

## Valentine's Day Movie Review:



"Harold and Maude"

pg. 5

Happy Valentine's Day

from the

Houghton Star



FtED:

The Role of Sports in  
American Culture

pg. 7

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

# THE HOUGHTON STAR

Volume CVII Issue XVI • Houghton, NY • February 11, 2011 • WWW.HOUGHTONSTAR.COM

## College Weighs Competing Interests in NCAA Bid

BY KYLE JOHNSON

Houghton College's Division III Exploration and Transition Team is continuing its efforts to pursue a transition to the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) and is currently working through several of the logistical details to see that the transition take place.

The Division III Exploration and Transition Team is the committee directly involved in the NCAA transition process. According to Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes, who is a member of the committee, they are currently in the midst of "preparing our application for membership in the NCAA Division III," which is due in May, as well as "continuing our discussion with the Empire 8 Conference."

According to Coach Skip Lord, Athletics Director and member of the Division III Exploration and Transition Team, the application the committee is currently working on is an "application for exploratory membership," which is merely the first step in a several year process. If granted exploratory status, Houghton would be considered for an opportunity to apply for a "provisional membership" status. Only four schools are granted provisional status each year, and while Lord would "love" to see Houghton "to get through in year one" he said that he "would not see it as a failure if we did not get through in year one."

The athletic department is continuing to pursue changes required to apply for membership in the NCAA. According to Lord, the addition of baseball and

softball to Houghton's athletic program is continuing to be implemented. Brian Reimour has already been named as head baseball coach and the search for a softball coach "continues to be in process." Lord added that "recruiting in both" baseball and softball is "going

"limited competition on Sundays" but Houghton's current Sunday Observance Policy "excludes the potential for Sunday play." Furthermore the document notes that while it is up to each individual conference whether to honor requests for exemption from play on Sundays, "Empire 8 has not made it their practice to give full exemptions to Sunday play."

The document furthermore explains that "Houghton will continue its commitment to honoring the Sabbath." Hynes described this issue as "an opportunity for Houghton to enter into discussion...about our commitment to the Sabbath and how this is observed on our campus."

Lord said the Division III Exploration and Transition Team will be discussing this issue with the campus at large. It will be discussed with "all constituencies...on campus" and from those conversations, he said, "we'll reach our conclusion on what to do." While recognizing that both an alteration of Houghton's Sunday Observance Policy, or conversely a decision to not go forward with membership, are all possibilities that could be reached through these conversations. Lord explained that this is not merely an "either/or" question.

"We are seeking to determine if it is possible to arrive at a community understanding of this opportunity with the Empire 8 that will both appropriately preserve our tradition of honoring the Sabbath and also accommodate the requirements of Sunday play, albeit limited, that the

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well" and that Houghton has already "signed several athletes in both sports."

A prominent issue that has come to the forefront of the transition process is the fact that the Empire 8 Conference schedules games on Sundays. According to a document put together by the Division III Exploration and Transition Team, the Empire 8 Conference has

## Week of Events Spurs Purple and Gold Rivalry

Activities Alleviate Student Routine

CAB Adjusts SPOT Host Tradition

BY BETH LARTER

In case the level of activity in Houghton and the number of purple and gold foods in the dining hall this week has not tipped you off, this week has been CAB's Purple and Gold week. A lot of work has gone into making this week, an ongoing Houghton tradition and a much-anticipated event of the spring semester.

Much like Homecoming in the fall, Purple and Gold week is "a great way to welcome back people who have been off campus or to welcome [transfers] to Houghton," said CAB director, Jocelyn Matuszkiewicz. "It's also part of what defines us as Houghton students, when we come together as a collective group and say 'this is who we are, this is what we do.'"

Every evening this week there have been events designed to encourage students to break from their routines and have fun interacting with each other outside of the classroom. The events this week "encourage students to be more interactive with each other, and [they] can have a great time while doing so," said Sarah Pauly, CAB staff member.

There have been a few new things this year, such as CAB's decision to

bring in an improvisation group from Buffalo called Comedy Sportz. The group performed their "Who's Line is it Anyway?"-type interactive comedy during a free show in the dining hall on Monday night. CAB also organized a "YouTube Coffeehouse" on Tuesday night, showcasing some of the "most famous, or infamous, videos of all time," according to Matuszkiewicz.

Wednesday was "I Want S'mores" night, which Matuszkiewicz described as being an event based on "the quintessential campfire." Thursday night, students participated in the Houghton version of the popular new game show "Minute to Win it" in which they competed in a series of simple but challenging tasks with, as the name suggests, only a minute to win it.

Then there are some things that have stayed the same, such as the friendly rivalry between teams Purple and Gold, with each team sporting their colors throughout the week. The excitement over joining a team starts at t-shirt pick up and helps to set the tone for the rest of the week.

Activities cont'd on page 3

BY EMILY RINEHART

Purple and gold, the colors and the teams, have been a part of Houghton tradition for generations. Despite Houghton's present involvement in intercollegiate sports, the purple and gold teams have simply been transformed and not forgotten. Now students choose which color to devote their loyalties to, and each spring semester one week paced with purple vs. gold activities culminates in another Houghton tradition: SPOT.

When SPOT first began, it was a "Senate Spot," organized and presented by the Student Senate. Now the entire Purple and Gold week, including SPOT, is put together by the Campus Activities Board (CAB). Still, the practice of appointing a host or hosts to develop a theme and choose the acts has come to be expected. CAB's decision to do away with the typical idea of a SPOT host has been a surprise to many students, but junior Nicholas Fredette, CAB staff member, described the decision as one chiefly borne from necessity.

According to Fredette, the decision to choose a SPOT host—both in the

fall and the spring semesters—usually begins with suggestions within CAB. If the suggestions are a dead-end, CAB advertises for auditions. After a host is selected from the candidates, they are notified by e-mail and allowed to begin planning for a theme, auditioning potential acts, and setting up rehearsals.

Fredette said that this year was different because there were no leads suggested within CAB. By the time this came to light, limited time meant that auditions were also limited. As was pointed out by sophomore Joshua Mertzluft, who was part of a three-person group that auditioned for host, so was advertising. Mertzluft and his friends decided to audition for host roughly two weeks ago after hearing that CAB still had not chosen a host. He reported that the group gave a full audition and were simply notified a few days later that CAB had decided to "go another route."

