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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

THE HOUGHTON STAR

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Group Travels to Alabama to Partake in Three-Day Focus on Civil Rights Movement

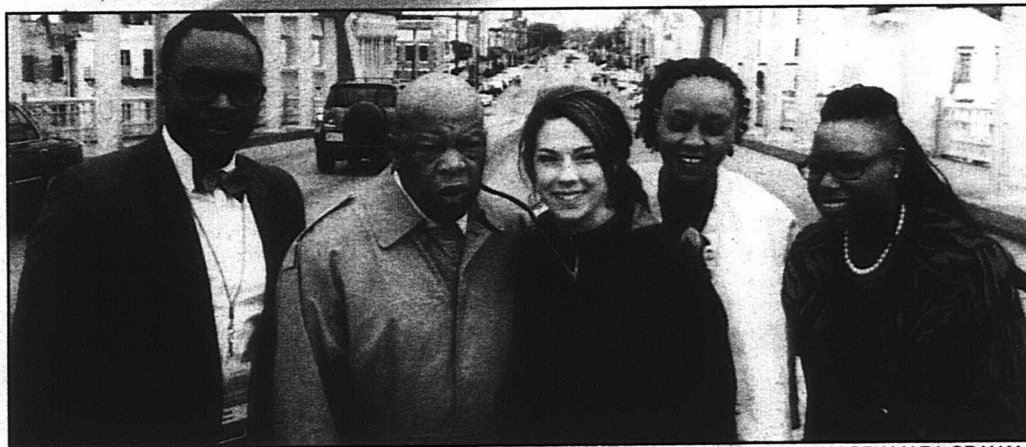


PHOTO COURTESY OF AMARA GRAHAM

Houghton students and Professor Kiiti stand with Congressman John Lewis during Civil Rights Pilgrimage in Alabama.

BY HANNAH JENNINGS

A small group of Houghton students, and a faculty and staff member attended the Faith and Politics Institute's eleventh annual Civil Rights Pilgrimage in Birmingham, Alabama. Professor Ndunge Kiiti, Vice President for Advancement Bob Van Wicklin, and students Amara Graham, Stan Gabriel, and Kaylin Bull, all participated in the trip, which provided the opportunity for a unique experience of important

American history.

Beginning March 4, during the three-day gathering, congressmen, Civil Rights advocates, and students journeyed from site to site, each of which held different historical importance in the American Civil Rights Movement. Speakers addressed the participants in places such as the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham; the First Baptist Church, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached; the Edmund Pettus Bridge; and the Rosa Parks Museum.

Participants interacted with Civil Rights advocates and members of Congress, such as John Lewis, Steny Hoyer, and Harry Reid. For Bull, the spiritual aspect of the commemoration was very evident, and recollections of the violence provided poignant testimonies of Christian involvement.

"This trip really demonstrated Scripture coming alive for me," she said. "The Civil Rights leaders

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Students Contemplate Issues of Hunger

BY ELIZABETH LARTER

On Tuesday, the steps of the Campus Center were temporarily transformed into a soup line. Standing out in the cold, a group of Houghton students had a Styrofoam bowl of simple chicken noodle soup and a piece of white bread served to them by members of the SGA. By signing up to participate in SGA's Current Event Day themed "What Does Hunger Mean to You?" students committed themselves to giving up their regular dinners in the dining hall for one night. Instead, they experienced the kind of meal typical of homeless shelters and soup kitchens. The cost of the cafeteria meals that were given up will be donated to the Buffalo City Mission.

The event stemmed from a student senate that was unanimously in favor

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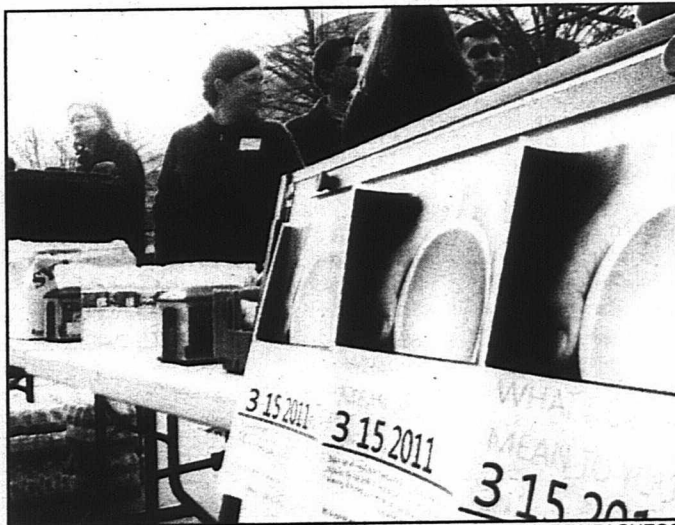


PHOTO BY ANDREA PACHECO

The SGA serves students bowls of chicken noodle soup and pieces of bread during Tuesday's event: "What Does Hunger Mean to You?"

Professors Granted Promotions

BY COLLEEN WHITE

At the recent Board of Trustees meeting, four Houghton professors were recognized for their valuable contributions to the college and were given promotions. Professor Jonathan Case, theology, was granted tenure and promoted to the rank of full professor. Professor Aaron Sullivan, biology, was also granted tenure and promoted to the rank of associate professor. Professor Peter Meilaender, political science, and Professor Laurie Dashnau, English and writing, who are already tenured faculty members, were both promoted to the rank of full professor.

Case, who has worked at Houghton for six years, said that his immediate reaction to finding out he had tenure was a relief, and he is now looking forward to getting a decent night's sleep. Case said that job security is high on the list of the best things about having tenure, but having the confidence of his colleagues is "hugely important."

"Acquiring tenure is like having someone say, 'We value your contribution enough to want to keep you around for a while,'" he said.

Sullivan has been teaching at Houghton for seven years and said that his immediate reaction to being tenured was one of relief, as well. He also felt a "sense of gratitude to the administration and to his colleagues for the vote of confidence and opportunity to serve at a place like Houghton."

Meilaender, who has taught in the Political Science Department for 10 years, is also pleased and relieved with his appointment to full professor. Dashnau is in her eleventh year teaching English and writing at Houghton and would like to thank her colleagues for being so student-centered in sharing new ideas, texts, assignments, and classroom activities; and her students for taking learning so seriously and making teaching a joy.

An occasional critique of the tenure system is that tenured professors lose the impetus to

Tenure cont'd on page 3

Engaging the World Republicans Face Mediocre Choice of Candidates

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

With only 10 months remaining until the Iowa Caucuses, not a single Republican Presidential Candidate has officially announced his or her candidacy. As many as 12 governors, senators, former senators, former ambassadors and business leaders have expressed interest in running or have been rumored to be interested in running. However, while many of the potential candidates could run a strong campaign, all have serious flaws making the ouster of the incumbent president, an already challenging task, all the more difficult.

