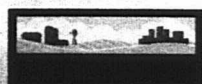


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# THE HOUGHTON STAR

Volume CVII Issue XXIV • Houghton, NY • April 15, 2011 • WWW.HOUGHTONSTAR.COM

68th Student Senate Takes Over

## Handing Over the Gavel



PHOTO BY ANDREA PACHECO

Student body president, Garrett Fitzsimmons, takes charge of Tuesday's SGA meeting.

BY MONICA SANDRECZKI

Midnight Monday night marked the official transfer of powers in the SGA, and the official instatement of the 68th Student Senate.

The previous Executive Cabinet stepped down, and the recently elected members assumed their roles: President Garrett Fitzsimmons, junior; Vice President Theodore Janney, sophomore; Commissioner of Communication Jennifer Freeman, sophomore; Commissioner of Finance Jaime Donnan, junior; and Chaplain Bethany Cheney, junior.

As is customary, the position of Speaker of the Senate, also a member of the Executive Cabinet, was selected from within and voted upon by the new

senate. Between Senator William Clunn, sophomore; Senator Joshua Mertzluft, sophomore; Senator Gabriel Browning, freshman; and Senator Joel Ernst, sophomore; Mertzluft was elected to the position and assumed his position immediately.

The first meeting of the 68th senate opened with a short devotional by Cheney in which she asked that the senate recognize that "senate serves the campus as ambassadors," who must "take the bitterness on campus and turn it into constructive growth."

This was reiterated by both President Fitzsimmons and Vice President Janney.

*Senate cont'd on page 2*

## Congress Compromises on Largest Budget Cut in American History

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

Last Thursday's New York Times headline voiced the frustration many feel about the budget process in Washington: "On Budget, Leaders Disagree on Where Disagreements Lie." Late Friday night, however, with the deadline looming mere hours away, Democrats and Republicans reached a compromise, staving off a government shutdown.

The culmination of the budget debate, which House Speaker John Boehner called "a long fight," was a week-long stopgap resolution to keep the government funded while the compromise, which includes approximately \$38 billion in cuts for the 2011 fiscal year but does not include cuts to certain social programs like Planned Parenthood, can be finalized and go through the process of congressional passage.

According to reports by Bloomberg and other news sources, the negotiations initially stalled late Thursday night when Boehner insisted on the measure defunding Planned Parenthood. President Obama flatly refused.

As Friday wore on, however, Republicans began to recognize the political implications of being seen as causing a government shutdown by insisting on what

basically amounted to social legislation in a federal omnibus budget. As Michael Shear of the New York Times put it, Republicans did not want "the party to be accused of shutting down the government over divisive social policy and diluting its new emphasis on cutting spending."

Both sides worked throughout the day and into the night Friday until the deal was finalized. While Obama described the compromise as "what the American people expect us to do" and Boehner stated that it will "help create a better environment for job creators in our country," some have been more critical.

Former Clinton Secretary of Labor Robert Reich wrote on Twitter, "The right held the U.S. govt. hostage, and O[bama] paid most of the ransom." California representative George Miller released a statement in which he questioned the equity of the spending cuts. "The American people have been told the agreement contains both 'historic' and 'painful' cuts. The question will be painful for whom?"

As his statement continued, Miller reflected the

*Budget cont'd on page 3*

## Whitney Named HR Student of the Year

BY COLLEEN JENNINGS

Wednesday, March 30, the Buffalo Niagara Human Resource Association awarded Ashley Whitney, senior business major, the HR Student of the Year Award. The award was presented at "An Evening with the Stars: BNHRA 2010 Excellence Awards Gala" in the Buffalo Convention Center. Whitney was one of seven students from colleges around the Buffalo area nominated for the award.

Professor Ken Bates, chair of the business department and member of the Buffalo Chapter of the Human Resource Association, nominated Whitney for the award. He noted that not only has she been very involved with Human Resources at Houghton, but she has also "provided good leadership" and been a "good role model" on campus.