Because CAB was pressed for time, Fredette mentioned that by the time auditions were held, they had already brainstormed the idea of

CAB cont'd on page 3



## Engaging the World

## Protests in Egypt Give Hope for the Future



PHOTO BY ANDREA PACHECO

BY KAITLIN O'BRIEN

Jan. 25, Egyptians began to call for massive protests, organized primarily through grassroots activism and social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter, demanding an end to President Hosni Mubarak's rule and the injustices of the Egyptian government. The Egyptian "Day of Rage" was inspired by the Tunisian revolt and the downfall of President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali just days earlier, and was arranged to coincide with the national "Police Day." Thousands protested in Cairo, with about 15,000 marching in Tahrir Square alone, and protests have continued over the past weeks, intensifying in their size, scope, and the level of violence involved.

Having just returned from a semester in Cairo, I am comfortable agreeing with the evaluation that these Egyptian protests are unprecedented and show more activism and determination than anyone in the Middle East or the larger international community likely expected. While many anticipated unrest with the announcement of the Jan. 25 demonstrations, the Egyptian population is generally thought to be less educated and consequentially more passive than others participating in revolts across the Arab

world, and the strength and resilience of the present revolution is therefore surprising. Highlighting the importance of the media, the situation is most significantly becoming a battle of perception, however, and clear details and the direction of the developments remain difficult to discern.

While the protests are undeniably the largest demonstrations seen in Egypt since the 1977 Bread Riots, there has been debate surrounding the diversity of the demographic represented among them. Although there may be an element of truth to the claims that there is an over-representation of the middle and upper classes in this group, it has also been suggested that age, rather than class, is a more useful distinction to make when attempting to understand the complexities of the present Egyptian situation. While people of all ages have participated in these protests, this remains a movement distinctly fueled by the Egyptian youth. More than anything, this is an exciting and progressive step as the majority of the population in Egypt is young and has been faced with limited options and dark futures.

During my time in Egypt, I was often struck by this bitter reality of the staggering poverty, atrocious healthcare and education, unemployment, and numerous other difficulties facing my Egyptian peers—a number of whom I have come to call my dearest friends. However, in the past two weeks, they have successfully pressured the government into making significant changes, and have responded with a new level of courage and responsibility that the Egyptian people have not previously shown. Rather than being concerned with any particular political outcome when considering the future of the country, I have been struck by the reminder that we should, perhaps, be far more concerned with the continuation of active participation of the Egyptian people.

While the violence characterizing the clashes of protesters with opposing views is clearly not positive, the fact that such strong differences in opinion are emerging points to this moment's striking historical

significance. While Egyptians have previously lacked any truly influential voice or opportunity for choice, they are now faced with the chance to enter into real debates, to stand united behind a cause and rediscover a sense of honor, and to actually affect the future of their country.

Currently, there does not exist any solid consensus about the best course of action for Egypt if the government does act on the demands of the protestors. Yes, the potential danger of a power vacuum if Mubarak were to actually be removed from power is real, and the choices set before Egyptians are of paramount importance. Yet for those in the West who are terrified of an extreme Islamist regime taking over it must also be noted that the request for a more intense religious government does not appear in any Egyptian manifestos or lists of demands.

In the end, it is nearly impossible to predict the developments of each new day that demonstrations continue with this amount of momentum, but I believe that this is a time that should be characterized by anticipation and not paranoid prediction. In the midst of revolution, unmatched potentiality lies before the people of Egypt and the rest of the Middle East to now find the hope the exists in the strength of choice and the explosiveness of change.

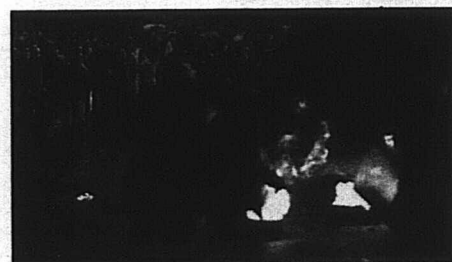


PHOTO COURTESY OF EGYPT 25 JAN: DAY OF RAGE

Egyptians call for massive protests in an attempt to end President Mubarak's rule.

## The World OUT There

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

## Webb Announces He Will Not Be Seeking Re-election to the Senate

On Wednesday, Virginia Democratic Senator Jim Webb announced that he will not be seeking reelection to the Senate in 2012. Webb, who is currently serving his first term, cited a return to the private sector as the rationale for his decision and added that "it has been a great and continuing privilege to serve in the United States Senate." This announcement increases the possibility of a Republican takeover of the Senate in 2012 as Webb's seat now becomes wide-open. Webb joins North Dakota Democrat Kent Conrad and Connecticut Independent Joe Lieberman as members of the Democratic Caucus who have announced their retirement. Other Democratic Senators such as Bill Nelson of Florida and Ben Nelson of Nebraska will face difficult challenges in 2012, and the Republicans have begun the process of finding attractive candidates to vie for the seats.

## North and South Korea Fail to Reach Agreement

In November, North Korea brought the Korean peninsula to the brink of war when it bombed the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong. In the past week, North and South Korea, pressured by China and the United States, have begun talks on securing high-level military discussions. On Wednesday, however, those talks collapsed when the two sides failed to reach an agreement. The North Korean delegation walked away from the negotiating table only five hours after the second round of talks had begun, a move which the South Korean Defense Ministry called "unilateral." There is no sense, as of yet, as to what the long-term ramifications of this breakdown will be.

## Napolitano Claims Terrorist Threat is at "Most Heightened State"

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said Wednesday that the terrorist threat to the United States may be at its "most heightened state" since the September 11 terrorist attacks. The United States continues to face the threat of attack at home and abroad with the most significant risk coming from al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and Anwar al-Awlaki, an American-born Muslim cleric with ties to al-Qaeda. Awlaki was also linked to Maj. Nidal Hassan, the perpetrator of the Fort Hood shootings and Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the Christmas Day Bomber. This comment by Napolitano comes in the wake of the announcement by the Homeland Security Department that the color-coded threat alert system would be altered to be clearer and more informative.



photos courtesy of www.swamppolitics.com, www.telegraph.co.uk, and www.onlineusnews.com



## Students Discuss Justice Issues at Int'l Development Conference

BY MONICA SANDRECZKI

Last weekend, about 20 students, led by Professors Ndunge Kiiti and Aaron Routhe, intercultural studies and sociology, respectively, trekked to Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI, to attend the annual Faith & International Development Conference (FIDC), with this year's theme, Turning Love into Action: Sowing Seeds and Reaping Justice.