Mitt Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts, is seen by many as the Republican frontrunner, but he is faced with two challenges. First, while governor of Massachusetts, he enacted a healthcare reform bill that actually went further than the controversial Obamacare bill passed last year. Because of the anger the conservative base feels towards President Obama and the disdain in which they hold Obamacare, Romneycare will act as an anchor weighing down a Romney candidacy. He is also faced with the problem of trust. Voters are unsure whether they trust the slick, savvy sounding businessman from the Northeast. Whether that is fair or not, it is a reality that Romney must face.

Mike Huckabee, the former governor of Arkansas and current Fox News host, had a strong showing in the 2008 primary, which was eventually won by John McCain. While this

former Baptist minister and Midwestern governor has a strong appeal with the Midwestern and evangelical voting blocks, his national appeal is uncertain at best, minimal at worst. His folksy charm does not play well in states like Florida, Wisconsin, and Michigan—all states in which Republicans must at least have a strong showing to compete in the 2012 election.

All of the other possible Republican candidates face similar challenges. Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty is seen as boring and fails to excite the base or attract Independents. Sarah Palin's shtick is aimed at radical Tea-Party members who make up a vocal but small portion of the electorate. Her plus-sized ego is better suited for TLC than a Republican primary. Congresswoman Michelle Bachmann continued to reduce herself to a punchline on Saturday by stating in New Hampshire: "you're the state where the shot was heard round the world at Lexington and Concord." Before considering a presidential run, she may want to have at least a basic grasp on American history and geography.

Former Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich is a strong leader and cunning politician but he has a reputation as being hyper-partisan and faces morality questions stemming from his multiple divorces and fairly public infidelity. Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour is a vocal leader on Conservative issues but faces geographic challenges as well as a background as a tobacco lobbyist. Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels is a strong fiscal leader who has balanced his state's budget in

tough financial times, but he is a policy wonk who comes off as insubstantial. He also faces the challenge of having been an economic advisor in the Bush Administration—not exactly a popular resume builder at this point.

The most compelling Republican candidate might actually be the one who has made it absolutely and unequivocally clear that he is not running—New Jersey Governor Chris Christie. Christie has become the golden boy of the Tea Party and the organized right alike with his strong stance on New Jersey's budgetary problems. He has gone after public sector unions, cutting wages and benefits in a responsible fashion. He has made it clear that sacrifices must be made by all so that benefits can continue into the future. Unfortunately, he has insisted over and over again that he will not run. While this is a promise that politicians have made before and broken, Christie seems intent on playing out the remainder of his terms as Governor of New Jersey.

While the Republican Presidential field is in a state of flux, what is certain is who the Democratic nominee will be—Barack Obama. As the Republicans battle over who is most conservative, who is most anti-Obama, and who is most capable of beating him, the incumbent president is able to gain strength and get his reelection campaign up and running. All this time spent waiting is time wasted for the Republicans, and it is time that is making the defeat of Barack Obama all the more difficult.

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of the idea and was met with largely positive reactions from those who participated.

Megan Specksgoor, sophomore and one of the students who participated, said that she would like to see more events that are as "effectual but relatively effortless" to participate in as this one. "It's a simple thing to give up a meal and have soup instead," she said. "But the impact is so much greater."

Although it's unlikely that Houghton students were unaware that there are people in our country who don't have enough to eat, this event was effective, because it gave students a way to help that wasn't just about giving money.

"I like the idea of giving up something other than just money," said Specksgoor.

This type of giving makes the sacrifice and the impact more concrete than just numbers of dollars. Physically giving up a meal for someone else to be able to have some makes the gift more personal.

"A lot of students are hesitant to give money because, let's face it, we're college students, but giving up one meal and having soup instead is something we can all do," said Specksgoor.

Students were also encouraged to participate in a voluntary "walk out," where they would stay out of buildings for as much of the night as possible, a small simulation of what it might feel like to be homeless. The rain put a damper on that aspect of the event, which may have brought more reality to the event, but the members of the student senate, joined by President Mullen for the Forum with the President, continued to hold the senate meeting outside in rows of folding chairs set up at the top of the chapel steps.

"What does Hunger Mean to You?" was as much about awareness as it was a fundraiser for the mission.

As freshman senator, Rebekah Howard pointed out, "we're living in New York State's poorest county," and yet we have "a pretty comfortable lifestyle" here at Houghton. For Howard, this event was a way to draw our attention to the fact that "if you come to Houghton, you're pretty privileged." Some Houghton students may not think about it often, but being able to go to college and have food to eat every day are luxuries. Howard's hopes for the event were that it would trigger students to continue to act on their own, and maybe that instead of focusing just on cities like Rochester or Buffalo, they might begin to "focus on our own county."

"As a college that puts so much focus on international problems and affairs, it's important to keep in mind the families that are struggling right in our own neighborhood," said Specksgoor.

When students gave up their meals this week they got a small taste of life without a meal plan, they shared with those less fortunate, and perhaps picked up a valuable life lesson in appreciating the complexity of others' life situations. ★

The World OUT There

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

Explosion at Japanese Power Plant Endangers Workers' Lives

After the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan last week, there was an explosion at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. Thousands living in the area have been evacuated from their homes because of the risk of radiation leaks. However, 180 workers have remained in the plant to attempt to battle the threat of a nuclear meltdown. These workers are risking their lives as continued exposure to the radiation leaking from the plant can cause serious damage to the body. U.S. Department of Energy official Robert Alvarez said: "the workers at this site are involved in a heroic endeavor." According to the World Health Organization, the average person is exposed to 3.0 millisieverts a year of radiation while these workers are being exposed to 400 millisieverts an hour.



Gadhafi Uses Airstrikes to Attack Rebel Strongholds

As the civil war continues in Libya, fighting has intensified in the rebel strongholds of Misrata and Ajdabiya. Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi has used airstrikes to attack such rebel strongholds, action that some have called a "cowardly, murderous attack." Gadhafi's troops are attempting to work their way across the country to Benghazi, which has become the headquarters of the rebel army. While they have been using air force fighters and rocket launchers to wage their attacks, the rebels are limited to using whatever weapons they are able to capture from Gadhafi's troops. The United Nations is set to consider imposing a no-fly zone over Libya, the first international action considered against Gadhafi.



Obama's Approval Rating Sees Decline

President Obama's approval rating, which has been holding fairly steadily in the mid to upper 50s has dropped to 50 percent according to the latest CNN poll. According to the survey, Obama's numbers have remained strong among men making more than \$50,000 a year, women and minorities. There has been a sharp decline, however, among men making less than \$50,000 a year and among independents. Since late January, support by men making less than \$50,000 a year has dropped 20 points to 39 percent and support by independents has dropped 11 points. However, by a 44 to 39 percent majority, respondents say they have more confidence in the president than in Congressional Republicans to deal with the major issues facing the country.



