

SENIOR ART SHOW | CULTURE, P. 4

# the houghton STAR

Houghton College's Student Newspaper Since 1909

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## Commencement Nears, Seniors Bid Farewell

by RENEE ROBERTS

Professor Ndunge Kiiti, intercultural studies, and theologian Richard Foster will be speaking at this year's baccalaureate and commencement, respectively.

Foster is best known for his ground-breaking book "Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth" which, according to President Mullen, "made a major impact on the last 50 years of Christianity by reintroducing to Protestants the spiritual disciplines that had so often in the Protestant tradition been associated primarily with pre-Reformation Christianity."

Mullen met Foster at a presidents' conference over a year ago and believed him to be the kind of person who should speak at a Houghton commencement. She asked if he would consider it, and he immediately agreed. Mullen said Foster "is one model of the kind of authentic Christian living that we hope will inspire each of our graduates as they take the next step after Houghton." Mullen is confident of his positive reception at Houghton because his "authentic spirit is contagious and compelling." She said, "our graduates will appreciate his spirit and his courage to be the person that God has called him to be -- even when that means taking a different course than one's culture."

Once Foster is done speaking, the seniors will pack up in head out into the "real world." Chris Way, for example, is following in the footsteps of previous Houghton grads and working with Wesley Service/Americorps in Buffalo. He said he is most "looking forward to a year of growing in the Lord, learning to be His hands and feet, and getting exposure to the needs of this part of the city." Marilyn Holt is leaving Houghton to begin graduate studies in biochemistry at Vanderbilt University. For Abby Burg, graduation means immediate employment. She said, "In June, I'll be taking on the position of Children's Pastor at Fillmore Wesleyan Church."

Many students are heading abroad to fulfill their passions and the Lord's will. For Erika Harlow, Ethiopia is her destination. In September, she will begin a 10-month stint doing linguistic research with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Harlow says she is "excited about living overseas for 10 months, learning a new language, meeting new people, and experiencing a different culture."

But for as much adventure and

See SENIORS page 3

## The Basics of Hydraulic Fracturing: Two Students Give a Brief Report on the Energy Extraction Process

by BEKAH HALL  
AND ANDREA PACHECO

Hydraulic fracturing, or hydrofracking, is a process used to extract natural gasses from the rock underground. Within parts of New York State, as well as Pennsylvania and several other states, lies the Marcellus Shale formation. While fracking has already begun in Pennsylvania, New York State officials are still in the process of deciding when and if fracking will be allowed within state borders. In order to understand the process of fracking, as well as how it is affecting residents who live near the process, Andrea Pacheco, junior, and Bekah Hall, senior, went to Wellsboro, Pennsylvania -- where fracking has already begun -- for a small journalism project. This short article is a very brief overview of the fracking process and what is involved. All photos were taken in Wellsboro.

[see drill pad photo above right]

Drill pads, like this one, are scattered around Wellsboro. Fracking is an involved process with many steps. The first is to prepare this flat area of land and build a well pad. An informational video Chesapeake Energy released on YouTube explains that a well pad is a temporary drill site, built with mats and trenches to protect the land.



ANDREA PACHECO



ANDREA PACHECO

[see drill head photo below left]

After the well pad is built, drilling can begin; a drill rig (pictured above) is placed on the drill pad. An informational video Shell -- the gas company currently fracking in Wellsboro -- released on YouTube, explains that the shale layer containing natural gas is 1500 to 4500 meters (approximately 4900 to 14,763 feet) deeper than water bearing layers. The video goes on to explain that casing is inserted into the drill hole and cement forced back up through the hole, providing a seal to prevent spills or substances from leaking into the pipe. With new technology, it is now possible to drill vertically and then horizontally to minimize the amount of surface rigs. After drilling is completed, the drill rig is removed, and a well head is placed on the surface.

Once the well has been drilled, the actual fracking can begin. The Shell information video explains that perforations are made in the casing laid within the shale where the natural gas is trapped. A mixture of water, additives, and sand under high pressure is forced out of the perforations in the drill casing, creating fractures in the shale. The sand holds open those perforations,

allowing the natural gas to flow into the drill pipe. Cement plugs are placed down in the pipe to keep natural gas within the casing until it is ready to be extracted and tested. Fracking may not begin immediately after drilling has finished; according to Mike Bernard, who has lived in Wellsboro for 20 years, because the price of natural gas is low right now, Shell can afford to wait to extract the natural gas until prices go up. This doesn't mean that things have calmed down in Wellsboro; at least one more drilling pad is currently being built and, according to Bernard, Shell continues to invest in the industry in the area.

[see truck photo at bottom of page]

Water, of course, is a necessary component to the fracking process (Duke University published research in 2011 that water composes 99% of the fracturing fluid used). Bernard recognized that the amount of truck traffic has significantly increased since fracking began in 2005. In the half an hour to 45-minute conversation with Bernard, Pacheco counted 35 trucks pass by the house on the way to the drill pad. A good number were carrying water tanks.

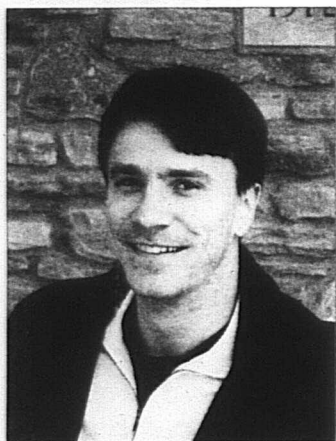
★



ANDREA PACHECO



## POLITICS / Public Service and Institutional Failings



by CHRIS HARTLINE

Consider this. This year's presidential election between Mitt Romney and Barack Obama possesses many similarities to the 2004 election between incumbent George Bush and Massachusetts Senator John Kerry. Looking at the electoral math, if President Obama carries all the states John Kerry won in 2004 except New Hampshire, and picked up New Mexico, Colorado, and Virginia (all states Bush won) the final tally would be: Obama with 269 electoral votes,

Romney with 269 electoral votes. Because 270 votes is required, the election would then be decided by the House of Representatives, possibly the most hated institution in the country -- they have an approval rating of 14 percent according to RealClearPolitics.

Houghton students love to serve, particularly in impoverished areas, but are ambivalent to politics. Both reflect an overarching generational ethos. We have been blessed by the freedoms and the sheer wealth of American society, and it is our responsibility to give back, not only to our community but to the world. At the same time, the institutions that govern our world have failed.