Students from several Christian colleges across the country, including Greenville College, Calvin College, and Eastern University, stayed with Calvin students and attended workshops and plenary seminars for three days to hear guest speakers talk about and discuss aspects of justice and its relation to international development.

"I didn't go because I was necessarily interested in international development," said Andra Cook, senior. "My personal interests right now don't lie overseas, but I saw this as an opportunity to take part in a larger Christian fellowship."

According to Kiiti, the keynote speakers this year were "very strong. I think the speakers varied and had some good insights on issues relating to love and justice."

Nicholas Wolterstorff, speaker, said that the value of the conference was two-fold. First, he said that it is to get students interested in justice issues and make them realize that they are not alone in their passion for justice, even if they feel alone on their campuses. He added that it is also helpful because it gives an intelligent and theological undergirding to justice issues.

"And as a philosopher, it's my responsibility to think about this and further the cause," said Wolterstorff, in reference to some of his works, *Until Justice and Peace Embrace* and *Justice: Rights and Wrongs*. "Justice is grounded in human dignity."

Routhe said that he was fascinated that the Calvin student organizers chose Wolterstorff as a speaker, "someone who has spent a long time thinking about these development issues, but wasn't a professional development worker."

Kiiti said that Calvin students were "deliberate" and made a large push to have speakers who are "from the field."

Other speakers included Carlos Hernandez, Asociación para una Sociedad más Justa (ASJ); Dirk B. Booy, World Vision; Ghenadie Russu, Christian Agency for Microenterprise Development (CAMED); and Michelle Sheba Tolentino who was a sponsored child through Compassion International.

According to Routhe, the speakers who resonated with him were Wolterstorff and Hernandez.

"[Hernandez] was a testimony to our capacities to do something if we could somehow release ourselves from those things that keep us standing on the sidelines or sitting on our couches and pews," said Routhe, in reference to Hernandez's work against corruption in Honduras. "He was important to me because he represented a voice from outside...[as] a member of the majority church speaking to us in the U.S."

One aspect of the conference was that it was almost entirely student-organized. Kay Varela, FIDC co-

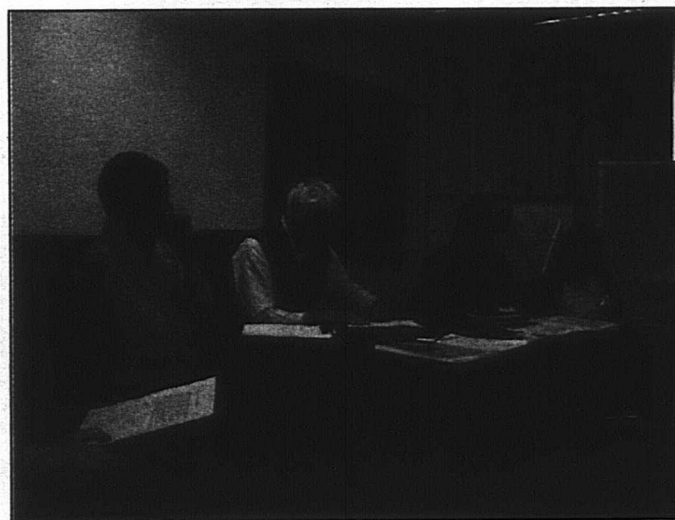


PHOTO BY NDUNGE KIITI

Conference attendee, left, sits with Wolterstorff and Hernandez, speakers; and Varela, co-director of FIDC, who are leading a panel discussion at a workshop.

director, and senior at Calvin College, said that her role, since May 2010, has been to plan and run the conference. She, along with her co-director, worked with their 17-person committee to feed and find housing for speakers and conference attendees, organize schedules, and find speakers in the first place.

Varela said that one difficulty in the organization process is that speakers are not offered an honorarium because neither Calvin nor FIDC profits from the conference, but that she and her co-director were able to get suggestions for speakers, who could discuss a milieu of aspects of justice, from their

faculty advisor.

"A student-organized conference is the sort of thing that I'd like to see happen at Houghton," said Routhe. "It's events like this that set Calvin apart from its peer colleges." As students and faculty, he said that he thinks we are "capable" of taking on this challenge.

Cook said she thought this conference would be good for non-intercultural studies majors because "international development and faith are life issues. No matter what you're majoring in, you will encounter them. You may not be interested in being employed under that banner, but it affects us all." ★

### NCAA cont'd from page 1

Empire 8 requires."

In a presidential report in senate on Feb. 8, President Zach Adams explained that Houghton's Sunday Observance Policy is not stringent. He also expressed the desire that as the dialogue continues we "make sure our conversations do not slide down into the fiasco that was last semester," in reference to the faith-based discussions.

Adams said that there is a push for these conversations to be "more intentional and more productive" because there was a "negative emotional response that was tangibly felt" last semester. Because of this, Adams said that there is a push to frame this semester with guiding questions, reminding everyone that they are a part of the conversations.

Audrey Gillette, senior, serves as a student representative to the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics. She said that

her committee is "continually updated on what's going on in the athletic department" and will "follow the same process with the NCAA transition [and] application process." In regard to the issue of games on Sundays, she expressed that she is "confident that we can approach the issue prayerfully and with respect for all concerned."

Lord expressed excitement over the continuation of the transition process. Although he said he has "no clue what the conclusion is going to be," he said that he looks "forward to how it's going to proceed."

Gillette, while noting that there has "seemed to be some concern that" the decision to pursue the transition "happened so quickly and with little input from the Houghton community," she said she believes that "moving to NCAA could be great for athletes, students, and Houghton in general." ★

### Activities cont'd from page 1

"Each team has something to cheer for, compete for, or just argue which is better amongst their friends," said Pauly, who helped hand out the shirts on Monday.

Still ahead tonight is the dodgeball tournament which you can participate in as a player or by watching from the sidelines. Tomorrow afternoon there are the men's and women's basketball games where anyone who comes has a chance to win "prime court seating" on the CAB couch. Purple and Gold week will come to an end tomorrow night with Spring SPOT, Houghton's own biannual variety show. The show is a

chance for Houghton students to show off their talent, wit, and humor for the rest of us to appreciate.