MLK Service Day: Students Set Out to Make a Difference

BY EMILY RINEHART

Tomorrow marks Houghton's seventh year of involvement with Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Service Day. This year's theme is "Putting the Dream in Action." Besides students, faculty and staff were also given the opportunity to sign up for one of the many service opportunities for charities and non-profit organizations located in both Allegany county and Buffalo.

One new feature of this year's MLK day is the myriad of service opportunities in Buffalo. Zachary Adams, SGA president, said that this is the "first year we've intentionally made contact with Wesley Corp members." Sophomore Hannah Jennings, executive assistant to the SGA cabinet, also helped to put together the Buffalo side of MLK day. According to Jennings, "all the places we're going to, have a Houghton connection somewhere."

The SGA cabinet recently took an "immersion tour" of Buffalo to explore the options, not only for MLK service day, but also for long-term service and experience. Because of the tour, service this year will stress



that this opportunity should make a difference, rather than providing more work for the organizations Houghton is going to serve. Jennings mentioned that afterwards, performance tests will be taken, and groups will be encouraged to "clean up your mess."

The SGA and Senate will be serving in Buffalo at the King's Center, a charter school where volunteers will spend the morning reading to students and the afternoon doing basic maintenance. Another

Buffalo site will allow students to get their hands dirty, preparing soil that will be used to grow organic food.

Bethany Josephs, SGA chaplain, worked on the Allegany County end of things. Josephs said that a goal was set for 100 volunteers and "thanks to all the student volunteers on Houghton's campus, it looks like we will be reaching that goal..." She reported three new sites in Allegany. One is the American Red Cross, which asked for students to

act in scenarios. The Wellsville Beautification Committee needs help whitewashing their planters, and volunteers to the Comfort House of Allegany County, which support terminally ill residents and their families, will be priming and painting.

Seniors Hillary Chartrand and John French have participated in past MLK service days. Chartrand said she enjoys the visible progress of physical service; seeing that she's "really helping people." French has participated in every MLK service day since his freshman year. French said, "I don't know why I do it, I have to get up at 8 a.m." but went on to say that it's a way for students to "interact with the community and give to the community." French expressed the great need in Allegany County, one of the poorest counties in New York. He also mentioned the need in Western New York as a general location. This year, as a senior class senator, French will join the SGA at the King's Center.

The goal for MLK Service Day 2011 is not only to "Put the Dream in Action," but also, said Jennings, keep us aware of the need.

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perform well in the classroom because their position is secured, or in Case's words: "Do you suppose I can get away with more Southpark, Trance music, and Mayan doomsday Web sites?"

Or to swing in the opposite direction and incite fear in the hearts of any student, Meilaender's tongue-in-cheek prediction was: "I'll probably start assigning a lot more reading."

In reality, none of these professors said they could foresee any major changes happening to their teaching style as a result of tenure.

"I want to engage students in the course, so I'm always looking for ways to connect with students in a meaningful way and to motivate," said Sullivan. "But that is something that I'd be doing regardless of tenure, because I really want to share my excitement or interest in different aspects of biology. We study 'life' after all. How can you not be excited about that?"

Professors with a passion for their subject matter, as in these examples, are what make the Houghton faculty members stand out, and the long-term commitment of Case, Sullivan, Meilaender, and Dashnau to their academic disciplines and to their students is worthy of recognition. ★

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demonstrated Christ like I've never seen before. It's one thing to read about something like the Civil Rights movement and another to talk to the people who were involved in it one-on-one"

Similarly, Graham, who is co-president of the Heritage Club, noted the powerfulness of the experience.

"I saw a people who recognize where they've come from, and they have hope. You could feel the spirituality," she said.

"People don't realize how much the Civil Rights movement was based in the church; the church has always been a focal point," said Van Wicklin.

Kiiti was especially moved by the message of justice emphasized throughout the event.

"We need to educate ourselves and be aware of what the issues and injustices are within society," she said. "Then, guided and driven by our faith, we need to take action. That, to me was one of the most reinforced messages during the pilgrimage."

Houghton has a historical connection with the Faith and Politics Institute through Van Wicklin, who has been a board member for several years after previously holding a position as a staff member. The Faith and Politics Institute is an inter-faith



PHOTO COURTESY OF NDUNGE KIITI

Students share a meal with Congressman Lewis. The conference was meant to be educational for members of Congress and also for the college generation.

organization that works with Congress to challenge members to look at issues through the lens of faith in order to foster civility. The pilgrimage is meant to be an educational one for the members of Congress, as well as for the younger generation of students involved. Although it is not a Christian organization, a Christian leads it with Jews, Muslims, and several denominations represented on the board.

"The Institute is more about

finding common ground than the differences in faith," said Van Wicklin.

Ultimately, the Civil Rights Pilgrimage "gave us a deeper look into history from the eyes of those who fought in the Civil Rights movement," said Graham. "I realized how much I did not know. It was important for coming to the understanding that this is my history and my past. I have the responsibility of sharing that." ★

Spring Shakespeare Production: Comedy for Comedy's Sake



PHOTO BY DANIEL PIEXOTO

Seniors Eric Carey and Audrey Kushnikov reinvent age-old characters in *"The Merry Wives of Windsor"*.

BY ADAM KNEELAND

This weekend the Houghton College Shakespeare Players are performing the Bard's comedy, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Directed by junior, Elizabeth Engelberth and senior, Sharon Lampman, the play promises to be full of energy and hilarious slapstick situations.

The play follows Falstaff, an old knight who is "lacking some dough," said Engelberth.

"[Falstaff] comes up with this plan that he's going to woo two of the richest wives in town. Unfortunately for him, the wives are both honest and they're also best friends," Engelberth said that the pair is

followed by jealous husbands, a random duel, and some attempted strangulation.

"Honestly, it's not deep," Engelberth said. "It's just a lot of snappy fun. I really think that this particular array of characters is one of the best groups of characters in a comedy, in how they bounce off each other."

Senior Eric Carey, playing the lead role of Falstaff, agrees.

"[It's] pretty much comedy for comedy's sake. It's a study in ridiculousness. You can't take any of the characters really seriously. It's just a fun story, a fun romp."

This play is a first for several of the crew. This is Engelberth's first time directing. This play presented a few challenges,

including several necessary cuts.

"We probably cut at least a third of the play," she explained, admitting that "there were some parts that we read that we said were totally lame," including Latin jokes. The directors tried to keep to the core stories, about the two wives and Falstaff, and cut the play down to about an hour and a half running time.

Engelberth said that one of her favorite parts of direction has been seeing her advice help the actors.