Whitney said she was "honored just to be nominated for the award, but had no expectation of winning," especially since she was going up against students from larger schools like the University of Buffalo. Whitney said that these schools "have full majors in Human Resources while Houghton has one class." She was quite surprised when they announced her name.

"I was so excited...I was so honored and could not stop smiling for the rest of the night," she said.

Whitney was not only qualified, but deserving of this award. As a college junior, she led a team of Houghton students at the Northeast Regional HR Games. The team finished sixth among the 23 schools competing and fell just behind Penn State and Cornell University.

According to Bates, Whitney "did a fantastic job." In the same year, Whitney took and passed the Professional in Human Resources certification exam, which is usually taken by "seasoned professionals," and even they tend to be "frightened to death," said Bates. It is an exam that people who have worked in HR for 15 years take and fail, so Whitney passing it as a junior is remarkable.

Now in her senior year, Whitney is serving as President of Houghton's student chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management. She also has a full-time management position with Wegmans, where she is on a career path making her way into Human Resources with them.

Whitney wanted to thank Professors Bates and Katie Buvoltz, because "it was under their teaching that [she] first realized [her] passion" and realized that Human Resources was the area of business that she was most drawn to.

"Human Resources is the people side of business," she said. "It is my opportunity to make a difference and serve our world, by empowering employees and truly making them feel valued and important."

"You will need to look hard to find a student more conscientious, more well-rounded, more passionate academically, and more concerned about making a contribution to society," said Bates. ★



## Engaging the World

## Obama Outlines Problem and Offers Solution



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY KRISTEN PALMER

President Barack Obama presented his highly anticipated deficit reduction plan this week, according to *cnn.com*, "calling for a mix of spending reductions and tax hikes that the White House claims would cut federal deficits by \$4 trillion over the next 12 years without gutting popular programs such as Medicare and Medicaid." Obama also intends to repeal the "Bush-era tax cuts on families making more than \$250,000 annually...[and] called for the creation of a 'debt fail-safe' trigger that would impose automatic across-the-board spending cuts and tax changes in coming years if annual deficits are on track to exceed 2.8% of the nation's gross domestic product."

According to CNN, "the president claimed that by building on or adjusting the health care reform bill passed last year, \$480 billion would be saved by 2023, followed by an additional \$1 trillion in the following decade."

Obama made his plan public Wednesday at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., in a speech entitled "The Country We Believe In: Improving America's Fiscal Future." He began with recognizing that issues the government has been "debating here in Washington over the last few weeks will affect lives of the students here and families all across America in potentially profound ways."

The president also made a point to recognize the importance of working together and claimed that "More than citizens of any other country, we are rugged individuals, a self-reliant people, with a healthy skepticism of too much government, but there's always been another thread running through our history—a belief that we're all connected and that there are some things we can only do together as a nation." He quoted former president Abraham Lincoln, as saying "That true government, we should do together what we cannot do as well, for ourselves."

Obama continued on to outline the events in America's history that led to the economic crisis we now face and pointed to the particular times of war and recession during which the nation has been forced to borrow money. It was in the 1980s during President Bush's term that America began accumulating debt at a more "alarming" level, and the government foresaw a "larger challenge on the horizon." According to Obama, the nation saved and became prepared for the retirement of the Baby

Boomers generation in the 1990s, but this preparation was soon destroyed by spending in the next decade, followed by the recent recession that left us with no choice but to borrow.

He said Americans want the problem solved; they want spending fixed, but they are not willing to offer solutions. He drew attention to his own party—the Democrats—and said they are quick to judge the Republicans' proposal, but they have not offered a better idea.

