swayze film about a Soviet invasion

9 Bay of Naples island

10 Heartburn

11 Watergate’s \_\_\_\_\_ Throat

12 Deviate from team strategy

13 Played or sang again

14 Forward-looking woman?

21 Unit of Time: abbr.

24 It’s worth one point in Scrabble

25 Word with trip or hog

28 Racetrack town near London

30 Monica who won 2 U.S. Opens

32 NHL’s Maple Leafs, on the ticker

33 Powerful financier

34 Smits of the NBA

36 Points of convergence

37 Women’s soccer gold medalists in Beijing

38 List on a rap sheet

39 They reached adulthood in the 1980s

40 “Dancing With the Stars” category

41 Aboveboard

42 Toad in the hole, for one

43 Peeked at a diary, perhaps

45 They’re “burned” indoors

48 One using a crowbar

48 Break up

50 Goes driving?

53 Therefore

55 Singer Lovett

58 In the style of

59 The Mormons, initially?



# Houghton Singers: “On My Way Home”

JONAN PILET

Are a cappella choral ensembles a dying fad in pop music? The Houghton Singers, Houghton College’s own a cappella group, doesn’t think so. At Friday night’s concert, it proved the enduring versatility of the art form by combining fresh a cappella sounds with a powerful message concerning diversity.

The group members support its message. Its members come from a wide range of studies and backgrounds, and they are eager to discuss the benefits of its diversity. As Hope McKeever ‘16 says, “As an English major, I find it enriching to befriend students from different disciplines. The Houghton Singers provides a space for this to be possible.”

Diversity wasn’t only visible onstage; it was present in the packed recital hall audience, which it added to the vibrancy of the performance. Performer and graduate student Austin Kewin observed, “It’s always nice to share that music at a high level of quality. And to see people that weren’t music majors in the audience. I saw some athletes out there, and a bunch of people that wouldn’t normally come.” He



On Friday evening’s performance the Houghton Singers took the audience on a journey “all the way through the human experience,” said director Kelly Van Kirk.

states that he has been a part of many music concerts and programs, and he knows that not all music appeals to everyone. He notes, “Houghton Singers lets us share music with people in a way that other events, like the opera, wouldn’t attract.” Friday’s performance also included drumming, tap-dancing, beat boxing, as well as audience interaction and Tanzanian styled dance.

A highlight of the evening came during the singing of “Happy” by Pharrell Williams. Audience members were encouraged by performers to clap throughout the song. Some audience members were less inclined, causing McKeever to work harder, staring down non-clappers and exaggerating her hand slapping movements. She had this to say after the show, “When the audience wasn’t in-

teracting with me, I made them clap!” Another highlight was the song “Baba Yetu”, a musical version of the Lord’s Prayer in Swahili. The Houghton Singers’ had a choreographed Tanzanian dance that went with the singing, a product of Michael Carpenter 17’, gained from a semester spent studying in Tanzania. “When I was told we were doing *Baba Yetu*,” he said,

“I showed Kelly [Van Kirk] a few sets of moves. It was a cool way to bring home my Tanzanian experience to the States.” The Houghton Singers’ performance was artistically pleasing, yet the message it communicated was the true highlight. For instance, the performance featured a set of songs that told a story which director Kelly Van Kirk described as going, “all the way through the human experience.” But the listener was not left without a Christ-centered message. As Kewin observed, “Songs in pop culture without religion, like break up songs and different things – they raise questions. But if you look at Christ’s example, he met people where they were at and led them into a redemptive conversation.” The final song and the title of the concert, “*On My Way Home*”, an original a cappella song by Pentatonix, points to what Christians have waiting for them at the end of life “The last song, ‘*On My Way Home*’,” Kewin says, “speaks to the restlessness a Christian experiences here on earth, and it ends with hope.” The overall performance was summed up well by audience member Seth Brown ’16, “It was freakin’ awesome!”★

Want to write? Email us at [editor@houghtonstar.com](mailto:editor@houghtonstar.com)



Photo  
of the  
Week

WINNER //

LAUREN  
BECHTEL  
‘16

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# The Puzzling Brad Wilber

THOMAS ECKERT

If you frequent the Houghton College Library, there is a good chance you’ve run into the friendly and ever-helpful Brad Wilber. Wilber works at Houghton as a reference librarian, but he is known for his work as the crossword editor for the Chronicle of Higher Education. He is the arbiter of the puzzles, accepting, rejecting, and editing submissions for each edition. He began working for the Chronicle in April 2014, but crosswords have been a part of his life since boyhood.