Purple and Gold week is a great way to have fun during the long New York winter, but it's also about embracing this time that each of us have at Houghton. As Matuszkiewicz pointed out, with a class graduating in a few months and new students waiting to start next fall, we only have one semester and one Purple and Gold week that the current Houghton students will spend together as a collective group. This week is our opportunity to "celebrate and take time to think about what being at Houghton means to each of us," said Matuszkiewicz.



PHOTO BY MIKI KANEKO

Students eat in the cafeteria, dressed in their Purple and Gold paraphernalia

### CAB cont'd from page 1

variety where "several different people are part of the hosting." The appeal of variety still held its appeal after holding auditions, and the plan was put into motion. Although there are "rumors that Shirley and Paul could be involved," Fredette said the entire lineup remains a mystery even to most of the CAB staff.

Mertzlufft said he and his group are considering auditioning for the position of hosts again in the fall, and meanwhile said he commended CAB for making what he called "the best choice considering how things...had to be done quickly." Fredette added that though he thinks students will find this semester's SPOT different, "people will enjoy having a little bit of variety in between the acts." ★



## Track Teams' Records Launch Players into Nationals

BY RACHEL CROSS

In Geneva, Ohio, on Jan. 29, the Houghton track teams continued their impressive year with a number of broken records. Junior Danielle Brenon ran the 5k in just 17:57, making her the first Highlander ever to snag a time under 18 minutes indoor, and breaking the record of 18:12 she herself set only 2 weeks earlier. Andrew McGinnis, sophomore, also managed to add the indoor pole vault to his list of records with a height of 13'5.25". The Highlander's Distance Medley Relay team, consisting of senior Heather Sayre, juniors Brenon and Courtney Coiro, and freshman Leah Williams, managed to grab the second fastest time in Houghton history finishing with a time of 12:38. These records only added to the success the Highlanders had already met this season as just two weeks earlier junior Alexa Thayer set the indoor high jump record with a height of 5'2.25". Thayer then broke her own record on Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> with a height of 5'4". The Highlanders' success so far has landed many of the team members automatic bids to the NAIA national competition.

When asked to comment on the accomplishments she and her teammates achieved, Brenon accredited their success to hard work, stating, "We have had consistent training and our workouts are personalized. If you are diligent in your workouts, I think results will follow." Brenon went on to say that

she thinks another large part of their success can be attributed toward the attitudes of those on the team: "I think the positive thinking of the players, the encouragement we give one another, the momentum of the team is definitely a factor... Everyone has an 'I want to be fast and work hard' mindset and we

thrive off that energy." Coiro echoed the sentiments of her teammate, saying, "We accomplish more individually when we have the support of everyone else." Coiro also mentioned that there are not many fans at the indoor track meets, as the team can only compete at other schools due to the lack of a regulation size indoor track at Houghton, making the encouragement of team members all the more valuable. Coiro explained, "We are kind of our own cheering section at meets; we are always encouraging each other, challenging each other and cheering each other on." Captain Tyler Welsh also commented on the mentality and spirit of the team: "Everyone is involved. The team supports each other. It is great to feel that energy and feed off of it as an athlete." The source of this energy can be traced to the team's two head coaches, Matt and Mary Dougherty. Welsh stated, "It is great to have them back. They definitely bring enthusiasm, life and energy into practices."

The Highlanders hope to play off of their momentum and carry their enthusiasm on to their next meet at Cornell University for the Robert Kane Invitational at 10 a.m. tomorrow.



Photo courtesy of Courtney Coiro

Megan Platt, Audrey Gillette, and Hannah Jennings begin the 3K.

## HTMP Gains Momentum with "Stage to Screen"

BY EVAN YEONG

It's Friday, February 11th, and that means that it's less than a week until the Houghton Musical Theatre Players present their fourth production, "Stage to Screen," a musical revue featuring twenty-four songs and their largest cast yet. With the last few days counting down, rehearsals go late into the night and the choreography is practiced until perfect, but in the face of all of this the entire cast seems easygoing and optimistic.

Still a fairly new club, the HTMP performed "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown" last semester, and is taking a slightly different direction with its production this spring. Following a common formula often used at her community theatre back home, Amber Payne, Junior, alongside Josiah Armstrong, who graduated this past December, chose six musicals with four songs from each one, with the intent of creating a stronger sense of continuity and story. The two will not only be directing the show but also performing in it, and although it promises to be the first of many more to come, it will also be a last for both of them.

Armstrong will be leaving soon after the show to attend seminary in Pennsylvania, and says that this will be "the last Houghton anything" for him. Payne will graduate in 2012 and will probably perform in other productions, but this will be her last time directing at Houghton College. In spite of the bittersweet ending this show marks, the two remain both happy and hopeful. Payne spoke for the two of them when she said that they've "seen people that will keep the club going." In regards to this being his "directorial farewell" Armstrong admitted, "I wouldn't do it

any other way."

The two have worked together in the past and with this production face the biggest cast they've ever had to direct. "Cabaret from A to Z," the musical revue put on last year, had a cast that overwhelmed its directors, and although this time Armstrong "expected quite the turnout," he "was not expecting this many." Numbering at roughly fifty members the group has gained momentum, with people joining even after the initial auditions had already taken place.

Keeping in line with the club's constitution every show must have as many or more non-music majors as there are music majors. With so many cast members not only was this ratio easily attained, but a good representation from every class as well. Freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors all make up this show, with many of the former looking for something to do on campus and the latter taking advantage of their last semester here. With so many students being involved there are a wide variety of reasons for auditioning and taking part in the show, and they range from the straightforward to the opportunistic.

Junior Joe Tehan joined when he realized he "wasn't doing enough fun things." He had become increasingly more aware of his lack of participation in regards to on-campus activities, so when his friend invited him to try out with her he couldn't see why not.

Alex Vitale, senior, had been involved in musical theatre all throughout high school and saw this show as his last chance to perform before his graduation this year. He cites the directors as being just as big a motivation for joining as the show itself, and says that both Payne and Armstrong are "incredible... both

fulfill their roles to the max." Vitale constantly reaffirms his dedication to the show, from his refusal to skipping rehearsal to the fact that "when [he's there he's there] all the time." Alex states that his entire Houghton experience can be encapsulated within the show, and that words can't express what it really means to him.