Not everyone will agree with solutions he may offer, but Obama's speech Wednesday demonstrated one of his greatest strengths. We must admit that Obama has an ability to step back and look at the big picture. I will not pretend to fully understand the complex fiscal crisis in our nation, but Obama outlined the problems America is facing in laymen terms that even I can understand. He put the deficit problem in context for Americans, but more importantly, after explaining the history of how America has acquired its massive debt, got to the heart of the matter: Americans want reduced government spending but don't seem willing to make the hard decisions and face the consequences. Perhaps naming the problem is a first step toward resolving it.

Only time will tell if Obama's vision for America is the right one, but I appreciate his desire to solve and his ability to relay that desire to the people of America.

Senate cont'd from page 1

"This is going to be a good year; it really is," said Janney.

President Mullen was invited to speak to the incoming senate as well, giving an opening statement, then answering specific questions of the senators about plans for filling vacated faculty positions, the direction of the foreign language department, and changes resulting from the switch to NCAA-Div. III. It was during this Q & A time that Mullen noted that Houghton "will not be accepting new students into the IR [International Relations] major in the fall." This statement comes after the recent resignation of David Benedict, professor of political science.

Senators were, then, elected into five different councils for the 2011-2012 academic year: Academic Council—Senator Sarah Jacoby, sophomore, and President Fitzsimmons; Student Life Council (SLC)—Senator Hannah Vardy, sophomore, and Senator Ben Hardy, freshman; Financial Advisory Council—Senator Rebekah Howard, freshman, and Commissioner Donnan, who is required to serve on this committee; Advancement Council—Senator Gabriel Browning, freshman, and Senator Jennilee Fletcher, junior; Finance Committee—Senator Andiana Sidell, freshman, and Senator Rebekah Howard, freshman.

In comparing the coming 68<sup>th</sup> Senate with the senate of 2010-2011, Brown said he thought that "this coming senate will be more focused on advancing the concerns of students, rather than reacting to changes made by the administration. In the past year, the senate was faced with such issues as the rebranding debate, the Spot sophomore line—and resulting debates on how class money can be spent—and of course, setting up a new constitution and revising the bylaws. With a lot of the paperwork out of the way, I think the 2011-2012 senate will hit the ground running."

With the switchover of senates, there will be concerns and opportunities to face.

"The greatest challenge I anticipate is working to further bring in student interaction, something that senate is very committed to in this coming year," said Senator Chris Clark, junior. "But I'm looking forward to working with my fellow senators and speaking with other students about ways that we can improve Houghton for everyone."

"I'm really excited about being in a position where I feel I can actually do the things I want to do; part of why I wanted to be a senator in the first place is, you do have more outlets to get things done and make positive improvements so that if there's a certain area you're interested in, you can do more in a tangible way than if you were just a regular student," said Senator Sarah Jacoby, junior.

"I'm looking forward to pushing for some important projects and generally fighting on behalf of the students for a greater level of communication between the Houghton student

## The World OUT There

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

## North Korea Detains Korean-American Businessman

Tense relations with North Korea are once again being tested as a Korean-American businessman is currently being detained there. Sources have stated that the man had a visa to enter North Korea, and the State Department is working, through the Swedish Embassy, to urge the North Korean government to release him on diplomatic grounds. Because the United States and North Korea do not have diplomatic relations, the Swedes are used as middlemen in any negotiations with Kim Jong-il's government. This is at least the third instance in the last few years that North Korea has detained American citizens. Tensions have also been high in the region as North Korea has taken provocative action in its relations with South Korea, including sinking a South Korean warship in March of 2010 and shelling Yeonpyeong Island in November of 2010.

## United States Faces Rise in Gas Prices as Result of Libyan Unrest

As unrest continues in Libya and the Middle East in general, the most direct repercussion on the United States has been the rising price of gasoline. As of Wednesday, the national average for a gallon of gas was \$3.81, but there is no sign that the price increases will end. \$4 a gallon is becoming a reality in many states and will most likely become more prevalent. Illinois is the latest state to report gas averaging \$4 per gallon—Tuesday, the average price hit \$4.03 per gallon—joining California, Hawaii, and Alaska. The last time gas prices averaged \$4 per gallon in the United States was the summer of 2008, a lead up to the financial crisis. Economists worry that the high price of gasoline, combined with still high unemployment levels, are acting as an anchor on the economic recovery.