"That's always a nice feeling," she said. But she added "it's even more gratifying when the actors come in and basically are their characters. We've had a lot of that this play."

For Carey, this play marks his first foray into the acting world. "Before this I've done primarily directing. This is the first time I've acted on stage in a main role."

Carey said that after seeing *Henry IV*, which features the character of Falstaff played by Roger Allam, at the Globe Theater in London last year, he was inspired by the impressive performance. At first he tried to bring some of his observations about the *Henry IV* Falstaff to this play.

"[Allam] is being hailed as one of the best actors to have played that part," he explained. But, after trying to draw on Allam's interpretation for inspiration, Carey added, "I quickly realized that that doesn't work. [In *Merry Wives*,] there's less standing around and using your wit, and more goofiness in physical interactions. It was a slightly different character than I expected."

Carey said that one of the biggest challenges has been "figuring out how to

act like a 50 year old, 400 pound man."

Junior Hannah Carter, who has been in every Shakespeare production in her time at Houghton except one, plays Sir Hugh, a "pompous, self-justified busy-body." Carter said that a challenge and a favorite part of this production has been "figuring out my accent."

"Shakespeare's writing is so odd," she said. "He writes [accents] in there, and you're reading, asking, 'what accent is this supposed to be?'"

The energy among the actors was evident at Monday night's rehearsal. At one point during the evening, Engelberth even had to warn her actors, "Don't overdo it," when Carey's excitement caused a coughing fit.

Despite the fact that five of the actors were involved in the Musical Review, Engelberth said that the play preparation has gone very well.

"I'm very impressed with how they've juggled different [responsibilities]. They've all done a really good job."

Carey said that audiences will enjoy the physical comedy.

Carter added, "Pretty much everyone gets laughed at. ... [Our acting] is supposed to be hammed up."

Engelberth said, "audiences will definitely enjoy the rambunctious humor and energy in this play. I think that it would just be a really good way to relax and unwind. People should definitely come see it."

The show continues tonight at 8 p.m. and tomorrow for a 3 p.m. matinee. Tickets are \$3 and may be purchased during mealtimes and at the door. ★

Student Exhibit Showcases Talent Across Majors and Classes

BY MEGAN SPECKSGOOR

As anticipated, the opening reception of the 22nd annual Student Juried Art Exhibition held last Saturday, March 12 ran smoothly and was both successful and well-attended. Students roamed eagerly around the room scanning walls and pedestals for artwork designed by their friends, congratulated those who were recognized for their achievements, and enjoyed refreshments and the general atmosphere of artistic merriment.

Freshman art major Atalie Fite was among the select honorees of the night as the recipient of the Alumni Award (second place) for her pencil drawing entitled *Figures at Sunset*. "It was encouraging that it won because it took months of work," said Fite, admitting that she was not sure at first which piece to select, but that with a little help from the professors and her own intuition that this was one of her "best pieces," she eventually settled on the drawing.

"I didn't even know what it was about," she said, referring to her preconceptions of the show, but upon viewing the work of her fellow students and classmates she stated that "there are so many pieces that are really incredible. It was inspiring and exciting to see other people's expression and ideas." Fite said she personally felt inspired and encouraged as an artist and hoped that the exhibition was "refreshing to everyone who took some time to look." Fite plans on continuing to submit her work in the coming years, because the show as a whole is "simply fun."

Sally Murphy, a senior art major with a concentration in bookmaking, is a veteran to the presentation scene. This is her third consecutive year submitting work to the show and her third time being awarded for one of her pieces. Out of her three handmade books and two prints on display, her book entitled "Grandma's House" was granted the Purchase Award and will be admitted into the college's official art collection. Murphy made her submission selections by weeding out the "things that [she] liked," but that "didn't fit into [her] senior show." She said she was impressed by the extensive variety of the work exhibited this year, from wood work to stone to her forte, handcrafted books. Murphy also praised Director of Exhibitions Meagan Luhrs for doing such an "awesome job" integrating the mixed media in her arrangement of the artwork.

"It takes talent to hang a show and make it look good," said Murphy. In addition, she affirmed the accomplishments of the other award recipients by saying that each was "long-deserved." Murphy commented on the talent present at Houghton by saying, "As a small, isolated school we have a tendency to think we're not as good [as larger universities,] but shows like this one make it clear that 'we can contend.'" Overall Murphy is content with the results of her last annual Student Juried Art Exhibition at Houghton and is comforted to know that her work will linger even after she pursues a career elsewhere.

Concentrating in ceramics and painting, senior Marc LeMaire is also an accredited artist and an experienced presenter of his

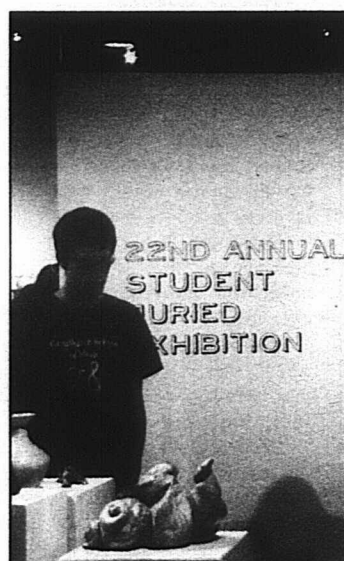


PHOTO BY ANDREA PACHECO

Student work will remain in the Ortlip Gallery through Wed., Apr. 13.

craft. LeMaire has submitted work to all four annual Student Juried Art Exhibitions in his college career and received both the second place prize last year for a ceramic vessel and the Ortlip Award (Best in Show) this year for his table set entitled "Tea Party." Along with this ceramic set four other pieces of the potter's work are being displayed in the show, including a watercolor painting. LeMaire noted the impressive versatility of the show by saying that there are significantly more

three-dimensional pieces present this year than in past years and that in general the current show has a diverse selection of higher quality.

"It's a good opportunity for students in other departments to get involved," said LeMaire, "There's talent outside [the art department,] that's for sure."

Overall, LeMaire commented that the show is "encouraging as an artist," because sometimes when it is "hard to get motivation...even just to get something into a show can be uplifting."