This is MacKenzie Reiss' first year at Houghton College, and as a freshman she has expressed only surprise at being given the privilege to perform in so many numbers. Having already joined choir for the singing, she tried out for the revue because of her roommate and found herself surrounded by people who loved music and dance just as much as she does. The size of the cast is something she's used to, and she appreciates the sound that so many people can create together. In spite of the choreography that stands in their way she's confident that "it's going to work." As far as

she's concerned, crunch time will only cause them to grow closer together as a group.

"Stage to Screen" takes its name from musicals that have made their way to film and become immortalized in two different mediums – two different interpretations of the same songs, the same stories. Where "A to Z" featured songs from over two dozen musicals this show only draws from six; still, the themes range from high school romance to baseball to street gangs to protesting hippies. The musicals themselves date as far back as the early 1900's to as late as the 60's, and the directors hope to prove that they have stood the test of time.

The Houghton Musical Theatre Players are presenting "Stage to Screen" on February 17th and 19th at 7:30 p.m. and promises to be a great fourth show for the club as well as a fantastic finale to two talented directorial careers. ★

## Sadie Hawkins Day prevailed on

Houghton's campus for nearly five decades. This year, the sophomore class cabinet and CAB have worked together to reinstate the tradition on campus.

On Friday, Feb. 18th, this historic day will come to life once again. "The Big Chase" will begin Friday morning, followed by ladies escorting men around campus all day. The culmination of these shenanigans will be the

**Sadie Hawkins Dance** hosted by CAB Saturday evening. Look for official rules and times upstairs in the cafeteria and on bulletin boards around campus.

Anyway you look at it... you'd better be ready to run!

Photo courtesy of anxietiesweb.com



## A Quirky Classic: The Perfect Flick for this Valentine's Day

BY ERIK BEALS

Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Whether you love big romantic gestures or smaller intimate moments (or even if you do not have a loved one to share the day with), one of the easiest and most popular ways to celebrate the holiday is to enjoy a romantic movie. If this sounds like a good idea to you, but you are sick and tired of the clichéd drek that Hollywood likes to pass off as romantic comedies these days, you should check out "Harold and Maude".

Since the initial release of "Harold and Maude" 40 years ago, it has been a movie that stands on its own as entirely unique and timeless. Harold (Bud Cort) is an upper class teenager obsessed with death who likes to attend funerals for fun and repeatedly fake his own death to harass his mother, who in turn spends the film presenting Harold with a string of upstanding young women for him to date. Maude (Ruth Gordon) is an elderly woman who is in love with life and possesses an anti-authoritarian streak. Together, they form one of the most unlikely onscreen couples in history. While this sounds like the recipe for a very bizarre movie that will only appeal to an extremely niche audience, nothing could be further

from the truth. It is a romantic comedy that manages to be both heartwarming and hilarious, and I have yet to meet anyone who disliked the film.

"Harold and Maude" takes the viewer on a journey through the entire spectrum of emotion. There are scenes where you cannot help but laugh, there are times where your heart breaks for the characters, and there are times where you probably will not know what to think. At its core, it is a celebration of life and love, and shows that even dark cynicism cannot prevail against the joy of life. The film sends a powerful message that we should all try to enjoy life to its fullest.

One of the most significant aspects of the film is the music. The entire score consists of Cat Stevens songs, almost all of which are taken from his excellent albums "Mona Bone Jakon" and "Tea for the Tillerman". The only songs not from those albums are the two songs he wrote specifically for the film, "Don't Be Shy" and "If You Want to Sing Out, Sing Out", the latter of which plays an important role in the film. The timeless folk style of Stevens' music perfectly sets the tone for the whole movie.

The influence of "Harold and Maude" can still be felt today. The quirky characters, offbeat events, and



Photo courtesy of www.siffblog.com

dark, yet touching humor are a solid blueprint for the films of Wes Anderson (particularly noticeable in his breakout hit "Rushmore"), who would go on to cast a much older Bud Cort in his film "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou". Though it was released in 1971, it fits right in with this past decade's string of quirky indie comedies, although it stands out as being far more unique and interesting. It has been referenced in everything from "Family Guy" to "Gilmore Girls" to "There's Something About Mary" to "30 Rock". In short,

this is a piece of the great tapestry of pop culture that you are seriously missing out on if you have never seen it.

So this Valentine's Day, whether you are bitter and cynical about being single, trying to find something romantic to do with your significant other, in need of something to invite that special someone you have got your eye on, or just looking for a fun movie to watch with your friends, "Harold and Maude" is an excellent way to spend your evening. ★

## Super Bowl XLV Draws Largest Audience to Date



Photo courtesy of www.sbnation.com

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers boasts a trophy and MVP honor.

BY BRIAN PRESHER

With two heavyweight franchises meeting in Super Bowl XLV this past Sunday, the game had quite the hype, and the largest television audience ever – an average of 111 million – was not disappointed. The Green Bay Packers won a close game – 31 to 25 over the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Packers managed to hold on to the victory after a well-fought game. They scored first after an interception by Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger which led to a touchdown pass from Aaron Rodgers to Jordy Nelson. The Packers scored again in the first quarter when Nick Collins intercepted a pass from Roethlisberger and ran it back for a touchdown. After

the teams traded field goals in the second quarter, Roethlisberger threw a touchdown pass to Hines Ward to end the half with a score of 21-10.

Rashard Mendenhall had a great game for the Steelers and brought them back within 4 points after his 8 yard touchdown run. However, his costly fumble on the Steelers' next drive turned into 7 points for the Packers when Rodgers threw an 8 yard touchdown pass to Greg Jennings.

The Steelers brought it to within 3 points after Mike Wallace caught a touchdown pass from Roethlisberger but it was just too little too late as the Steelers did not score again.

The three turnovers by the Steelers, which resulted in 21 point for the Packers, were the story of the game. But Packers' quarterback Aaron Rodgers also helped lead his team to victory with his outstanding play. Rodgers' leadership earned him the Super Bowl MVP honor, cementing his place as an elite NFL quarterback.

Other notable events of Sunday's game included the national anthem blunder, halftime show and infamous Super Bowl Commercials.