## Future of Libya Discussed at Doha Conference

On Wednesday, leaders from around the world held a conference in Doha, the capital of Qatar, to discuss the future of Libya. This comes after violent fighting in the western region of Libya, especially in Misrata. The leaders present included Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations; representatives from the European Union; the Arab League; NATO; the African Union; and several other countries. Members of the Libyan opposition made a presentation at the conference, as well as Moussa Koussa, the former Libyan intelligence chief who fled the country last month after resigning from Gaddafi's regime. Some European leaders and Libyan opposition forces have been calling for NATO to increase its involvement in Libya as violence has continued.



photos courtesy of [www.theodora.com](http://www.theodora.com), [www.thekaseffect.com](http://www.thekaseffect.com), and [www.opinion-maker.org](http://www.opinion-maker.org)

Senate cont'd on page 3



## Silverman Shares Expertise as Final Guest Executive

BY KATIE SCHUTTE

A week ago today was this semester's final Guest Executive Dinner, hosted by the business department. The goal of these dinners is to provide an opportunity for current business and non-business students alike to hear from professionals who have not only excelled in a business-related field, but show what it means to live out their faiths in the work place.

The guest speaker last Friday was Joel Silverman, the current Executive Director of One Mission Society (OMS) USA. Silverman began the presentation with his testimony.

Raised as a conservative Jew, Silverman converted to Christianity at the age of 25. Having obtained his undergraduate degree in business and his MBA from the University of Pittsburgh, Silverman worked for two years in the business world before he became a Christian. When

interviewing for jobs after graduate school, Silverman realized that his ideal job was not one that required him to fit into a mold, but a position where he could be creative and innovative. Silverman decided that retail fit his personality.

By the age of 29, Silverman had risen in the ranks of retail and was Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of *Metropolitan*, a women's clothing company. He also spent time as President of Galyan's Trading Company, and as the CEO of New York and Company. While President of Galyan's, Silverman and his team took the company public through an initial public offering (IPO) in 2002. Silverman shared with those in attendance at the dinner that he always looked for "more responsibility, exposure, people, and experience" wherever he was. As with most careers in business, Silverman experienced ups and downs, and shared with the group examples of times of strife with unethical bosses and the experience of

being fired. After a career in retail, Silverman was asked by the state of Indiana to be the commissioner of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) in 2002. In 2006, he was asked to become the Executive Director of OMS, after starting in part-time ministry in 2004.

One of the segments of Silverman's presentation was how to live out faith in the workplace. Silverman noted that he did not tell people about his faith, but that people noticed him when he showed more self-control than others, when he esteemed others, and when he was honest.

Silverman, who did not intend his message to be a prosperity gospel, was very clear to say that even when Christians are faithful, it does not mean that everything will work out. He shared an example of a time when he was fired because he opposed unethical actions by his boss. He stressed that being faithful does not equal a successful career.

As a person who has hired many employees, Silverman shared with

the group five characteristics that he looks for when hiring: fanatical execution, integrity, the ability to have working relationships, innovation/creativity, and people development.

After the presentation, one student asked Silverman to describe the similarities and differences between the business world and working in missions. The biggest similarity for Silverman is that people are going to be people no matter what type of organization they are working for, and the ability to work with people is a universal skill. The biggest difference in terms of moving into the world of missions is that mission organizations are God-directed, so he has to find the balance between waiting and moving forward with logical thinking.

Silverman also had the chance to sit in on business and missions classes, and talked with many students after these classes, as well as after his presentation. ★

### Budget cont'd from page 1

reality that this debate over the 2011 fiscal year is simply the precursor to a much larger debate over the future of the federal government. "And whatever pain is in this agreement announced tonight, the Republicans' FY2012 budget that ends the guarantee of Medicare promises more unbalanced pain on the way."