As Ron Fournier and Sophie Quinton argue in a recent article in National Journal, our nation's motto might just as well be "In Nothing We Trust." They state that "Government, politics, corporations, the media, organized religion, organized labor, banks, businesses, and other mainstays of a healthy society are failing," and they are failing because "the nation's onetime social pillars are ill-equipped for the 21st century."

The Catholic Church has been embroiled in sex scandals and is still unwilling to condone contraception in Africa. Big banks brought our economy to the brink of collapse. Business has adapted to the changing marketplace by

outsourcing jobs overseas. Government is a bureaucratic, sclerotic chasm which spits out poll-tested platitudes rather than new ideas.

And we are disheartened. Seven out of 10 Americans believe the country is on the wrong track. Twenty-three percent have confidence in banks while 19 percent have confidence in business. Meanwhile Congress' approval ratings hover around 14 percent.

Our generational ethos of service has adapted to these institutional failings. We focus on problems at a micro level; we believe that we can change the world one condom, one water-purification system, one microloan at a time.

The problem is that we cannot escape politics or political institutions. As David Brooks put it in a recent editorial, "you can cram all the nongovernmental organizations you want into a country, but if there is no rule of law and if the ruling class is predatory then your achievements won't add up to much."

Politics is messy; there's no escaping that. And institutions, both in the United States and around the world, have been woefully inadequate and sometimes corrupt. But we should be careful about our response to this reality. The supposed altruism of serving on the micro level, removed

from the quagmire of political institutions may, in reality, be selfishly motivated. It relieves conscientious pangs, but avoids the hard work that leads to true development.

Institutions have failed. They have failed us, failed our country, failed the world. But that does not give us an excuse to avoid the tough problems. As John F. Kennedy said, "the problems of the world cannot possibly be solved by skeptics or cynics whose horizons are limited by the obvious realities. We need men [and women] who can dream of things that never were."

No one of us will change the world; but a massive generational shift away from political involvement and reform will insure that not even our generation will change the world. The status quo will continue and the vain attempts at service will merely succeed in promulgating institutional failure. As Brooks says, "there's only so much good you can do unless you are willing to confront corruption, venality and disorder head-on."

The failure of institutions has created an untenable situation, and I don't know what the solution is to that problem. But we should make sure that our gut-reaction is not to avoid institutions altogether; for this response is lazy, and unbecoming of our generation. ★

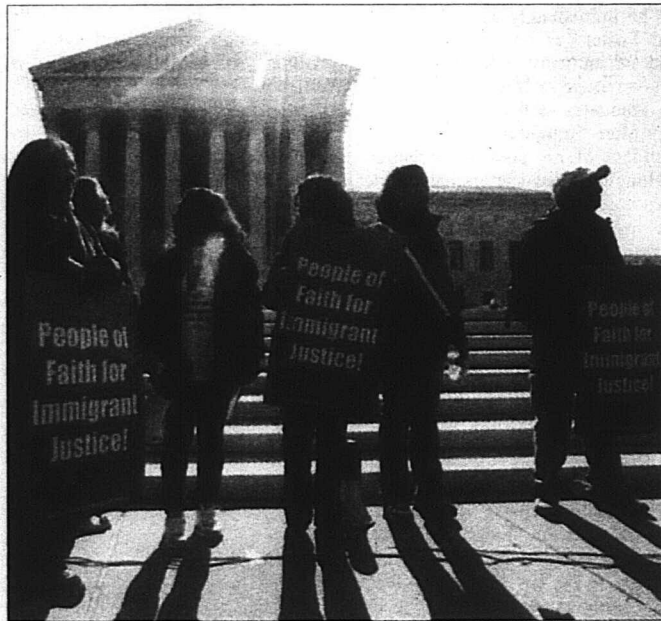
## IN THE NEWS



WWW.PBS.ORG

**NEWT GINGRICH TO SUSPEND CAMPAIGN** | Newt Gingrich announced on Wednesday that he was unofficially conceding to Republican frontrunner for the presidential ticket, Mitt Romney. Gingrich will officially suspend his campaign within the week. His only primary victories during his campaign came from North Carolina and Georgia, his home state. His announcement follows Tuesday's primaries where Romney won contests in five states in the northeast, Connecticut, Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.

**SENATE TO VOTE ON POSTAL SERVICE OVERHAUL** | The Senate will be voting on a number of amendments in the coming weeks to overhaul the U.S. Postal Service. If passed, the changes could affect service standards, mail delivery schedule, and could potentially help cut-costs of the financially troubled service.



WWW.MSN.COM

**SUPREME COURT HEARS ARIZONA IMMIGRATION LAW** | The Supreme Court heard oral arguments on Arizona's controversial immigration law that was enacted in 2010.



WWW.FEDERALTIMES.COM



SENIORS *from page 1*

anticipation graduation holds, there is a certain fear that surrounds the weekend. Zachary Adams, class of 2011, said, "for as much as graduation is an exciting accomplishment, there is a certain sense of grieving when you leave this place." A sense of grieving will occur for those students who are still on campus. Sophomore Lauren Bull said, "The graduating seniors inspired me to be a mentoring figure to other students like they have been to me. They are leaving a big void, but in doing so, leave a positive responsibility on my class to step up." Junior Hannah Jennings added, "Seeing this year's class graduating is both difficult and inspirational. Their presence on campus will be sorely missed. I do feel like I've learned a lot from the seniors making decisions about entering the post-college life and how to best pursue their passions in life."

As the seniors leave and begin their new adventure, Adams imparted these words, "don't expect the place you find yourself in to be anything like Houghton." ★

STUDENT  
PERSPECTIVES  
ON HOUSING

INTERVIEWS BY KATHERINE BAKER

**Rebekah Sudlow (2013)** - "The whole housing situation was pretty chaotic this year. It was very frustrating that the flats were closed without there being an equal number of spots available in other upperclassmen housing options like CLO's. Although Gabe Jacobson and others in housing have worked hard trying to ensure satisfactory housing for upperclassmen, many seniors (who have been paying tuition for the past 3 years) were not able to get into a Townhouse or CLO because of space or misplaced applications. I hope that next year the college makes more places available in non-dorm housing, and is more considerate of the students who chose to come to Houghton for their education."

**Joel Ernst (2013)** - "Because there were a lot of concerns addressed to Residence Life because of the townhouse issue, they decided to make the option available if there was enough interest to do townhouse floors. From what I understand there was not enough interest, but I think they did a good job trying to resolve the situation that arose due to some of the complications for housing this year. I also think Residence Life did a good job in coming to Senate to try to resolve the issue. Gabe came before the Senate to explain the issue, which I thought was really good."