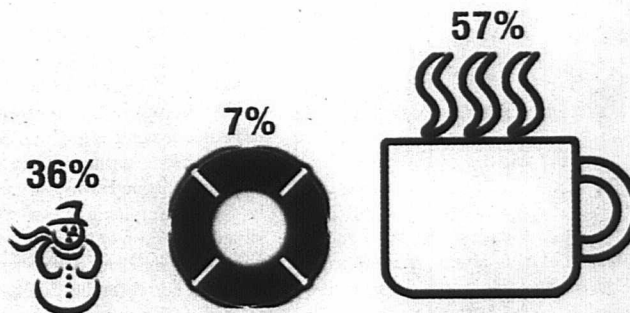
Christina Aguilera started out the game with the national anthem and became one of many singers to stumble over the words. While singing she accidentally skipped over the phrase, "O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming," gaining quite a bit of media attention. The halftime show has also received some criticism after a less than notable performance by the Black Eyed Peas.

The commercials, which have always been in the spotlight Super Bowl weekend, drew quite the premium as a result of the viewership. According Reuters, a 30 second spot cost companies about 3 million dollars. Televisions across America were once

again filled with impressive bids for cars, various food and beverage companies, and Internet sites.

Super Bowl XLV exceeded expectations as it drew record numbers for a captivating showdown. ★

What do you do to beat  
the cold?



Results from 14 votes

Check out the new poll at [www.houghtonstar.com!](http://www.houghtonstar.com!)



## Charity in Chapel and the Structure of the Church



PHOTO BY ANDREA PACHECO  
BY MEGAN LITTLE

Nearly every semester, the Chapel Deacons invite a charitable organization, often Compassion International, to send a representative to our campus. There is some concern that this somehow a violation of the purpose of chapel. If we are to come together for worship and learning, why are we instead being told that we ought to give money to some organization? Is this just glorified advertising? And is advertising wrong?

This seems to me to be a very complex issue, and the ideas below barely scratch the surface. But as members of the body of Christ, struggling to understand how our faith is lived in our wealthy society, Christian giving seems to be a very important surface to scratch.

And you've got to admit: it itches. Everyday we face clothing drawers that are hard to get shut and mounds of food so high that we can't see the plate beneath. Then, not quite as often, we are imprinted with the face of an impoverished child far away, and if we don't feel uncomfortable in our own clothes, I think there is something wrong with us.

Yet when Shaun Groves shows up, telling Dr. Britain not to mention he's

representing an organization, giving a stirring little sermon, then shifting into the familiar sponsorship request, we feel violated.

One possible reason for this is our negative reaction to anything that feels like 'advertising' because we are constantly bombarded with the World's advertising of Stuff. This advertising can be manipulative, false, and invasive. However, I suggest that we step back and note that promoting something is not inherently evil. After all, isn't Christ's commission of the church to bring the knowledge of him into all the world, or advertise the gospel of truth to all people?

Another possible cause is the fact that Shaun is not one of us. Paul provides an example of a plea for money when he sends a letter asking for money for the church in Jerusalem. The difference between that and Shaun's plea was that Paul intimately knew the body of believers that he was addressing. Shaun was a stranger on campus, so we needed to make the extra effort to hear him, trusting that, because he is a fellow follower of Christ, we could listen to him as a beloved brother, not as some dude with spiky hair and a need to manipulate us into charity.

But beyond these superficial causes for discomfort, was there anything about Shaun and his message that we should be

wary of? If we put our selves in Shaun's shoes, we see that he's not at fault. In his Christian journey, he encountered an organization that is truly doing good and was inspired to volunteer himself and his talents to plead for the cause of children and communities that need help.

So, if Shaun's doing the right thing, what about Compassion International? They've seen a very real need, and organized people and funding to meet

that need. They discovered, through individualized sponsorships, a way that ordinary self-obsessed Americans can engage, one on one, with a little person and be inspired to give regularly of their excess resources. Provided nobody is wrongfully pocketing money, it seems like Compassion International is creatively engaging Christians to encourage them to give—nothing wrong there. And

visiting colleges is just a way to get the word out.

I wonder if the disconnect is more due to the structure of the church in North America. Just like factories divide jobs down into chunks so that work gets done efficiently, the church has divided into different organizations—some that provide food for the hungry, some spiritual food for the congregation. Because we are not thoroughly united and integrated, Compassion International's plea seems invasive.

Is this structure OK? Christ's actions represented both: how many times do we read that he went and preached and healed the sick? However, in the early church, we see individuals assigned to looking after widows, and others focusing on teaching. But the difference is that the poor are right there with them (as Shaun mentioned). Many churches today try to give not only to far away charities, but also to members of their own congregations and localities. I have a sneaking suspicion that the more we, as individuals and as the body, are engaged in serving the poor who are with us, the more we will be inspired to give, and the less foreign the far away poor will seem.

That's the church and charity, what about our chapel and charity? As a gathering of believers, are we not part of the church? There are some charity initiatives in chapel: The Turkey Drive, people like Shaun Groves coming. But should we be giving regularly? I don't know. I can think up reasons not to: students will feel overburdened; chapel is required, so it isn't fair to pressure us to give; asking too often will just desensitize us; people already give their money through their churches. And maybe some of these are legitimate reasons. But I'd like to challenge us all: are we trying to take Christ's words without his actions? Can we truly worship if we aren't giving selflessly of everything? Meeting as believers has always been required of Christians, ever since Christ told us not to forsake gathering together, and why shouldn't every meeting include a practical and honest concern for the poor?

Megan is a senior Art major

## The Penultimate Word Constructive Criticism in Public Discourse



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN  
BY ELISA SHEARER

Opinions pages can hold an odd place in a newspaper - opinions are not what most people would consider news, and they are by definition written with a bias. So what is the purpose of an Opinions section? Many criticisms of editorials, at Houghton and other places, which focus not on the logic of the argument but the tone of the argument itself. "Stop being so negative" seems to be a common critique of the media - and yes, I think that the media is often guilty for reporting smaller instances of gore and drama over more important and relevant events - but what about opinion pieces, letters to the editor, and editorials? Are

they to be criticized for the sole reason that they are "too negative"? Should a commentary article that points out potential flaws of a community be ordered to instead praise its strengths?

I think that praising the healthy aspects of the structure of society has its place. But no community will ever not be in need of re-evaluation.

The purpose of organizing a group of people is not, I think, to reach a state of perfection - a place where change is no longer needed. Nor will any Earthly community achieve that state. Each structured group of people is constantly working against human sin - selfishness, violence, corruptibility, laziness - to remain cooperative and productive.