The budget he referred to was unveiled last week by Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan, Republican, and has been months in the making. Ryan's plan, which seeks to address many of the problem areas of government spending, is projected to reduce the federal deficit by between \$4.4 trillion and \$6 trillion over the next 10 years.

The federal budget deficit—the amount spent by the federal government that is not recouped through tax revenue—is usually measured as a percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In 2011, the deficit is about

11% of GDP. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has projected that in 2080, the budget deficit would stand at 42% of GDP. Under the Ryan proposal, however, the CBO projects that the federal government will enjoy a surplus of 5% of GDP by 2080.

There are four main areas which the Ryan plan proposes to revamp: the tax code, energy subsidies, social security, and healthcare, including Medicare and Medicaid.

According to CBS News, the tax reform measure would lower the highest tax rate from 35% to 25% and "make up for that revenue by closing tax loopholes, eliminating special carve outs and tax credits."

The Ryan plan would also limit energy subsidies for alternative energy and lift drilling moratoriums both on and offshore.

Social Security presents a different type of issue, because any effort toward reform would involve limiting tangible benefits that citizens receive, but there are systemic problems that are leading Social Security down the road

towards insolvency. For instance, in 1940—five years after Social Security was created—there were 42 American workers per retiree. Today, there are 3.3 workers per retiree.

Ryan's plan simply states that if Social Security becomes unsustainable, the President and Congress must work together on ideas to ensure solvency. Unlike the other areas, he does not outline any specific solution.

The most comprehensive and controversial aspect of the Ryan proposal deals with healthcare, especially Medicare and Medicaid.

First, he proposes repealing last year's healthcare reform bill, a hallmark of the Obama administration. Second, he proposes transitioning Medicare from a program that reimburses doctors and hospitals for medical services to a program that grants individual subsidies to allow seniors to choose between private healthcare options. Third, he proposes changing Medicaid from a government expenditure based on the amount of individuals on the state's

roles to a block grant—a set number of funds—given to states each year.

Ryan has touted the support of economist Alice Rivlin, a Democrat former Vice-Chairman of the Federal Reserve and Director of the Congressional Budget Office, who aided in the process of writing the budget proposal's Medicare and Medicaid provisions. Rivlin, however, has stated that she does not support the final version of these provisions, because certain changes have been made which she says have limited seniors' choices and "pushed too much of the cost onto the beneficiaries."

Ryan's proposal is simply that—a proposal. It will undergo the process of vigorous debate over the coming months, and it is safe to say that significant changes will be made. The gravity of Ryan's proposal and the budget compromise of last weekend, however, demonstrate the severity of the federal budget crisis and the efforts of Congress and the President to seek solutions. ★

### Senate cont'd from page 2

body and the administration through working more closely with the student representatives on the various councils and committees," said Senator Gordon Brown, junior. "Hopefully, we'll be able push for student concerns through the senators listening to the concerns of the students, and relating those concerns to the various committee members, who should be fighting to see those concerns met tooth-and-claw."

Brown and Jacoby continued, expressing what they anticipate as being some of the primary adversities of the 68th senate.

"I think one challenge that isn't just confined to the new senate but was also one in the old senate is still the issue of efficiency and dealing with

problems effectively in a short period of time. Even last night, there were some moments when we went off on tangents that weren't helpful and were unnecessary to the larger issues at hand, and hopefully that won't go on next year. I honestly think that can be improved," said Jacoby.

"I'd say that for any new organization, just getting the flow of things is a challenge. With new senators coming in and old ones leaving, and an entirely new cabinet, just getting used to the new dynamic is going to be interesting. Perhaps not a challenge, but definitely something we'll have to work on," said Brown.