**Robert Martin (2013)** - "We had eight guys on our townhouse application, but one was graduating early and one was student teaching, so we only had seven full beds. Everybody in our house would have been a Senior next year. Our townhouse was not approved, and after the townhouse floor email was sent out, those of us who were planning to move into the townhouse floor filled out the form. However, some of my group wanted to move back to Shen, so the day before room draw we got an email saying they would no longer pursue the townhouse floor due to a lack of interest. But if you make a townhouse floor, you will fill it. They've done it in years past, so what makes this year different? We were originally supportive of Student Life's decision to close the flats; we said it will be okay and that we will all fit in the townhouses. It's almost like a slap in the face. At this point I actually do not have plans for where I will be living next year, and that is stressful."

## Search Processes for New Faculty Come to Close for the Year; Math Dept. Hires Applied Mathematics Professor

by KATHERINE BAKER

The search processes that several academic departments on campus began last fall are coming to a close. The mathematics department is happy to have hired Jun-Koo Park, an applied mathematician.

Kristen Camenga, who chaired the search for an applied mathematics professor, said, "Jun-Koo Park is graduating with a PhD in Mathematics and a minor in Statistics from Iowa State University. We are really excited about what he brings to Houghton." Park will be teaching mathematical modeling, differential equations, calculus, and probability and statistics courses. With a new applied mathematics professor, Camenga explained that additional possibilities will be open to students, such as "different undergraduate research opportunities or conferences."

The search for a new faculty member

in the communication department is ongoing. Douglas Gaerte, chair of the search committee, said, "we have a candidate coming in [this week for] a new position that we were approved to hire for this year. Because of the growth of the communication major, we needed more help."

Although the chemistry department was hoping to hire for the 2012-13 year, Karen Torraca, who is chairing the search committee, said, "we also believe it's best to put the right person in the position." Instead, the department will be hiring an adjunct professor to temporarily teach general chemistry courses. "It's not like we didn't get any applicants, but in terms of fit, Houghton is hard. It is very rural, and especially for chemistry the lower salary is difficult. It has to be somebody who wants to teach and has a heart for teaching," said Torraca.

"At this point, there's no direct impact to the major," she added. "Dr.

Horn has been very supportive to make sure we have the position filled, and he would step in to make sure that it was covered if need be."

The education department was also unable to fill the two new faculty positions that have opened up for the 2012-13 year. Cathy Freytag, who is chairing the search committee, said, "we went through the whole process, made some offers that were not accepted, and we will try again next year." Both of the open positions are replacements, "one focusing on special/inclusive education and the other focusing on literacy at the

adolescent level," she said.

"In the interim, we will continue to utilize qualified part-time adjunct faculty. For the short term, we've got our bases covered, and the program will continue to move forward in good solid fashion," said Freytag. "We are down faculty members, but the program is not lacking...[and there will be] no impact on students' ability to make good forward progress on their majors in education." She added, "I am confident in the caliber of the part time faculty members; they've been working for us for a while." ★

Alcohol Policy Reform Resolution  
to be Discussed Next Year

by SARAH HUTCHINSON

Last Tuesday, the Senate voted to move the discussion on a controversial alcohol policy reform resolution to next September.

The current alcohol policy on campus adheres to the Wesleyan Church's position of abstinence, though students are allowed to drink if their families permit it while at home during breaks. The alcohol policy reform resolution, put forward by senior Gordon Brown earlier this month, would have allowed students of legal drinking age to drink any time off campus. Faculty and staff would also be included under the new resolution.

As Brown explained during the April 12 Senate meeting, the resolution is not advocating drunkenness, alcohol on campus, or underage drinking. Rather, it is addressing and clarifying the College's jurisdiction on off-campus drinking, as well as confronting what Brown sees as an "alcohol is bad" policy in the community covenant, a matter that differs in Christian circles and certainly among students at Houghton. His ultimate goal was to "essentially decriminalize responsible alcohol consumption."

But despite passing in the April 12

Senate meeting with a majority vote of nine to six, the resolution was vetoed by SGA President Joel Ernst last week who felt that it did not accurately reflect student opinion. As Ernst explained, "In my conversations with other students about this issue, I have not been convinced that this resolution accurately represents the majority opinion of the student body. I think there needs to be more student input on such a controversial issue as this before the Senate makes a statement of the general student opinion to the Administration." However, Ernst also expressed his openness to a student poll to ascertain student opinion on the matter.

Though Ernst vetoed the resolution, the matter was reconsidered for override on Tuesday night's Senate meeting. But lacking standardized student polls (though Brown collected over 160 signatures in a petition in favor of the resolution this past week), the resolution has been postponed for discussion until next September. The Senate is expected to address the alcohol reform resolution, and perhaps send out a student poll, within the first few weeks of the fall semester. ★

Allegany Harvest  
Market Announcement

Hello to all the Member-Owners,

Allegany Harvest Market has made great strides toward opening. I have had the privilege to meet and work with some of you in the last couple of months. All the renovation work is now completed for opening the store, and the insurance and other required legal certificates are also in place. We are now working on stocking inventory. I extend a thank you to all who have helped and/or supported the effort. Special thanks need to go to Ginny Routh and to the board of directors, who have been dedicated to seeing this vision come into place.

The big question that you all want to be answered now is, When will we be OPEN? We now have a firm date of May 5th for a soft opening. What does that mean? Beginning then—sooner if we are able, but no later than May 5—our doors will be open Monday through Saturday as we continue to prepare the store for a grand opening celebration next fall. We may not be fully stocked, but we will have products available for sale. If you see the "open" flag hanging on the Allegany Harvest sign, then we are here, and we would love to have you come in.

I look forward to meeting our Member-Owners and others in the local community.

Regards,

Barb Adams

General Manager

Allegany Harvest Cooperative Market



## EAT// Grandma's Granola

by ABIGAIL BRUXVOORT

I grew up in a family of granola-eaters. Each year around Christmas-time, I'd start carting quart-sized bags of granola with me, as gifts for my many teachers -- a few in my backpack, one wedged into my piano-book tote bag, one clutched to my Bible. Dutifully, I handed the bags off, bit-by-bit emptying my load. Of course, I usually got responses of gratitude. "Oh, granola! This will be very yummy. Thank you!" On other occasions, however, my gifts were received uncertainly. "How nice! But what is this?" Then I began my speech. "This is granola. You can eat it like cereal or have it for a snack. It's good! I actually don't like it, but my family really does."