Therefore, any structured group - a college campus, a town, a nation-state - requires constant construction and reconstruction. If the members of a community allow the desire for stability to overshadow the possibility of a necessary change, the result will be stagnation and decay. A disproportionate emphasis on contentment can manifest itself in the denouncement of complaints purely because of their negativity, resulting in uninformed legalism and a refusal to

consider potential weaknesses. Forced contentment is not constructive.

Public discourse is a way to avoid uninformed legalism - the idea that "we do it that way because it's always been that way" - and to foster informed conviction of existing statutes, instead of blind obedience, and, when necessary, to challenge the practical effectiveness of certain structures. Pointing out potential weakness in a community's structure is necessary for its continuing improvement and existence. If concerns of structural inefficiency can be replied to sensibly and logically, then the institution of public discourse is effective. If our only argument is how dare-you-suggest-such-a-thing, why can't-you-see-that-everything-is-great, then perhaps our attitude towards public discourse should be examined. It is ineffective and inefficient to passively-aggressively dismiss opinions with which we disagree. What is effective is arguing with each other about any potential weakness of our community with the mutual goal of improvement, not with the goal of vanquishing someone else's opinion. When we lack the conviction and knowledge to be able to engage in

constructive discussion, we often feel the need to denounce any criticism of our lifestyle, even if that criticism was earnest and constructive.

The role of a newspaper is not to act as a newsletter or advertisement; it is a platform for public discourse. The role of public discourse is not to serve as a place for pure self-gratification and self-congratulation; it is a place for a constant re-evaluation of a community's values. It is where we can constantly be in search of improving ourselves; it is not the place to blindly react against any criticism.

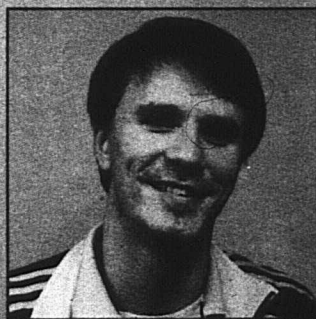
To quote a recent article by Chris Hartline, actively living in a community requires us to be able to "confidently and adequately defend [our] moral standards," and that, I think, is precisely why a platform for constructive criticism is so essential.

Elisa is a junior Psychology and English major



## From the Editor's Desk

## The Role of Sports in American Culture



BY CHRIS HARTLINE

This past Sunday, most of us spent our night sitting back, relaxing and watching the Green Bay Packers whoop the Pittsburgh Steelers like they deserved (you'll have to forgive me, Steelers fans, but I'm from Baltimore and we're taught from birth to hate the Steelers). What we probably didn't know at the time, however, is that we were witnessing television history. Super Bowl XLV was the most watched television program in history with approximately 163 million viewers, and that started me thinking about the role that sports play in our culture.

Sports can be a harmless and

compelling form of entertainment; they can be beneficial for the morale of a city or state; they can even inspire. Who can forget the celebration in New Orleans, which suffered so much in the last 5 years, after the Saints' Super Bowl victory last year; or the tears in the eyes of players and fans alike as the Yankees played their first game in New York after the terrorist attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup>? Sports hold a prominent place in our society, and justifiably so. Yet, in the grand scheme of things, there are many other areas of life which warrant greater importance, more celebration and closer attention.

It is common for the mayors of Super Bowl contending cities to make a friendly wager before the big game. Usually it consists of a local delicacy or an agreement to wear the opposing team's colors in the event of a loss. This year, however, there was an unusual wager. The Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh bet a Renoir painting that the Steelers would win; the Milwaukee Art Museum took the bet and put up a Caillebotte. My knowledge of and appreciation for art is limited, but even I think that works of this magnitude should hold a significant place in our society. They should not be traded,

bartered or wagered like a Steelers' hat or a bratwurst.

For all you New York State residents, the New York Yankees recently built a new \$1 billion stadium complete with restaurants, sports bars and 227 miles of Ethernet cables. Did you know that \$363 million of that \$1 billion came from tax revenue? Yes, your tax dollars went towards giving New York's wealthiest sports fans the most pleasurable and comfortable viewing experience in the country. In a time when public schools suffer budget cuts and under-staffing, hard-working people are losing their jobs, and the state of New York has a \$1 billion budget deficit, is that truly the most responsible use of taxpayer dollars? I don't think so.

The same goes for the new Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, the site of last weekend's Super Bowl. This magnificent shrine to machismo excess cost \$1.15 billion, with \$325 million covered by the City of Arlington, and includes a 60 yard long jumbotron. Meanwhile, last month Texas lawmakers announced a \$5 billion cut to education spending.

How has our culture so lost perspective on what is most important in life that we make cuts in education

and subsidize professional sports franchises? Maybe it's because more people watch the Super Bowl than vote in elections. While 163 million people watched the Super Bowl on Sunday, only 90 million voted in last year's midterm election. Even for a presidential election, which historically has a higher turnout, only 132 million people voted in 2008.

As an aside, I am an avid sports fan and am not criticizing sports themselves but rather the stature they have gained in our culture. Writer Russell Baker said that "In America, it is sport that is the opiate of the masses." In light of the number of people that watch the Super Bowl and don't vote, the amount of government money spent on professional sports franchises and the flippancy with which art galleries wager paintings for sport, it is hard to argue with Baker's statement. If our culture spent more time and money on meaningful areas such as education, art, and who leads our country, and allowed sports to act as simple entertainment, I think we would all be better off.

*Chris is a junior History and Political Science major*

## Letters to the Editor

Send to

houghtonstar@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

I was confused by Brandon Rush's recent letter to the editor. Several good points were made therein, and I do want to point those out. First of all, the marketing team here at Houghton is made up of talented, experienced individuals. This is not something that, in my opinion, was in the least bit challenged by the recent poll, and I'm curious as to how you felt your marketing prowess threatened by that, Mr. Rush. Secondly, you are quite correct that the "entire vision of the college's marketing" does not fall on one person. I've never assumed that, and would encourage you to try and find a student that does think that. Ms. Myers, however, was the face and representative of Houghton's marketing team to a great number of students and on-campus organizations (including the Star) during a time when great and much-debated changes were taking place in the college's marketing language and strategies, even if those had been in the works since before she arrived.