"It's a very different sort of leadership with a change in presidency from Zach to Garret, and I think even with the change of vice presidency from Josh to

Ted is very different as well; they just have very different leadership styles. So I think the atmosphere is different, which isn't bad, but interesting. I'm anxious to see how this particular Cabinet relates to the administration, and to the student body, and to the senators," said Jacoby.

Though some of the senators may have switched from being a class to a college senator, those returning are: Gordon Brown, '12; Bill Clunn, '13; Joel Ernst, '13; Benjamin Hardy, '14; Austin Rudd, '13; Hannah Vardy, '13; Sarah Wangai, '12; Alice Browning, '13; Rebekah Howard '14; and Gabriel Browning '14. Megan Toombs, president of the class of 2012, will be returning after a two-year break during her sophomore and junior years.

"I am really looking forward to being back in SGA. I really enjoyed

being able to serve my class freshman year, and being able to serve my fellow classmates again is what I am most looking forward to," said Toombs.

Newcomers include: Chris Clark '12; Sarah Jacoby '13; Ian Gates '12; Bethany Stobbe '13; and Andiana Sidell '14.

"One of the strengths of this new senate and Cabinet is the number of returning members who will bring with them a working knowledge of how to effectively represent students," said Zach Adams, former SGA president. "But given the make-up of the new SGA, one of the challenges that I see is that there are a lot of new people in the Cabinet who don't understand some of the unique challenges that being a Cabinet member presents." ★

**Do you want to report on the goings-on at Houghton? We want you! E-mail us at [houghtonstar@gmail.com](mailto:houghtonstar@gmail.com) for more information.**



# Hawk Nelson Performs for Prospectives, Students

BY SARAH HUTCHINSON

On the evening of April 10, Houghton College had the pleasure of hosting Hawk Nelson, a Christian rock band hailing from Ontario, Canada. The event, sponsored by CAB, was one of the concerts that take place each semester featuring a major Christian artist.

With screams from the audience at the sound of the first guitar chord, Hawk Nelson started the night with "Tally Ho" from their latest album "Crazy Love." Immediately, the stage burst with light and color, while flashing letters across the stage spelled HAWK. With ease, the band fluidly transitioned to another song off the same album entitled "Your Love is a Mystery" but it was no doubt that the next song, "Bring 'Em Out" was the crowd favorite. Fist-pumping the air after the song had finished, frontrunner Jason Dunn shouted to the crowd packed closely together at the front of the stage, "You guys are epic!"

The audience, though enthusiastic, did not fill up more than two-thirds of Wesley Chapel, and even included a few stragglers who drifted in after the concert began. A high percentage of attendees seemed to consist mainly of prospective students from the weekend's Spring Bus Trip. "The event seemed to be more aimed around the fourteen to sixteen crowd," says Steve McCord, freshman, who attended to the concert. "A lot of the prospectives were getting into it."

Greg Bish commented on the number of prospectives vs. Houghton students, saying that "CAB networks with the admissions office to find the best date. Would we have liked a better turnout? Yes, but I think that everyone there had a good time. It is definitely a show that we can build off of."