In addition to these three award winners, several other artists were recognized for their work. Acquisition Purchase Awards were presented to junior Greg Antonow for his digital photograph, "Untitled", sophomore Marcia Watson for her butternut wood sculpture, "Stella Danza", and junior Monica Lord for her collograph, "Like Pouring a Pitcher of Water". Senior Audrey Miller won the Roselyn and Robert Danner Honorable Mention Award for her stoneware piece, "When an Apple Falls in the Forest", and senior Emily Colombo secured the Java 101 Honorable Mention Award for her handmade book, "Don't Count Them Before They Hatch". The Ben Moss Award (third place) went to senior Kendra Inglis for her oil painting, "Rain Light", the Paul Maxwell Memorial Award was given to Megan Little for her etching, "Memory is Cluttered So I Live in the Moment", and the Presidential Purchase award was received by junior Hannah Yanega for her photo etching entitled "Melancholic Fall". ★

Two-Part Book Review:

"Decision Points": The Bush Presidency in Retrospect

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

Bushitler, Cowboy Hitlerstein, Bushollini, Darth Moron and the simple, yet ever popular, Liar-in-Chief, are just a few of the terms that have been used to describe our 43rd President, George W. Bush. Political memoirs are often used as a self-aggrandizing attempt to "set the record straight" by outlining achievements and defending controversial actions. While President Bush's Memoir, "Decision Points", is a defense of his presidency and his personal achievements, the picture one sees of George Bush the man is that of a devoted husband and father, a committed public servant, and a dedicated commander-in-chief.

Former President Bush organized the book with each chapter outlining a major decision point in his life and presidency beginning with what he sees as the most important decision he ever made: getting sober. He recounts a story in which, while in his mid-thirties, he attended a dinner party hosted by his parents, George and Barbara Bush. After a few drinks, he "turned to a beautiful friend of Mother and Dad's and asked a boozy question: 'So, what is sex like after 50?'" After the buzz wore off and he realized the effect that alcohol had on his personality, he quit drinking that day, cold turkey. In a stunning example of the confluence of certain events, President Bush comments that "There's no way to know where my life would have headed if I hadn't made the decision to quit drinking. But I am certain that I would not be recording these thoughts as a former governor of Texas and president of the United States."

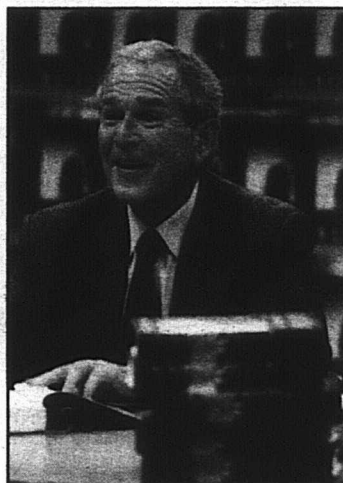


Photo courtesy of www.tehrantimes.com

His discussion of his presidency, one that can easily be described as the most controversial since that of Richard Nixon, includes his thought processes on 9/11, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, stem cell research, tax cuts, prescription drug coverage, and social security reform, among others. As governor of Texas, George Bush had been a leader who focused on social and economic issues such as education, tort reform and tax cuts. As a presidential candidate, he campaigned on these issues and hoped to become a new kind of Republican president. But all that changed on September 11, 2001, the "Day of Fire," when the United States endured the largest enemy attack on American soil in its history. Immediately, Bush, who had campaigned on the idea of "Compassionate Conservatism," became a war-time President.

As he recounts the events of Sept. 11, the sadness and the anger of that day are palpable. He stated that, "my blood was boiling. We were going to find out who did this, and kick their [butt]." From his notification of the attacks, sitting in front of a classroom full of children, to his order that unidentified planes could be shot down, to his speech to the nation that night, President Bush, who had only been in office 8 months, was presented with the most difficult set of circumstances any president had faced since FDR.

After learning that the attacks on Sept. 11 had been orchestrated by al Qaeda under the leadership of Osama bin Laden, President Bush ordered an invasion of Afghanistan. This was the beginning of an extended campaign by the United States in the Middle East. While there was strong support in Congress and among the American people for the invasion of Afghanistan – support that continued throughout the war – the campaign to oust Saddam Hussein from Iraq has not maintained such support.

President Bush spends a good portion of the chapter on the Iraq war defending his administration's efforts. He describes the actions of Saddam Hussein, such as murdering tens of thousands of his own people and shooting at American planes on a daily basis. He explains the compelling intelligence reports that detailed Iraq's weapons program, which included research and development for weapons of mass destruction and stockpiles of such weapons. While he does admit that some of the intelligence was wrong and the stockpiles of weapons did not actually exist, he stands by the invasion of Iraq saying "as a result of our actions in Iraq,

one of America's most committed and dangerous enemies stopped threatening us forever."

While this is a valid point, the fact remains that the main rationale for America's invasion of Iraq – the existence of weapons of mass destruction – turned out to be false and the lives of thousands of American troops have been lost in a war based on this falsehood. While time will tell whether the war in Iraq was the right decision, the costliness of the war in terms of loss of life and economic factors is current and evident.

While some have claimed that President Bush lied so that we could invade Iraq and some have even gone so far as to say that he should be charged for war crimes, I do not believe either is true. I think the war in Iraq was a mistake, but it was a mistake based on a desire to do good, to free the Iraqi citizens from the brutal dictatorship of Saddam Hussein and to prevent future attacks on the United States. "Decision Points" may not have succeeded in silencing his critics, but it did succeed in showing the American people that President Bush was a man who understood the cost of war and did not take that lightly. He was a man who cared deeply about our troops and who attempted at all times to act in the best interest of the United States. No President is perfect, and only future generations will be able to judge the Bush Presidency in its entirety; but "Decision Points" reflects the picture of a President who was a dedicated public servant and a patriot, and what more can we ask of a commander-in-chief? ★

A New Frame of Mind:

Is That Your Final Answer?: Regret for Paths Not Taken

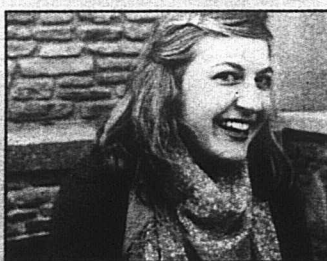


PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY ERIN CARR

Featured recently on the cover of Newsweek was an article entitled "I Can't Think!: The Science of Decision Making", which circled the idea that more than ever before, Western society is suffering from information overload due to the ubiquity of technology in our lives. Not simply another complaint about the decline of humankind as a result of too much Internet access or too many TV shows, writer Sharon Begley nails the sentiment that I (and, presumably, others too) have been experiencing since high school: that with so much second-by-second input via technological devices and media

sources, the anxiety we face in making even the most mundane decisions can be debilitating.

It's like those "Goosebumps" books from the '90s that let kids play protagonist and call the shots throughout the story. The series was always unnerving – not because of the grisly death by werewolf inevitably awaiting me as I read my way through various scenarios, but because I knew I would never have enough time to investigate every combination of decisions possible. It wasn't even that I wanted to survive every catastrophe R. L. Stein could throw at me – I just wanted to be aware of my options. To "finish" a book with such a large amount of it remaining unknown was frustrating to my 8-year-old mind.