While all of that could simply be a misunderstanding, I can't assume the rest of your letter was, and that worries me. Yes, you are part of a team of individuals with training in your field beyond the ken of most, if not all, students here. But it concerns me deeply that you are here because of your "deep care for Houghton," and yet that care does not seem to encom-

pass any of the current students. "We're like nowhere else. All work and no play isn't our style. When we say 'liberal arts,' we mean it." Who's 'we'? In case you have forgotten, or simply weren't aware, 'we' are the reason this campus exists, we are the majority, and we do care, as deeply as you, I assure you, about how we look to the "outside world" and about what sorts of people take our place when we graduate and move on from our mother institution. Why do we feel we have "the right to be involved in campaign decisions"? Because if Houghton is what your brochures say it is, then there are no ivory towers here. Even if student opinions don't change the course of your marketing directives, you cannot be sincere about your "deep care" for Houghton if you so readily assume that we don't matter, now that the campaigns have worked, and we're enrolled here.

I am confident that there are other students who share my thoughts on this, and I hope you understand that my language is only as strong as I perceive your condescension to be, Mr. Rush. If you think that you can be a part of the faculty and staff community here at Houghton, and ignore the opinions and talents of the vibrant student body that is just as much a part of that community, then I can't understand why you gave up that "much more lucrative" career.

*-Micah Warf, Graduate Student*

Dear Editor,

An Open Letter to the Class of 2013: During the SGA meeting last Tuesday, it was announced that, in order to encourage students to give back to the college after graduations, a number of "traditions" would be created for each

of the classes. One going into effect this very week is a tradition for the class of 2013, who will be allowed into chapel to find seats for SPOT before any of the other classes. The administration hopes to "entice" sophomores to make a donation of twenty dollars and thirteen cents to the student scholarship fund- a fund that gives aid to students facing financial issues that might prevent them from returning to Houghton.

Does this strike anyone as unfair? That the sophomore class should get their own line (yes, their own line) and first choice of seating by the sole merit of being sophomores? Students from other classes have already donated to the student scholarship fund- why is it that they have to wait? Indeed, considering that SPOT is an event run by students from all classes for students of all classes, why should anyone be given first pick on

seats? What about the students who show up hours before to wait on the chapel doors just to get a few second head-start before the rest of college shows up?

I'm calling upon the sophomore class to refuse the offer of priority seating and stand with their fellow students in the regular line. If you want to (if anyone from any class wants to) donate to the student scholarship fund, I encourage you to do so, but please, let it be because you genuinely want to help. Again, I call upon the class of 2013 to please accept the same treatment doled out to the rest of the students every year. We've all stood together in line for SPOT for years- let this, not unequal treatment, be our tradition.

*-Gordon Brown, Class of 2011*

## 2010-2011 STAR Staff

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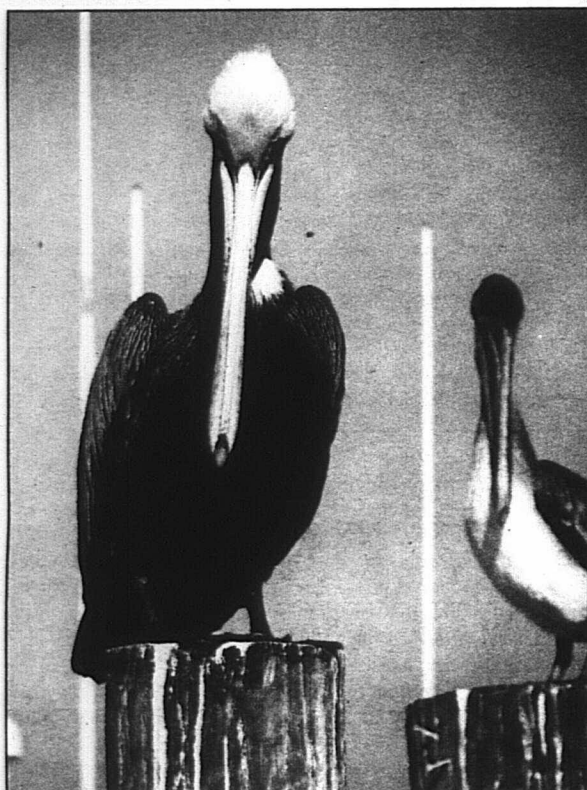
**Prof. Susan Bruxvoort**  
Lipscomb  
Advisor



# Jordan Green

## ARTIST of the WEEK

*A note from the artist:* I didn't realize my love for creating artwork until I came to college. Freshman year I took a Mayterm trip to Ethiopia and was designated to be the trip photographer, not because of any special artistic ability on my part, but simply because I had a decent camera! Needless to say, this newfound hobby turned into a passion that spread to other digital media. I have learned so much since changing my major to Communications and look forward to seeing how the Lord is going to use this in my future ministry.



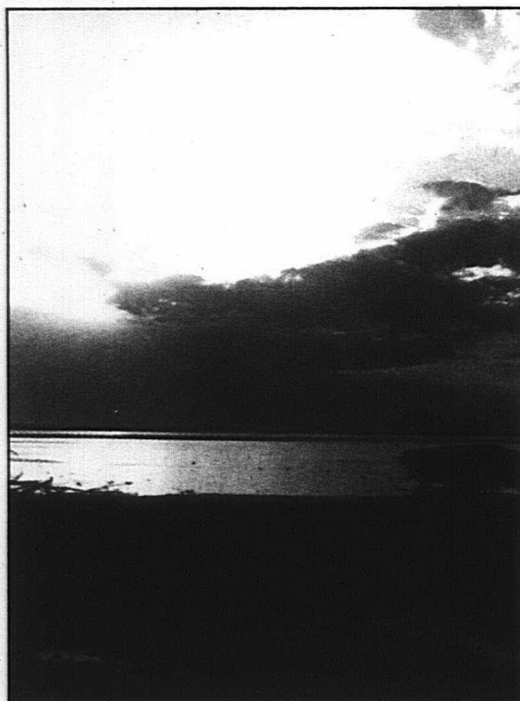
*The Stare, photo*



*Slow Down, digital image*



*Grace, photo*



*Lake Langano, Ethiopia, photo*

## sudoku CHALLENGE

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

Last week's winner of the Maze was Katie Phillips! Please come by the Star office to claim your prize.

### Surprise Prize!

Bring your finished sudoku to the Star office clearly marked with FULL NAME.