Indeed, when it came to performing in a small venue and to an even smaller

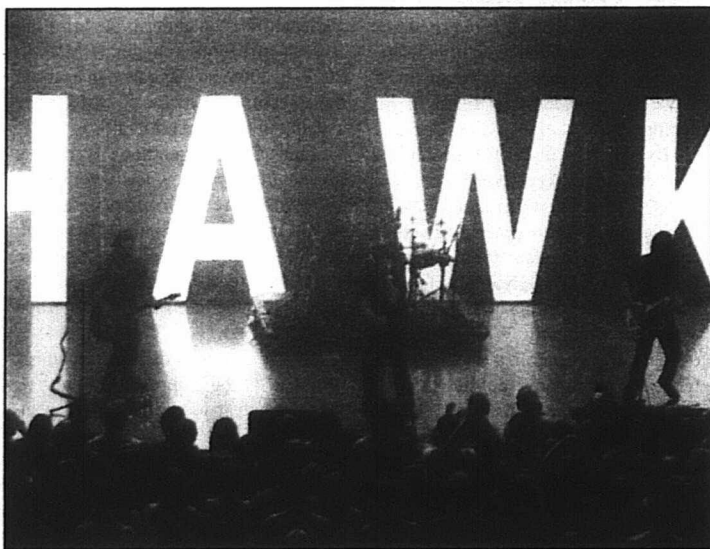


PHOTO BY ANDREA PACHECO

*Despite modest attendance, Hawk Nelson delivered a charged performance*

crowd, Hawk Nelson did well, and altogether the band gave an aura of laidback friendliness. On stage, frontrunner Dunn swapped jokes about the differences between Canadian and American healthcare and voiced his hopes for the Stanley Cup ("If the Sabres make it, I hope they win it," he said to the cheering audience). But perhaps the most memorable part of the night was just before their encore performance when Dunn announced to the crowd, "Hawk Nelson is about two things: number one, making beautiful memories and, number two making beautiful memories."

With that, Dunn invited an enthused member of the audience on stage to play the drums, after he had earlier requested to perform with the band, while drummer Justin Benner, sang "Hello," a song about a puppy-love crush. All in all, Katie Schutte, junior, felt as if the entire concert "was a fun walk down memory

lane. It seemed like people had a lot of fun."

Although "Hello" was the main exception, the themes of many of the songs that the band performed were about grace and how Christians relate to the world. Particularly their song "Crazy

Love," from the album of the same name, with the lyrics "This world it looks at us like we're ridiculous, baby, it's all because of crazy love" emphasized the passion for Christ that believers share. All songs, however, were generally fast-paced, and for the whole hour and fifteen minutes there was never a point in which the band slowed down or changed tone. Although a ballad or an expressive song might have been welcome, drums and electric guitars played at maximum volume were indeed a welcome sound in Wesley Chapel.

Bish also commented on the plans for next semester's Christian concerts saying that CAB is considering partnering with Kingdom Bound, a Christian music and arts festival, to get big name Christian bands to come to Houghton. "We may possibly have two concerts next semester," said Bish, "One would be early in the semester and at around five dollars per ticket, and the other later in the year with a more expensive ticket. However, we are constantly trying to get feedback from Houghton students about artists that they will be interested in hearing and we are very open to the suggestions they might offer." ★

## OCG Works for Co-Op

BY OLIVIA BUTZ

The vision and hope for the establishment of the Allegany Harvest Market Co-Op is to "promote a healthy community for all residents in northern Allegany County, strengthening its local culture, economy, and land."

Ryan Spear, Secretary of the Board, expressed this vision in terms of redeeming the way "we obtain food and share it with each other." Earlier this

academic year, community members and Houghton College students, faculty, and staff were surveyed to discover the overall level of desire and interest for a local grocery co-op to be housed at Our Common Ground, the former home of a local Citgo station.

Ginny Routhe, Houghton College Sustainability Coordinator and Steering Committee Chair, has indicated that the results of the survey "showed strong interest in affordable and local food items with fair trade and organic food products rating very high in items of interest." The Market's goal is, primarily, to be a natural foods store which sells local products. The closest stores which specifically address these needs are, at minimum, a 45-minute drive away, if not more. The Harvest Market intends to run its business as a co-op, seeking to fill the afore-mentioned gastronomic needs and desires of the local population. As a co-op, its focus is not on the generation of profits, but on the input and direction of the member-owners to see that the community's needs are met.

Junior Amanda Kisselstein expressed her feeling that "the idea of a community owned grocery store is appealing," particularly as it aims "to provide Houghton, and surrounding areas, with affordable and local food."