Neurotic tendencies aside, the sense that we may never be able to make the "correct" decision with the infinite amount of options presented to us, or ever be aware of all our options at that, is now especially prevalent. The ability to feel content in one's situation is lessened with the knowledge of paths not taken – what could be, but is not.

"The more information we try to assimilate, the more we tend to regret the many forgone options," Begley writes.

She cites a 2006 study conducted by Columbia University's Sheena Iyengar in which Iyengar and colleagues analyzed college students' job searches. The more informed the students were about their career options, the less satisfied they were with their choices.

"In a world of limitless information, regret over the decisions we make becomes more common. We chafe at the fact that identifying the best feels impossible," Begley concludes.

This sensibility is of course visible in inconsequential situations, such as ordering the right coffee in a fast-paced line or shopping for the best pair of jeans, as well as life-changing ones. It is this thinking that causes paralysis, inability to contend with monumental choices, in high stakes issues like college applications, career hunting, finances, etc.

The need to feel like one has made the best decision with the most informed opinions is especially acute in the context of a generation already so prone to a guarded, cynical outlook. We have been socialized never to appear overly-eager, but detached and critical: Whatever you do, don't let on that you care; don't invest yourself in any one idea or outlet that

could make you appear foolish to your peers or uneducated to your superiors. Furthermore, students at liberal arts institutions find themselves trained to tackle the world with a critical eye – to question every theory and assumption within the assigned text and outside experience.

I have encountered a range of responses (defense mechanisms?) to this predicament from peers in and outside the classroom (books, films, music, political views – none of these topics are exempt where personal preference comes into play): from an overly opinionated sense of self-assurance to self-effacing timidity.

The question is, when do we stop questioning ourselves? Is contentment with one's choices possible in the face of constant doubt and critique? At some point, we will have to cut the comparisons and define our own sense of success. Perhaps this struggle is an inextricable element of adulthood – freshly presenting itself to a generation of emerging twenty-somethings, and unique in light of current conditions, but one that every generation must face nonetheless.

Focusing on Exteriors While Ignoring Substance



PHOTO BY ANDREA PACHECO

BY ED LINNECKE

Here at Houghton it is quite common to see people pause before they eat to say a quick prayer. In fact, I suspect it is the minority that excludes this moment of reflection before they eat (as would be expected at a Christian College). But as of recently I have begun to notice another phenomenon in the cafeteria: throwing away a large portion of one's food. I realize that the wasting of food is quite common in this part of the world, and many of you may be thinking me rather dense for noticing it just now.

Now, it isn't that either one of these phenomena is unusual in themselves, but together they seem absolutely absurd. Why would one make the effort to pray before a meal without accompanying that prayer with an effort to deem the

food with better treatment than a trip to the garbage? A typical prayer said before a meal centers around a thanksgiving for that meal, among many other things. Now imagine getting a gift from a loved one, thanking that person, and 30 minutes later throwing that gift away, unused, right before their eyes.

I believe that most of us would be considerate enough to avoid any circumstances similar to the hypothetical one above, but is it really all that different from throwing away your food after you have said a prayer of thanksgiving over it?

My point is not to raise awareness about the evils of wasting food, though I do find that to be an important topic. I am writing because I see this asynchronous situation as analogous to a dangerous trend that pervades much of American Christianity. We act as though we have lost the logical connection between erecting the exterior of Christianity (say-

ing a prayer of thanksgiving), and filling that exterior with genuine substance (actually BEING thankful for your food and refraining from wasting it).

Criteria for our action can be helpful, but only when filled with genuine Christian substance

What I call Christian "exteriors" come in many varieties; some of them common to Houghton would include attending Church weekly, refraining from alcohol, no sexual promiscuity, etc. Criteria for our action can indeed be quite helpful, but only when filled with genuine Christian substance.

By genuine Christian substance I mean leading a loving lifestyle: providing an example of Christ's love for those around you and observing the spirit of the law as well as the letter of it. Without genuine Christian substance, what is supposed to be the rich Body of Christ becomes a mere shell with nothing inside of it.

Now, neither substance nor exterior can stand on its own. I think many American Christians would readily agree with

half of this - that being loving is not worthwhile if we are never willing to get up for church or say a prayer. The problem is that far too few stop to realize that getting up for Church or saying a prayer is not worthwhile if we are never willing to love.

The danger is when we deem the exteriors of Christianity to have intrinsic value. We make sure that we refrain from all alcoholic beverages, only watch appropriate movies, and fill our iPods with Christian music, and believe that these things are ends in themselves. It is when we forget that these measures are means to an end - the end of fostering a loving relationship with God and one another - that Christianity becomes narrow minded and foolish.

To pray for food without eating it, to attend Church while remaining cold-hearted, to abstain from alcoholic beverages while passing judgment on those who do not, is simply cleaning the outside of our cups while leaving the insides full of greed and wickedness. (Luke 11:39)

Ed is a sophomore Philosophy major

The Penultimate Word

In Defense of Gender Inclusive Language



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY ELISA SHEARER

I used to not care about gender exclusive language at all. I would get a little annoyed when people pushed for gender inclusive language - switching pronouns was confusing, "he/she" was unattractive, "he or she" was cumbersome to the eye, etc. I said that I wanted an equal paycheck before I would ever care about pronouns.

Then, I was at a college art show reading an artist's statement describing how the artist intended the viewer to experience his painting. He used only female pronouns. I read it and felt, for the first time in my life, included into the default. Included into the hypothetical viewer. When I read hypothetical male-only pronouns, I understand intellectually that the writing is referring to any hypothetical person. But when I read the artist's statement with female pronouns, for the first time I felt like it could be talking about me.

One of my friends and I had a long discussion about this topic. He had just used the word "man" to refer to all people, and I asked him to use gender inclusive language if he was in fact including both genders in his statement - to which he responded that he never really paid attention to such admonish-

ments of gender exclusivity (exclusiveness?) because even though he was saying the word "man", he meant "all people". We had a long discussion, and part of what I told him about was my own experience with how much gender exclusive language affects the experience and thought of the reader, regardless of the intent behind the exclusive words. I also mentioned that in academia, gender exclusive language is not longer considered acceptable in published works at all. Because of that point, he stated that he would try to change his language because I had made a good case about how it can offend women and make them feel excluded from things that are supposedly referring to all people.

And I told him that that wasn't enough for me. Yes, I think it's fine to change one's language to gender inclusive because one earnestly wants to avoid offending people, but I didn't call him out just because his language offended me; I called him out because he was speaking inaccurately. I think that most people will eventually change their language because gender exclusivity will continue to be considered more and more offensive, and therefore less acceptable in more and more social circles. But if that was the only reason that anyone ever changed the way they spoke, then nothing would have ever changed.