You see, granola is a nutty food, and it's full of raisins. As a kid, I liked neither nuts nor raisins. I was a slow convert. When my tastes did change, the change occurred as a matter of necessity. During one of my high school summers, I spent two weeks with my mom's parents. As my grandma puts it, "For Grandpa, granola is the *sine qua non* for a happy day." Considering myself too old to request eggs and toast every morning, I started eating granola for breakfast. With a spoonful of yogurt stirred in to keep things tart, I found that it wasn't bad stuff. Then there was the matter of an afternoon snack -- the granola jar was the most readily available food source, and I took advantage of it. That summer, over a span of July afternoons spent on the porch with a magazine from a kayak outfitter, I learned to like granola.

Right now, my family doesn't eat granola on a regular basis. Two teenage boys live in my house, and any person who takes time to stock the cupboard with granola is rewarded by seeing their efforts consumed at a rapid rate. Neither do I eat granola regularly here at Houghton; it's easier to have some other cereal, or make oatmeal, rather than chase down nuts, honey, cookie sheets, a working oven, and a few hours or two in which to bake.

Still, on the occasions when I do have granola in my room, it's a treat to have. Being a particularly chewy food, it's well-suited for mornings on which I'm up early to finish homework. It's not hard to make, and really, it is good.

For those of you who'd like to try some granola, my grandma's recipe is as follows:

Granola for Dennis:

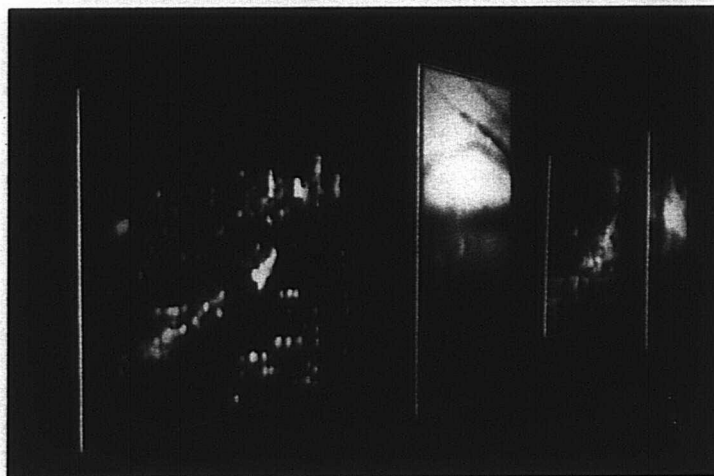
-One standard box (2 lb. 10 oz.) of old fashioned rolled oats into a large bowl. [Approx. 12 C. of oatmeal]

-1 cup maple syrup or honey  
-1 cup brown sugar  
-1/2 cup canola oil  
-1 teaspoon cinnamon  
-1/2 to 2 cups nuts (pecans or walnuts are recommended)

Stir very thoroughly, breaking up the brown sugar glooms.

Spread the granola out in a large baking tray. Bake at 300° for approximately 1/2 to 1 hour, depending on the taste you prefer. Remove from oven, let cool, and stir in 1-2 cups dried fruits to taste. Consider using yellow raisins, raisins, apricots, candied pineapple, bits of apricots, or whatever suits your fancy.

## Tomorrow: Senior Art Opening



LUKE LAUER

Digital photographs of senior Grace Engard's exhibit, displayed in light boxes.

by HANNAH JENNINGS

The annual Senior Art Exhibition will have its opening reception in the Ortlip Gallery tomorrow. The exhibit, a culmination of four years' worth of work for the graduating art majors, will be a variety of mediums, inspirations, and developed personal styles from each of the students. The reception, which will include refreshments, music, and faculty comments, will be held in the atrium of the Center for the Arts from 7 to 9 p.m. with comments at 7:30 p.m.

For the seniors, the Senior Show is the final product of the fourth year in the department and the responsibility of the group to produce the show. The tasks of organizing and arranging the lighting in the gallery, hanging the pieces, advertising, providing refreshments, and organizing music are all in the hands of the students. Joyce Taylor, graduating with concentrations in painting and

printmaking, commented on the value of producing the show as a group, and said, "The process of this show really emphasizes collaboration and communication. The point of the show is to establish ourselves as emerging artists, no longer student artists."

Taylor will exhibit a painting as well as six prints created for this final show. She said, "I tried to set guidelines for myself for this series of work -- I wanted to use bright colors, bold images, and bold designs layered to create abstracted imagery. The final products are non-objective abstract pieces with similar imagery and color palate."

One of the more influential voices in this process for Taylor was that of visiting artist Ron Leax, Professor of Art at Washington University in St. Louis. Leax participated in six of the discussions and critiques held for the seniors in their seminar class and offered insight into his own processes, as well as feedback about their own work.

"The critiques with Ron Leax were really influential for the body of work I'll be showing," said Taylor. "I'm really excited about my prints and to show them."

Similarly, Greg Antonow noted the benefits of being exposed to Leax's process as a working artist. Antonow, graduating with a photography concentration, though not limited to working strictly in photography, will exhibit a variety of two-dimensional work as well as a piece of furniture.

"The show feels like a culmination or pinnacle moment of all of our work," said Antonow. "Leaving here with all of our best stuff in this show gives me a point to pursue. Working toward this has inspired me to find things I enjoy doing and helped me to get excited about those things."

Monica Lord, also graduating with concentrations in printmaking and painting, will show a series of mixed media works -- combining print, drawing, and watercolor. Lord doesn't consider herself a conceptual artist.

"I don't have one particular message that the viewer has to get," she said. "I'd like for them to take what they want from it. I don't want to have to explain it." A large part of the show for Lord has been the presentation, specifically the process of making her own frames.

"I really like making frames. I float my work on the board, kind of like a shadow box. I like it so much better as that kind of an object, rather than a 'framed piece'" she said. "You have to look at the frame so it becomes part of your art. I hadn't really thought this much

Cont'd on page 5

## Environmental Club Goes to DC

by BRYN PEARSON

This past weekend was nothing short of an adventure as I trekked with fellow Environmental Clubbers Olivia Nijssen, junior; Emmie Baird, junior; and Hanna Kahler, freshman; to Washington, DC, for a series of Earth Day celebrations. After encountering flash rainstorms and narrowly avoiding running out of gas, we already knew God was working during this trip. Just after finding the place, Tyler Amy, the coordinator for Renewal, pulled in behind us as we stood admiring the grand home we were going to reside in. The owner, Deborah, made a point to open her house to travelers, and made no exception for Earth Day. At least 15 others, including Tyler, Chris Elisara (Executive Director of the Creation Care Study Program), and other college students shared bed, couch and floor space with us.