A child of two teachers, Brad was fascinated by books from a very young age. His parents read to him as often as they could, but he was never satiated. He began reading on his own to get his fill. Whenever he ran into a word he didn’t know, he would ask his parents. After awhile, he began referencing the dictionary for help. “I became fascinated with the dictionary,” said Wilber, “I thought the thing to do would be to transcribe the dictionary and do my own. I would get as far as ‘abdicate’ and then I would, you know, abdicate. Then I would start over at Aardvark again.”

Wilber recalls that around age six or seven his father came home with one Nancy Drew book, one Hardy Boys book, and one Tom Swift book. Though he will admit today those books were far from intellectually challeng-

ing and literary, he enjoyed the characters’ adventures and bravery. They also taught him trivia about the world that still sticks with him today. He keeps a collection of these beloved books in his library office.

His first real interaction with crossword puzzles was with his grandmother who would work through a book of puzzles, and ask him questions along the way. He began solving on his own in grade school, working on the *New York Times* crossword puzzles that came with the Sunday paper. They were a little beyond him at first, he admits, but he sought the assistance of his old friend the dictionary to help him through. The young Wilber also made the acquaintance of his father’s coworker, Roberta Kent. “Every Sunday, I would telephone her and we would go over it together,” recalled Wilber, “She knew decades-worth of pop culture that I didn’t, so she would know all of the jazz musicians, all of the movies, and so on. She filled in a lot of the gaps of my knowledge and helped teach my brain how to think in the ways that the crossword was asking me to think.”

After high school, Wilber came to Houghton College. He graduated in 1991 with a BA in Writing. While he had initially wanted to write professionally, he found through workshops that he didn’t enjoy the isolation of being a writer. He declined acceptance to an MFA program, to seek out a more community-oriented career. He felt assured by what he had learned in college. “If you’re a very

good writer, whatever career you find yourself in, uses will be made of that,” said Wilber, “It makes a huge difference in the job market if you are extremely articulate in person and in writing.”

In his search, he consulted his high school librarian who told him about the Library Science Program at Syracuse University. Brad saw this as the perfect opportunity. He was accepted to the University for the Fall of 1992. In this time between undergraduate and graduate work, he attempted constructing his first crossword puzzle with just a pencil, the dictionary, and graph paper. In retrospect, he doesn’t think the puzzle was very good. He kept working at his craft and sold his first crossword to Dell Champion Magazine in 1993. Between 1993 and 2002, the frequency of his puzzlemaking slowly declined into something close to retirement.

His passion was reignited when he watched the documentary “Wordplay” about the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament which was founded in 1987 by Will Shortz, the current crossword editor for the *New York Times*. He attended the Tournament in 2007 as a staffer. After the event, he returned to making puzzles, honing his skill and submitting to newspapers.

Today his puzzles have appeared on 47 occasions in the *New York Times*. He also appears regularly in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post*, and *Newsday*. He has been published several times in the Houghton Star. This issue includes one of those puzzles,



ANTHONY BURDO

Reference librarian Brad Wilbur began solving the New York Times crossword puzzles when he was in grade school, now he creates them.

zles, originally run in 2009. Working at the Chronicle as an editor, his puzzle output has decreased, but he has become more involved in the community of crossword enthusiasts and professionals. Much of his work today is collaborative with constructors from Pasadena, Boston,

Atlanta, St Peter, and even South Africa. Despite being in high demand, he is always available to help the students of Houghton College with their research questions with genuine interest and kindness.★

## Stress Fair: Come to Decompress

RACHEL ZIMMERMAN

It is the middle of March, the middle of the semester, and trailing the end of winter. It’s the time of year when academic pressure is strong, midterms set in, anxieties weigh heavy, and the weather has been cold a little too long. This is the time of year in which the Stress Fair comes, intended to combat this anxious season and alleviate its stress.