During the conversation, one of my other friends pointed out to me that women's rights (from a USA point of view) have come a huge way in just the 90 years since the suffrage movement. Sure. I am grateful for the rights I have, especially the rights that I wouldn't have had just a century ago.

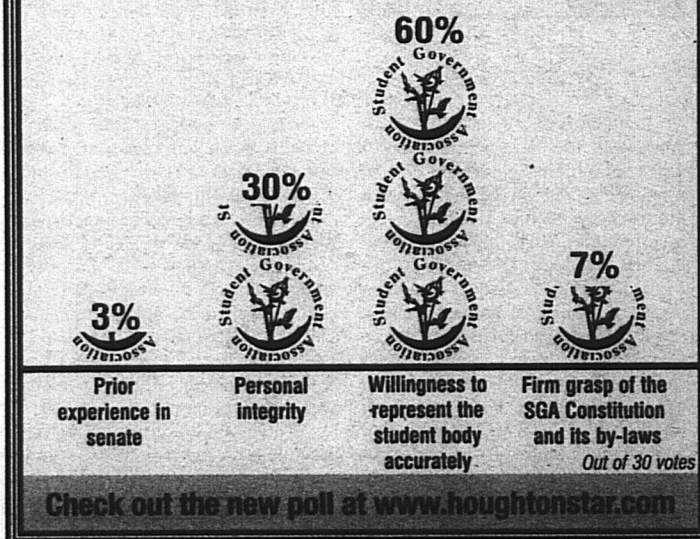
But I'm not calling you out on gender-exclusive language because I'm upset about society being unfair - I'm calling you out because you're being inaccurate.

I'm not insisting that all of society change right now - I'm insisting that individuals that I speak to speak accurately, and refrain from saying that they "mean" men and women when they only say the word for men. Because you can't get past that. No matter what you say the words "man" or "he" etc. mean when you say them, you cannot get past the fact that the

words themselves are referring to males only. Speaking with gender inclusive language isn't something you owe to women or hippies or those annoying there-are-no-differences-between-men-and-women-at-all people; it's something you will want to do if you have any desire to communicate accurately.

Elisa is a junior Psychology and English major

What qualities are most important in electing the members of the SGA Executive Cabinet?



From the Editor's Desk

It's a Pivotal Day in the Neighborhood



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY MONICA SANDRECZKI

It's 10:00 on a Saturday morning and you plod down the stairs from your bedroom into the living room to find a bowl of Waffle Crisp and some Nesquik. Your mom is sipping a cup of coffee and slowly turns up the radio, and you hear, saturated in a thick Bostonian accent: "I saw a Gallup poll recently about the least trusted professions in America; car salespeople took their normal place behind muggers, but car repairmen came out just ahead of Nigerian e-mail scammers!" Car Talk. It's been a staple to the ears of many an American household with a Dad who remotely thinks that he could try his hand at changing the oil in the family's Sienna. Click and Clack

have been riding the airwaves of NPR since 1977, but with a recent swing from the House of Representatives, axing funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), the Tappet brothers might be taking an exit.

The House voted 235-189 in mid-February to cut spending for the rest of the fiscal year, but is currently awaiting a vote from the Senate. This could mean that funding for "In Between the Lions" and "The News Hour with Jim Lehrer" could plummet; even though CPB only costs about \$1.35 per person per year. Because it's funded by taxpayers, programming isn't tossed about by the whims of advertisers and isn't as subject to the conflicts of interest keeping it as neutral as possible, while still urging listeners to think and consider. Many of the programs are local and relevant discussing issues of local interest that you and your neighbors can discuss and relate to.

In 1969, Fred Rogers, our favorite zip-up cardigan wearing, Keds-sporting friendly man in the neighborhood went before Congress to ask for funding for public broadcasting, when then-president Nixon was trying to cut funding dramatically. He won.

Thanks to him, Public Broadcasting carried Generation X and the Millennials through elementary school via educational programming of shows like "Arthur" and "Bill Nye the Science Guy". We fondly think back to these programs, and exchange stories at lunch about pretending to pull into Shining Time Station as a bright-eyed four year old, recognizing how these public programs truly shaped each person's childhood. It taught us letters and numbers, the aspects of interpersonal and how to interact with our peers, and moistened our palettes for literature. I distinctly remember half-walking-half-running home from school every day to see if Wishbone would be bedecked in toga and laurel leaves as Hercules or would be making a deal with Satan as Faust.

But, we all grew up and left those days behind whether we like it or not. And even though we have to forgive CPB for leaving us hanging as teenagers so we wasted time watching "The OC", they've invited us back in. It's not just your mom's NPR anymore, it's ours. It's relevant, it's informative, it's trustworthy. It's also commercial-free which, is especially of interest to the perhaps small, but distinct minority

at Houghton that has begun to raise their children in brand-free environments.

From the movie critics, to Talk of the Nation, NPR has welcomed us into adulthood, trying to provide as objective a news source as we are able to get. It has been criticized by the conservative right as being part of the "liberal media" and mocked by Stephen Colbert as being filled with essays by L.L. Bean wearing New Englanders, but without public broadcasting, we would be forced to succumb to the private news of Rush Limbaugh, Keith Olbermann, and Matt Drudge.

Fred Rogers said, "We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes." Mr. Rogers defended us, and now it's time to do the same for him.

Monica is a junior Intercultural Studies and French major

From the Archives

From the 1972-1973 volume
of The Star

Houghton College
Considers Sports
Scholarship Proposal

Many questions arise when a school considers giving athletic scholarships. In Houghton's case, the PCAX (Private College Athletic Conference) limits the amount to be used for these scholarships to the equivalent of six full-ride scholarships.

With this limitation comes a problem of distribution. Would scholarships be given to girl athletes as well as to boys? What sports would we concentrate on? Would we give scholarships to present athletes as well as to prospects? If so, who would get these and would this issue cause strife among teammates? If we did give a great number of scholarships, would the amount of an individual scholarship be enough to entice any high caliber player after all? How would we scout? Another question raised has been; why athletic scholarships and not debate, speech, drama or music?

There is also the matter of pressure. Would a person receiving a scholarship be under undue stress to "perform?" ("What are we paying him for anyway?") Also, would professors of scholarship athletes feel pressured to give them the grades needed to retain eligibility even though they

didn't earn them?

Maybe we should step back and take a look at the purpose of athletics in a Christian college. Should our major objective be to win or to give students a chance to fulfill themselves in an area apart from academics. [sic] Shouldn't interscholastic athletics be a way of allowing more present students to participate, rather than showing off our ability to bring in athletes to do the job for us? Should the desire to win be carried to the extent of firing coaches because the record isn't good enough with little regard for their Christian influence on campus?