The official events started Sunday, but we kicked off our celebrations Saturday night with dinner at Chipotle, a restaurant chain that serves organic and local produce alongside meat raised without added hormones or antibiotics. Sunday morning we visited the National Cathedral and witnessed presidents of several of the most influential seminaries in the country signing the Seminary Stewardship Alliance, and thereby agreeing to teach creation care principles to future church leaders. After the signing, Dr. Matthew Sleeth hosted a forum with Wendell Berry on why the church needs to assume leadership when

it comes to creation care.

After visiting the National Cathedral, we made our way to the National Mall (with frustratingly little help from the GPS), where white tents lined the grass. Unfortunately for Mobilize the Earth, the organization hosting "Earth Day 2012 on the National Mall," celebrating the beauty of the Earth is a tad more difficult when the wind and rain seem intent on chilling any warmth in your body, and the overall turnout was less than spectacular. Vendors were still there, of course, filling the tents with groups ranging from NASA to SLAB Watchdog, an organization working to have Spent Lead Acid Batteries (SLABs) safely recycled in the U.S., instead of in other countries, such as Mexico, with little regard for worker or ecological safety. Aside from advocacy groups, many businesses and universities were there demonstrating their innovative techniques for using waste and recyclables for things like filtering water and making roads.

Though I found these innovations exciting, the highlight of the weekend was certainly Monday's briefing at the White House. There, we were able to hear speakers from the EPA and Obama's administration, and even meet Joshua Dubois, appointed by Obama to the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Jerry Lawson, National Manager of the EPA, gave a presentation on the ENERGY STAR system of measuring and benchmarking the energy efficiencies of places of worship. The EPA estimates

that, with the ENERGY STAR Congregations Network, "if America's 370,000 congregations cut energy use just 10% it would save nearly \$315 million for missions and other priorities" while simultaneously opening up 1.8 billion kilowatt hours for other uses without any additional production costs. If your church would like to benchmark their energy efficiency and see how they score, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

Heather Zichal, Deputy Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change, gave an update on current energy issues facing the country in regards to oil, electric, and natural gas. She summarized future plans for efficiency standards for cars, trucks and homes as well as the hope to "weatherize" homes of the elderly and low-income families, which could save budget-conscious families up to \$400 each year.

During the briefing, the college students in attendance went up on stage to present the Green the Golden Rule Quilt, a large-scale map of the U.S., handmade from donated clothing. The Quilt will spend the next several months traveling to various schools to show support for a new movement to consider how we treat the environment when we think about how we are treating our neighbors. Between the talk of different environmental issues we face today and meeting people from all across the country, the Green the Golden Rule campaign made me ask myself: how am I treating my neighbor, and would I want to live where they live? ★



Cont'd from page 4

about presentation before preparing for this show."

Professor Ted Murphy, the advisor for this year's group of graduating artists, has worked with each to prepare them for this exhibit. Remarking on the type of work in this year's show, Murphy said, "There are more two-dimensional artists this year than in past works. Painters, photographers, printmakers, and 'flat work' graphic and design students represent the majority in this cohort group."

"Houghton's studio art program moves a student from very prescriptive foundation assignments to independent studio practice more in keeping with the work of artists who pursue their terminal degree in art, the MFA," said Murphy. "Like all academic departments, we try to work with our students in such a way as that when they reach this eighth and final semester they need us less and less to confirm their ideas and decisions in the studio. We want to release them into the post-baccalaureate life with the basic ability to now learn what it means to master their craft and their art -- to think like an artist."

Murphy encouraged people to come early to see the work, as this will be a full show and the reception is seldom the

## Fourth Annual Houghtonpalooza

by BEN MURPHY

Tomorrow, Leadership Council will bring the fourth annual Houghtonpalooza to campus. Although considerably smaller and shorter than the famous event from which it takes its name, this outdoor show is an opportunity for students to kick back and enjoy spring weather and great music.

The event will begin at noon and

best time to see the work. Emphasizing the importance of this show for students, Murphy said, "These students have put four years of thinking and practice into this show. I am certain it will reflect the quality we see throughout Houghton in all of its programs and majors."

The seniors exhibiting are Greg Antonow, Rachel Backus, Gareth Branscombe, Kaylan Buteyn, Erin Carr, Rebekah Hozjan, Nathan Lammey, Monica Lord, Jacla Myers, Rachael Snyder, Joyce Taylor, Cameron Thibault, Emily Wilkinson, and Hannah Yanaga. The Ortlip Gallery is open daily, and the Senior Art Exhibition will be installed from today through May 12. ★

wrap up around seven. This time slot will allow for around 10 to 12 acts -- solo and group -- to play for about 20 or 30 minutes each. Past shows have supplied a healthy range of alternative, folk, rock, and worship, and with campus-known names like "The Undeified," "Dreaming Outloud," and "Lily Among Thorns," the spread this year promises to be no different.

The show will take place in the space directly in front of the flats. According to senior Dewayne Moore, LC President and head student coordinator, this location is prime both for its open, unencumbered space and for the appeal of a flats sendoff party. Hopefully the show will be less of a "goodbye" and more of a "see you later." In case of rain (or snow!) the stage will be transplanted to the Van Dyk lounge in the Campus Center.

Among the various performances gathered from the current student body, one noted alumni (no pun intended) plans to return for the event. Some may remember Alex Glover as the guy who sang funny acoustic SPOT songs about missing trays or the swine flu; others, perhaps, as one of the two guys who swept last year's Film Festival awards.

Glover has been a participant in and organizer of Houghtonpalooza since its origins. Since graduation, he has spent time writing and recording new original material, and it is from this more recent source that he plans to share with us. He is even planning to team up with D.J. West-coast (junior Mike Amico) to remix several old tracks. Look for his "Endswell" CD "No. 104" on sale.

In addition to the music, the Houghtonpalooza planners hope to offer bouncy house inflatables that will be funded by surplus LC funds. Snacks and drinks will be provided and large grills for a "bring your own meat" meal will be also be set up.