The Stress Fair is held during the spring semester of every other year, organized by counselor Wendy Baxter. The fair is set up in the Van

Dyke lounge with a wide variety of activities, including student performances, massages, a craft table, a stress ball area, a manicure station, and a popcorn station. Volunteers such as Betsy Webb is organizing the manicure station while some physical therapy students are helping with massages. “It’s important to get the student body involved, because if the student body is involved, you have better participation,” Baxter says. She describes the festival as “pretty fun, pretty festive.”

While the Stress Fair comes at a notably stressful time of year for students, Baxter notes that overall, “anxiety is the common cold of mental health right now.” Joseph

Brown, a clinical psychologist, defines anxiety as ranging from “uneasiness to extreme panic and fear.” While the right amount of anxiety can be motivating in times of danger, Brown writes it can also cause troublesome symptoms and negatively impact “the quality of your life.” He notes that “more than 1 out of 10 adults have anxiety problems at some time in their lives.”

Baxter finds the current culture to be partly responsible for the rise in anxiety. “We’re a pretty busy culture,” she says, “going from one thing to the next, to the next.” She notes that this is especially true on a college campus, where there is constant busyness coupled with the stress

of “the transition from adolescent to adulthood.” In this culture, she notes, “we have a hard time knowing when to pull back and decompress.”

The Stress Fair is thus intended both to immediately give students a chance to decompress, as well as offering them ideas and strategies for dealing with stress and anxiety on their own. Baxter emphasizes that “I mostly want people to have fun,” noting that students can “find good lifestyle habits and have fun while doing it.” Many of the activities translate to things students can do on their own. “People can get together and sing, do manicures, go to concerts,” Baxter explains. She notes the “primary thing,”

which is “person to person contact.” She says, “to have support goes a long way in alleviating stress and anxiety and minimizing depression.”

Baxter hopes for students to enjoy the fair itself, and to hold onto any stress management take-aways they may gain. “It’s important to know ways to take care of yourself during stressful times.”★



# (Un)Wrapping It: We Need Comprehensive Sex Ed.



ANTHONY BURDO

MICAH CRONIN

The only sex education I received came from Urban Dictionary, friends, and Christian author Leslie Ludy’s sexual purity manual, *Authentic Beauty*. Unfortunately for me, Urban Dictionary and my goofy high school pals were more helpful than Ludy.

I think the bad taste in my mouth came from Ludy’s warning to girls who failed to stay sexually “pure” before marriage. She had her readers imagine a couple on the first night of their honeymoon opening their hotel room, only to be confronted with a mountain of odiferous garbage; this is what metaphorically looms over the marriage beds of girls who can’t keep their legs closed.

And, yes, Leslie Ludy referred to sex (outside of her narrow, hetero-normative context) and sexuality as garbage. Welcome to the abstinence-only perspective on

sex education.

Of course, Ludy’s idea can’t be worse than the old comparison of sexually active girls (and sometimes boys) to a half eaten candy bar or used chewing gum. These and similar metaphors are often used in abstinence-only sex education to encourage teens to save sex for their future spouse, but, while they are well intended, they are harmful on two counts.

Firstly, because our culture is influenced by patriarchal assumptions which privilege men, these metaphors unfairly focus the blame and responsibility on women and girls. Considering this, we come to the second issue, which is the negative effect these ways of talking about sex have on sexual abuse survivors (who are overwhelmingly female). The human-trafficking activist Elizabeth Smart, a woman who was abducted and repeatedly raped at 14, said the chewing-gum analogy was used in her sex-ed class just prior to her ordeal. She said to a Johns Hopkins University panel that after the first few rapes, she thought, “I’m that chewed up piece of gum. Nobody re-chews a piece of gum. You throw it away.”

Aside from the potential for emotional harm which

“Firstly, because our culture is influenced by patriarchal assumptions which privilege men, these metaphors unfairly focus the blame and responsibility on women and girls.”

“Comprehensive sex education, including instruction on safer sex (condom use, etc.) ought to appeal strongly to pro-life voters.”

abstinence-only education carries, I have other reasons for supporting nationally required, comprehensive sex education programs in elementary, middle, and high schools.

For one thing, it is essential for a functioning society to have a large body of citizens who have a strong sense of autonomy and responsibility over their lives and futures. How can this be accomplished if the average Joe doesn’t know how a significant system in his body works? Perhaps intelligent conversation is becoming so rare in this nation because we have designated significant portions of our lives as taboo. If we can’t even utter the word “clitoris” or “testicle”, can we really be so surprised that we can’t even have a decent political debate anymore? In short, a healthy democracy depends on citizens who have the confidence and skills to handle their own lives. Understanding human sexuality is one of these skills,

because it gives individuals the tools to take control and responsibilities over their own futures.