One of the reasons often cited for scholarships is that a winning team inspires greater student interest and unity. Might not more student interest be generated by bringing home games back to Houghton where those without cars can attend them? Though conditions might be crowded, there's always the morale factor of a packed gym in contrast to half-filled stands.

There are many questions around the subject of athletic scholarships, many without easy answers. Would we be able to raise enough money and keep it coming yearly? The whole issue lies under a large question mark. We might do better to make sure we've done everything short of this to improve our sports program by giving our teams the support they deserve.

-Stephen Paine, November 17, 1972

A Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

These are strange times, frightening and exciting, but never simple. The psychopathic president of Uganda has

gone on a rampage, the endless incident-reprisal cycle goes on and on in the Middle East, and Richard Nixon is talking peace while making war. And all is not well at Houghton.

A sense of bizarre comedy pervaded Wesley Chapel last week as Houghton women viewed dramatic presentations of "yes outfits" and "no outfits," and had proper sign-out procedures and lounge behavior indelibly impressed upon their minds. Meanwhile, Houghton men run about with very few restrictions, personally or collectively. It just doesn't seem fair, although I hesitate to suggest an equalization of the rules, according to The Present Doctrine, that would be accomplished by cracking down on the men. So what do we do?

What does all of this have to do

with The Houghton Star? It is our purpose to inform you of such campus and world event, attempting to be basically fair and rational in our assessments, and balanced in our reporting. But you must remember one thing - we are just learners, amateurs in the field of journalism, so we need your help, patience and prayer. We covet your suggestions, and ask that you read the Star to constructively criticize its content - and then tell us what you think, preferably in writing. We are here to serve you, so you must tell us if we are losing sight of that goal.

-Stephen A. Woolsey, September 22, 1972

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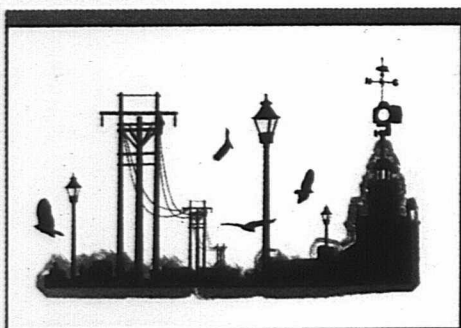
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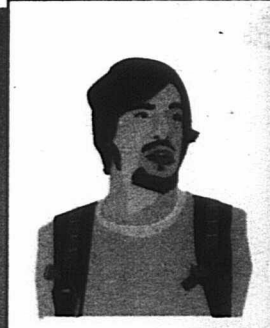
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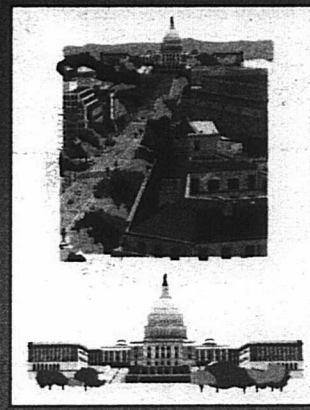
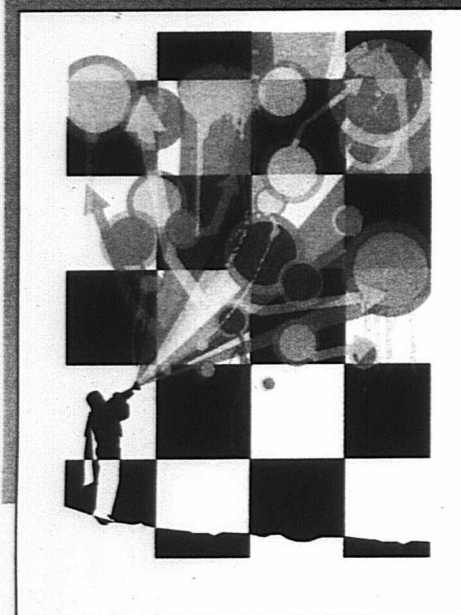
Prof. Susan Bruxvoort
Lipscomb
Advisor



Works untitled, graphic art.



ARTIST of the WEEK nate janney



Sudoku solution for 3/11:

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

Crossword Puzzle: *At the Movies*

ACROSS

1. A street of small shops
6. *Part of Rocky's arsenal
9. *Object of Frodo's obsession
13. Apart
14. *Ice ____
15. It's plucked to foretell love
16. Move very quickly
17. *"Apocalypse Now" takes place during the Vietnam one
18. City in Belgium
19. *"The ____," starring Peter Falk and Alan Arkin
21. *It starred Hoffman and Cruise
23. "To and ____"
24. Ancient Greeks' harp
25. Munchhausen's story
28. *The first Bond movie
30. *He went against Kramer
35. At the top
37. Male children
39. Richard Nixon's VP
40. Level or dismantle
41. One of 10 on humans
43. "Layla" performer
44. *It starred Denzel Washington and is set during Civil War
46. Generic name for dog
47. *"____ the Halls," starring DeVito and Broderick
48. "The world is your ____"
50. Salamander
52. Timid or unsure
53. Slang for heroin
55. Long time
57. *Cult film involving repossessing cars
61. Type of wool
64. AKA dropsy
65. "____ and feather"
67. Used for breathing, but not by humans

69. *"17 ____," starring Efron and Perry
70. Egyptian god of air
71. Relating to uvea of the eye
72. Go from solid to liquid
73. Type of sweet potato
74. Chatty or full of news

DOWN

1. As opposed to Bachelor of Science degrees
2. Reproductive structures
3. Land of Israel
4. WWII villain
5. Slow the growth of
6. *It featured the line, "You're gonna need a bigger boat."
7. Turkish military leader
8. Rocker Chuck
9. Seabiscuit control
10. One on a list
11. Indian ethnic group
12. Mountain valley
15. Tool used for gripping
20. *"It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad ____"
22. *Indiana Jones saved it from raiders
24. *"Gas Food ____"
25. *It featured the line, "And I guess that was your accomplice in the wood chipper."
26. *"Eat Pray Love" locale
27. Goofballs
29. Another spelling for #56 Down
31. Imitated
32. Bogs down or gets stuck
33. Another spelling for Eric
34. *He famously called out to Adrian
36. ____ Plus shampoo
38. *"Boys on the ____" with Goldberg, Barrymore and Parker
42. Thrown to give up

45. Stooze
49. Consumer electronics maker
51. *It featured the line, "I feel the need...the need for speed!"
54. Antonym of calm
56. Showing lack of guile or experience
57. Paper unit
58. *"The Razor's ____"
59. Loud ringing of bells or laughter
60. Leave out
61. Starch from cuckoo pint root
62. Ball of yarn
63. Exclamation for unfortunately
66. American Heart Association
68. *Stallone's nickname

To win a prize, bring your finished crossword puzzle to the STAR office clearly marked with full name.