There is certainly a lot going on around here tomorrow and, with this in mind, remember that Houghtonpalooza does operate as a completely come-and-go type of event. So in between, before, or after participating in the Soup Run, cheering on softball players, baseball players, and track runners, enjoying the senior art show, and attending the jazz recital, stop by the flats to enjoy what will be both a relaxing breath of fresh air before finals and a celebration of the close of a successful spring semester. ★

### PROFILE: MACKENZIE REISS

impart in the years to come.

"I have played softball since I was a little girl, and it's what I love," said Reiss. "I come from a big baseball- and softball-oriented team, and the passion for the game is inside me." This is evident in her encouragement to the team.

"Mackenzie is such a hardworking player on and off the field. Even through the rough times this year she has supported our team fully. Mackenzie plays a large role on our team by encouraging everyone and leading us in our faith as a team," said teammate Samantha Herrick, freshman.

Reiss has enjoyed being a part of the softball team. "Going to Florida to start off our season was a really good experience," said Reiss. "Meeting the girls on our team," she added, "has been a great experience."

The coaches, Shepherd and his wife Annette, have also impacted Reiss. "Their knowledge about the game has really impacted all of [the team]. I'm sure," said Reiss. "Mrs. Coach [Annette] is nationally recognized for her hitting, and our coach Jeremy's love for the game really pours into us when we need to step up our playing."

Freshman teammate Adrean Tiffany said, "Mackenzie is an amazing person. She works hard in whatever she does and gives it everything she has. Despite setbacks she faces, she works through adversity and learns from it. She is an essential aspect to our team. She is responsible for a lot of laughter we have had this year as a team. She is always encouraging and pushes her teammates to do their best."

Shepherd added, "I'm very proud of the effort she has put in on the softball field which has allowed her to work her way into our starting line-up. Mackenzie is a special person, and I look forward to watching her growth over the next couple of years as a member of our softball program."

Mackenzie Reiss is a sophomore with a concentration in writing and a minor in music. She is also a member of Houghton's inaugural softball team. Jeremy Shepherd, Assistant Sports Information Director and head coach of the softball team, said, "Mackenzie has been a joy to have in our program this season."

This year Reiss was a member of CAB, and in the fall she will be participating in a musical with the Houghton Musical Theatre Players.

"She has had to work very hard to balance softball with some of her other activities, as well as her new role as a member of Houghton's new SAAC (Student-Athlete Advisory Committee) program," Shepherd added.

Freshman Ellen Bagley, Reiss' teammate, said, "Kenzie is a wonderful young lady who takes on a tremendous role in our athletics program. She is always supporting the team through wins and losses, whether she gets to play or not. She has come so far from the beginning of the season, and I believe she will make a stronger

### 2012 Annual Film Fest Winners

**Best in Show (and best commercial/creating awareness):** Amber Payne, for her film "Museum"

**Best documentary:** Nate Cronk, for his "Creation Care" video

**Best Comedy:** Anna Austin and Graeme Little, for "Asylum"

**Best Animation:** Kelsey Howse, for "Hiroshima"

**Best Drama/Horror:** Amber Payne, for "The Way you Look Tonight"

**Best Silent Film:** Zac Smalley, for "Golfing with Chris"

**Best Miscellaneous Film:** Kate Jeong, for "Shh"

Houghton College Combo C-Big Band  
West Chapel  
April 25  
8pm

# Jazz



# Listening and the Things that Make Us Laugh



by BEN CLARK

"That's why we watch soap operas." (Wilfred McClay) "Can I get an 'Amen'?...I promised my friend Zeke I would slip that into my speech." (Stephen Corell '12) "This is not an underhanded way to say that Jess is pregnant." (Kyle Austin '13) "Sex gets better with age." (Barb Barnes)

These are some stray sentences that I jotted down over the course of the past semester in public settings, mostly chapels, where the audience reacted by laughing. Taken out of context, these phrases might seem either serious or simply mundane, but the way they were delivered, in context, provoked general laughter -- and, as a listener, that worries me. Sometimes we need to laugh, and it's good for us. But sometimes, I wonder if our laughter might be detracting from what is actually being said.

Don't get me wrong, I love to laugh, I appreciate humor, and I am also prone to laughing at inappropriate things. Still, I have to wonder why we do it.

During normal conversation, in a personal setting, we laugh for several

reasons, among others: to acknowledge that we've heard what a speaker said, but don't have words to respond right away; to acknowledge humor or disdain towards, usually, a third party; when we feel uncomfortable; or simply to relieve awkward tension. These can be good and useful, or they can be detrimental.

Earlier this semester, we had a married couple speak at chapel: Barb and Jay told us about sex and marriage. Since sex is a somewhat touchy subject, often met with social awkwardness and embarrassment, they tempered their message with light-heartedness, apparently at their own expense, to engage the audience and not sound so stern and preachy. For the most part, Jay told the jokes, and Barb brought us back to earth with her serious observations. As such, the general tone of the delivery is what made each statement amusing or not -- when Jay said, "I thought making out with you [Barb] would be a good idea," his tone, body language and the narrative context made us laugh out loud. Personally, I was slightly embarrassed by his statement, but was able to laugh it out of the "extreme worry zone" in my mind because everyone else was laughing at it, too. Of course what worried me was that it didn't sound like a good idea in the story, but he went through with it. It seemed to undermine the values of propriety that they were proposing; it was a serious statement, imbued with meaning and revealing that his motivations might be questionable. Because we laughed he could move on with the story and easily neglect the questionable points we might raise in our minds.

In a similar way, when the men's choir sang in chapel, the standing

audience, which ought to have been inspired to reverence to God, was driven to laughter as a way to cope with the awkwardness of the situation. As they stood apprehensively singing in a half-circle around the piano, they were

prompted to start swaying with the music as it picked up its rhythm. Each chorister began to sway, but all in different directions and to different degrees. When they had it mostly together, it was still split into two groups in opposite direction, and all the while, the majority sang only feebly along with the salient few who sung with gusto. I was uncomfortable with how unlike other chapel performances it was, and how what they were trying to do did not match what they were actually doing on stage. The audience's shared discomfort resulted in a situation that was potentially shameful for the performers, as well as distracting from the intent of chapel to focus our community on God. In an awkward or uncomfortable situation people react differently: some cringe in pain, some cry, and some laugh out loud. In this case, the laughter won out. What began as a murmur quickly spiraled into outright LOLing throughout the ranks of the audience; hearing others laugh seemed to excuse our discomfort at our own laughter. That is, until we became aware of ourselves and it died down as the performance unwound itself to its conclusion.