Second, comprehensive sex education, including instruction on safer sex (condom use, etc.) ought to appeal strongly to pro-life voters. I understand that many Christians wish the abortion issue would be solved by people remaining abstinent until marriage , but that just isn’t how things currently work. Christians are certainly free to live by their own morals, but non-Christians are also free to live by theirs.

Teenagers will have sex, regardless of whether they receive abstinence-only education or comprehensive sex education. (Consider Missouri: the state mandates abstinence-only education, and also has the second highest teenage pregnancy rate in the nation). While we can’t stop people from having sex, we can support educational programs which will reduce the rate of pregnancies, and thus abortions. In my opinion, this means that classroom instruction in health class should also be accompanied by schools keeping free male and female condoms on hand for students to take, no questions asked.

Finally, comprehensive sex education includes education on what consent to sexual activity looks like. Abstinence-only

education generally does not, as its focus is “no” from the beginning, and does not discuss what might happen in situations where a “yes” is possible. When there is lack of education about consent, we end up with Yale fraternity brothers assembling on their campus chanting “No means yes and yes means anal.” For the Christian readers especially, this attitude is abhorrent to the gospel and must be combated, not just in church settings but everywhere for the sake of our neighbors. The best way to accomplish this is for sexual consent (defined by Title IX as “an enthusiastic yes”) to be taught in all of our schools.

Essentially, I believe that voters should be concerned about the standards of sex education in their states if they are also concerned about their fellow citizens’ ability to lead independent, healthy lives. Currently the statistics are dismal: according to the National Conference on State Legislatures, only 22 states require any sex education at all, and only 19 states have laws requiring information in sex education classes be medically accurate. This is appalling, and can only be addressed if people like you and I take initiative, get informed, and vote. For no matter what angle we take, it seems evident that comprehensive sex education is more effective and more fair than abstinence-only education, and thus it is what is best for all of us. ★

*Micah is a junior theology major.*

# Christianity Is A Humanism



ANTHONY BURDO

MATT YOUNG

What does it mean for someone to be a Christian? What makes one a Christian? How is a Christian supposed to live and move in the world? What motivates a Christian to live the way they do? All of these questions are important, have been discussed for millennia, and will continue to be discussed in the future. But

I’m going to share my view -- my answer to these questions. In short, Christianity is a Humanism.

In the famous sheep and goats passage (Matt. 25) Jesus states the criteria for who will get in and who will be kept out of the Kingdom. He tells the sheep to enter the Kingdom because they had fed the hungry, clothed the naked, given water to the thirsty, visited the strangers and imprisoned, and cared for the sick. The sheep are surprised because Jesus says that when they cared for the “least of these”, it was as if they were caring for Jesus himself. But the funny thing is that the sheep hadn’t intentionally done the caring, feeding, clothing, and visiting for Jesus. They weren’t doing good because they anticipated an eternal reward for their behavior. On the contrary, they were simply doing good for goodness sake.

“If you are only good because you are afraid of divine punishment, are you really a good person?”

“Worthwhile Christianity is simply the commitment to and practice of valuing human life by doing good towards and for others.”

For me, this is not only the message of this parable, but also the answer to the questions above. What does it mean for someone to be a Christian? It means they will do good to and for others. What makes one a Christian? Doing good to and for others. How is a Christian supposed to live and move in the world? They are to make the movements of goodness towards their fellow human beings. And, most importantly, what motivates a Christian? In other words, why does a Christian do good to others? A Christian does good

for goodness’ sake. In short, to practice Christianity is to practice humanism.

Humanism is a word understood by few, but is quite simple to define. Humanism, “is a philosophy of life that.....affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity” (American Humanist Association). It is the affirmation and commitment to doing good in the world simply for goodness’ sake. If you do good only because God commanded you to, was it truly a good act? If you are only good because you are afraid of divine punishment, are you really a good person? In the parable, Jesus equates being a Christian with doing good for goodness’ sake, not because of divine command or fear of punishment.