In a public setting, it falls to a speaker or performer to make good choices about their delivery so that the audience is engaged and can hear what he or she is trying to say. However, more often than not, we are

Sometimes we need to laugh, and it's good for us. But sometimes, I wonder if our laughter might be detracting from what is actually being said.

the listeners, not the speaker. In those cases, it is up to us to listen responsibly. If we hear only the speaker's tone, or pay attention to only the speaker's humorous asides, we might be missing out on the meat of their message. Further, if the speaker makes us feel uncomfortable, perhaps by some accidental blunder, or by doing things

differently than we would expect, it falls to us not to make a mockery of the subject. Our distraction might detract from the good that might be said. Either that, or it can undermine the speaker's or performer's confidence, and inhibit proper communication.

Laughter can be justifiable, but isn't always. My hope is that you as a reader and a listener be aware of what you are laughing at. Ask yourself what you are communicating when you laugh and how you are listening. Make that a part of your process for becoming a responsible listener.

Ben Clark is a senior English and education major

## The Penultimate Word / Relinquishing Grandiose Plans



by ELISA SHEARER

When I was in the first grade I wanted to be an archaeologist.

I wasn't too big on the actual dinosaurs -- I couldn't tell you whether Brachiosaurus lived in the Triassic or not -- but I thought that finding things buried in sand sounded like the most fun anyone could ever have. I became addicted to those little toy blocks of hardened sand that have plastic tyrannosaurus skeletons in them. I drew pictures of myself wearing desert gear and a wide-brimmed hat. I watched Jurassic Park. I taught my 8-year-old self how to spell archaeologist.

If you asked me in the first grade, being an archaeologist was my dream. If you told me, in the first grade, that I'd be going to college for Not Archaeology, I'd be despondent.

When I was a sophomore in college, when I was choosing a track to follow for my psych major, I initially was going to go with neuroscience

because it was the most impressive-sounding. I avoided declaring an English major because I was afraid of what my family would think.

We tend to think in extremes when planning or considering the future -- I sure did, especially when I was a child. I thought I would marry a movie star; then I made plans to live in the woods for the rest of my life. I imagined the perfect house to be full of pianos and books, and I decided that Heaven must be a dining room with one giant bowl of macaroni and cheese in the center.

Now, my plans are less imaginative but more concrete. Instead of impressiveness, I'm looking for stability. Instead of individuality, I'm looking for ways to fit into work environments. I want my future house to have a laundry room and my conception of Heaven is considerably different from what it was when I was growing up.

And I don't think this is a bad thing. When I was 8, my central life goal was apparently "coolness." While coolness is, admittedly, high on my priority list, it's tempered by "health insurance," "family," and "not being homeless." Similarly, my wish to have an impressive neuroscience major has been tempered by the fact that I wouldn't actually enjoy working in

neuroscience.

I'm enjoying my new, slightly-more-relaxed mindset about my future. I'm glad that I don't have to achieve grandiose goals to find fulfillment in my life.

But that was what I had been told. I could be the President, or a doctor, or a lawyer! I was an individual. I was special. I could do "anything" -- but all the "anythings" listed were only impressive, dramatic, or glamorous anythings.

Now, though, I'm realizing that I don't want to be an archaeologist, or the President, or an astronaut. I'd prefer a steady job over a glamorous one and a stable home over a dramatic one.

Humans are wired to be slightly delusional, but we often wouldn't be content with the things that seem ideal to us. Being an archaeologist, while cool-sounding, requires a lot more work that I wouldn't enjoy than my adolescent self imagined. Neuroscience sounds impressive but the pre-therapy track is way more applicable to my career plans.

I used to imagine myself being an English professor because I liked tea and I imagined it would be a career void of troubles with bureaucracy -- I then realized that (a) that second point wasn't true at all, and (b) I

didn't want to go into academia. My plans now -- going to grad school in communication, finding someone who will pay me for doing something I enjoy, and maybe having a family -- are more complicated than what I had planned when I was 16, but I'm also more excited about them.

We have the capacity to be discontent wherever we are. I thought that being an archaeologist -- and, later, having an impressive major -- would be the ideal, and would make me happy. I'm now starting to suspect that nothing's going to make me happy -- at least, not in the way I was expecting.

While there is the possibility of regretting any decision we make, we also have the ability to find contentment and joy in a wide variety of situations. Not all career choices or income levels or house photos will be impressive at class reunions, but sometimes less immediately exciting choices are the things that are actually fulfilling.

Elisa is a senior English and psychology major



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK / Dialogue, Transparency, Integrity



ANDREA PACHECO

by KRISTEN PALMER

Last spring, we invited Jo Kadelcek (senior communication writer and journalism professor at Gordon College, author of 14 books, and founder/editor of the Gordon College News Service) to Houghton to critique and evaluate the Star. We as a staff spent a couple of days with her. We explained to her what we do and then she offered us some suggestions on how we could do it better. A year has gone by, and we've evolved as a staff and as individual editors. I, myself, have learned a lot this past year. I've learned that if I have a homework assignment due Thursday morning, it won't get done. I've learned that it's never a good idea to carry a stack of 100 or so papers outside on a windy day, and I've learned that

Java closes about four hours before I'd like it to.

We print our mission statement every once in a while, but just to remind us, it's: "...to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have characterized Houghton College since its inception. This will be done by serving as a medium for the expression of student thought and as a quality publication of significant campus news, Houghton area news, and events."

### Dialogue

I've learned that as editor of the school paper, we hold a powerful tool in our hands. The Star represents me, it represents my staff, and it represents students and faculty alike. It also has the great ability to spark conversation, which I have found challenging at times, mostly in a good way. Readers have responsibilities too. And I think Star readers have been responsible this year. We've had some great conversations with people who have written and questioned us. It's what makes working for the paper so rewarding. Let the conversation continue...

### Transparency

The Star will and often does cover sensitive issues that not everyone will want to read about in the paper. Many are concerned about what prospective students and their families will think

when they read "JV Sports Cut" on the front page. But, as Joel Vanderweele (Star editor from 2009-10) pointed out in his parting editorial, hopefully those prospective students will appreciate the College's willingness to address those issues and will, of course, read the entire issue in order to get a fuller picture of all that is happening at Houghton. (In the same issue as the "JV Sports Cut" article, for example, there was a Sports Complex Update.)