For me, worthwhile Christianity is simply the commitment to and practice of valuing human life by doing good towards and for others. This valuing is done for its own sake, not for eternal reward or because a God commands us to. For me, this is what makes Christianity a humanism.

In conclusion, a few parting questions: Is not the cross a Divine sacrifice for the sake of humanity? Is not the Resurrection the ultimate affirmation of the goodness of human bodily life? Is not the Spirit moving through all of us, locating the Divine within humanity itself?

Is not the hope for a newly created world the hope for ultimate well-being of our species? Is Christianity simply humanism wrapped in God-talk? Embrace the good; do good, and do it for goodness’ sake. ★

*Matt is a sophomore philosophy major.*



# “Yeah...Why So Damn Expensive!”



ANTHONY BURDO

JIWAN DHALIWAL

I am a Canadian. That means my first interaction with the American health care system was both illuminating and “exciting”. During my first year I was taken to Cuba Urgent Care due to some dehydration and stomach aches. The doctors ran a series of tests until they finally confirmed that yes, I was indeed simply dehydrated after which they gave me an IV cord and a sour candy. I was well taken care of and left happy. Two weeks later I was mailed a bill. Those few hours had cost me \$2000. I was no

longer disillusioned by the clinic’s pleasantries and the aching returned.

It is not that the American health care system is bad, in fact I will attest that it is actually very good (as far as I’ve seen it), but its goodness is exclusively for those who can pay. If everybody could pay for health care costs then there would be no problem; every program needs to cover their expenses and charging individual people helps cover the costs. Except, of course, not everybody can pay. Thus, they do not get medical aid.

I know that Federal Law requires acutely ill patients to be treated even if they do not have insurance, but I think this is a petty appeasement. A health care system that is ruled by the ethos of a free market reduces people to commodities—people are then worth saving based on their dollar worth. In this market it is easier for an individual to finance a car than to finance their health care. Also, if you

“Progress ought not to be solely defined as further medical advancement, but also as application of the technology we already have.”

have a pre-existing condition (meaning you actually need help) then you can basically forget about getting good insurance coverage. When I got my \$2000 bill I thought, “thank God I have insurance,” but unfortunately that is not a reality for everyone.

The previous article on healthcare pointed out flaws in the socialized health care model. I would like to address some of those concerns. First of all, yes, socialized health care treats more people and therefore has longer lines, but urgent patients are always prioritized by need. Therefore, those who need help get help. It does not carry an inherent

economic discrimination.

Secondly, it was said that socialized health care gives doctors little reason to do well at their jobs. I think this argument cannot be sustained because I could likewise say free-market healthcare also does not give doctors reason to do well at their job; they would make more money with prolonged appointments. Thus, they have more incentive to be mediocre doctors, a type of discourse I would rather avoid.

Thirdly, it was claimed that socialized health care can turn into a kind of welfare. I do not think socialized health care can be abused in the same way welfare can, as it is a service offered for the well-being of the general populous as well as the individual. Thus it is more like public education than welfare. Therefore examples of possible abuse would be helpful, and I prefer to compare these abuses to the ways this model is positively used.

In conclusion, the previous article also claimed that funding for health care would detract from medical innovation. I think this was the most troubling point, because it is true. Funding for medical research would decrease in some ways and it could be said that “progress” is at stake. That being said, accessible health care is already an issue and there are many individuals who do not get the care they need from the findings we have. Progress ought not to be solely defined as further medical advancement, but also as application of the technology we already have. People need to be “caught up to speed” per se, but as long as a free market reigns the schism between the “haves” and the “have nots” will deepen. Socialized health care can provide economic relief. Besides those cool-cat Canadians have been doing it for years... ★

*Jiwan is a junior philosophy and theology double major a minor in world religions..*

“A health care system that is ruled by the ethos of a free market reduces people to commodities—people are then worth saving based on their dollar worth.”



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# Artist of the Week

## Anna Maria Tricarico

// senior art and psychology double major



ANTHONY BURDO



## Titles & Media

*clockwise descending*

Ebb, *ink*

Asibonanga, *clay sculpture*

Untitled, *pastel abstraction*

Figure Study, *pastel*

“

In the frantic pace of life we need to slow down and simply observe the natural forces around us and create out of that experience. What makes us truly human may not be how fast we are able to accomplish a task, but what we experience fully, carefully and quietly in the process.

”

-Makoto Fujimura