### Integrity

We've been fortunate enough to run a fairly independent newspaper. Joel also said, "Although the size of Houghton community requires that the student newspaper be supported by the Campus Services Budget (rather than through the sale of advertisements, like a truly independent newspaper), it has also been afforded a great deal of editorial independence by the College." And he's right. The College has supported our efforts to write meaningful and accurate stories to the best of our abilities.

After her visit, Jo wrote a letter to the editor which we published toward the end of the year last year. I especially appreciated that she wrote, "[The Star is]...a student-initiated newspaper, which means these are reporters in the making...Houghton College currently offers no academic grounding to better equip these young journalists - a point

I believe is crucial not only to the success of the Star but the future of news reporting in our culture as well ..."

Despite the lack of courses in journalism at Houghton, however, Kadelcek said she "found an immensely teachable and talented staff of students who genuinely seem to care about producing a good newspaper. They are busy, understaffed and untrained. Yet each week they somehow produce an 8-page print

The College has supported our efforts to write meaningful and accurate stories to the best of our abilities

publication and online version that generally reflects life - as some know it - at Houghton. Their tenacity inspired me, and their zeal made me a bit more hopeful for the future of journalism." This year's Star staff was no exception.

I worked with a talented staff of students eager to produce a good newspaper, and I have confidence in next year's staff to inform the Houghton community and foster public discourse.

Kristen is a senior English and communication major

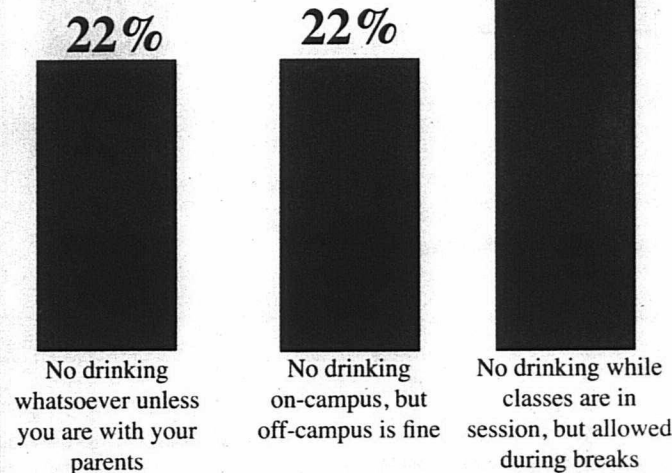


To our advisor,  
Susan Bruxvoort  
Lipscomb, and  
to the Faculty,  
Students and  
Staff.

**The 2011-  
2012 Star  
Staff**

The mission of the Houghton Star is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have characterized Houghton College since its inception. This will be done by serving as a medium for the expression of student thought and as a quality publication of significant campus news, Houghton area news, and events.

**What do you  
think the alcohol  
policy is?**



### Corrections:

In the April 20 article, "Tocqueville's Moment: Wilfred McClay Speaks at Houghton," it should have said Prof. Carl (not Kyle) Shultz.

In the "In The News" section of the April 20 issue, we printed Columbia where it should have been spelled Colombia.



Kristen Palmer  
Editor-in-Chief

Sarah Hutchinson  
News Editor

Erin Carr  
Sports and Culture Editor

Elisa Shearer  
Opinions Editor

André Nelson  
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Chris Hartline  
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Andrea Pacheco  
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Prof. Susan Bruxvoort  
Lipscomb  
Faculty Adviser





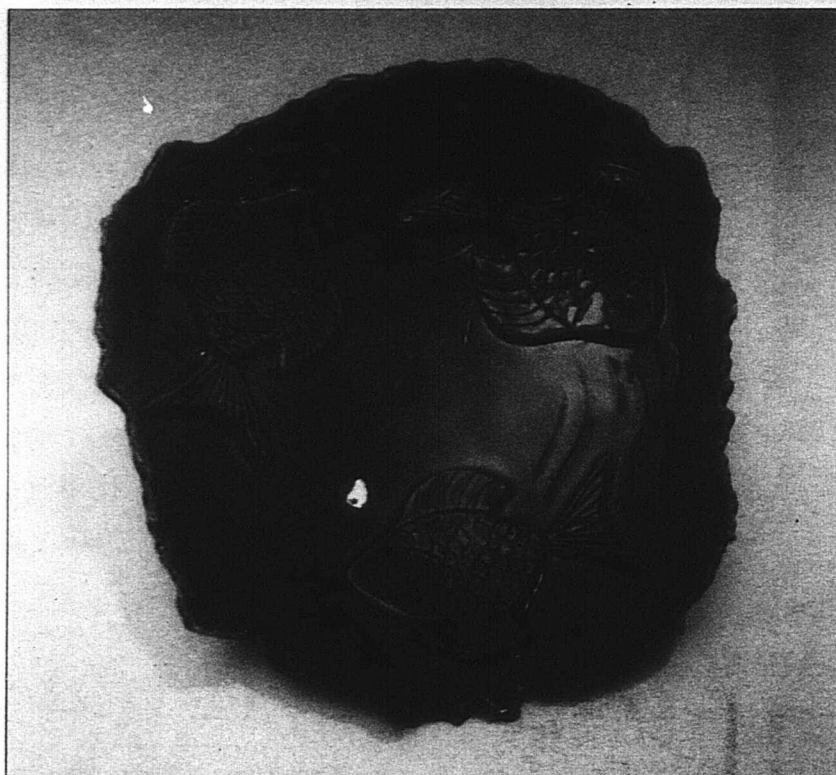
LUKE LAUER

## AMY COON

Andrea Gibson best describes how I feel about art in her poem "Yellowbird" when she says: "I don't believe in the godliness of steeples, but I believe in the stain glass and every key on every organ that is desperate for light, 'cause we are desperate for life - for the sight of a captivated audience refusing to be held captive in the thought that they can only listen and watch, Picasso said he would paint with his own wet tongue on the dusty floor of a jail cell if he had to, We have to create; it is the only thing louder than destruction"

Amy is a sophomore art and communication double major with a concentration in media arts.

## ARTIST OF THE WEEK



Clockwise from top:  
Fishbowl, ceramic  
Untitled, ceramic  
Paint tubes, ebony pencil



## SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

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Sudoku Solution from 4/13:

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

To win a free Java drink, bring your finished puzzle, clearly marked with your full name and CPO, to the Star office in the basement of the Campus Center by 6PM on WED 4/25.

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