According to the Allegany County Harvest Market web page: "Some products that will be supplied by local growers include seasonal fruits and vegetables, dairy products, eggs, meat, honey, and many other things. Additionally, we will carry bulk items such as grains and nuts. While we'll focus primarily on food, there will also be some other 'green' and local products

## Students Respond: What have you been reading lately?



PHOTO BY ANDREA PACHECO

"The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle" by Haruki Murakami is a book in our library that was recommended to me one year ago by a friend. It is a 600-page surreal, dream-like, Japanese novel that is concerned with Toru Okada, an unemployed law graduate who resists joining society to spend his days reading and cooking dinners for his wife. It begins with the cat's disappearance and not too soon after the wife follows suit. The book goes where Toru wants to, which often includes the bottom of a well. This book is a masterpiece of Japanese literature and one of Murakami's finest. I would recommend it to all my friends.

Joyce Taylor, '12

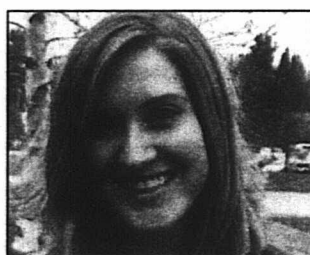


PHOTO BY ANDREA PACHECO

I recently read "A Return to Modesty" by Wendy Shalit. As a teenager I read my fair share of Christian books about modesty, and I think such books generally lack nuance and fail to understand the complexities that the question of modesty poses. Shalit's book avoided those pitfalls and approached the subject of modesty from a largely secular perspective, emphasizing that in general, women who dress modestly are women who think highly of themselves – they don't feel the need to advertise because they are confident that what they're covering is worth something. Her treatment of the subject is engaging and thought-provoking.

Lindsey Houghton, '12



PHOTO BY ANDREA PACHECO

"The Piano in The Vineyard" by Jean Janzen. I have recently been in the habit of picking up obscure books of poetry that I happen to stumble across, and discovered this little gem in the campus store and picked it up. Janzen is a Mennonite whose poetry is filled with her passions for music and faith and how the two interact with each other. Her works in this volume do a wonderful job of intertwining the spiritual and physical elements of these realities in down-to-earth, personal, natural images. Well worth the read.

Steve Corell, '12

Co-Op Cont'd on page 5



*A New Frame of Mind:***Let's Dumb This Down A Little**

BY ERIN CARR

If you have frequented any of the public bathrooms on campus anytime since the beginning of April (just a guess, but you probably have), then chances are you've already read the latest installment of the "John Notes" series: "Love is in the air... but so is DISEASE!" Sound familiar?

Then perhaps you are also aware of the Quick Tip at the very bottom of this orange-crème colored sheet, which reads, "Want to make sure you're washing your hands long enough *and* do devotions at the same time? Try saying the Lord's Prayer or another passage of scripture that you know to

yourself while washing your hands!"

While I am appreciative of the Health Center's efforts to keep college members in good health – and also provide us with interesting tidbits to read while drying our hands – I can't say that these notices haven't caused some cringe-worthy moments over the past year. This quick tip, for me, was the worst of these moments.

In aiming for "cute" with that one tip, I would say the notice crosses a line and enters the territory of "offensive." It reduces prayer and study to mere recitation, chores one checks off the list at the end of the day – things that can be solved with multitasking. It makes faith trite.

There have been similar jokes lining the bottom of these notes – the bit where a wife cites the book of Hebrews as evidence that her husband should make the coffee in the morning, for example. It's not that I have a problem with corniness. Corny Bible jokes are for the most part innocuous. But what's the point exactly? This writing is intentionally inane. Why? Though intended for an adult audience, these puns are written as if to suit the humor of an 8-year-old.

The tired tendency of Christian culture is to appeal to the lowest common denominator. Take the vapid content of most of the worship songs we've been singing since 2002, the simplistic sermons which aim to "save unbelievers" rather than nurture a serious understanding of God, or any of the obnoxious equipment Christians seem to think they need to be geared up for the Lord (bad: bumper stickers that say things like "My Boss is a Jewish Carpenter"; worse: t-shirts that place "Jesus" on the Staples "Easy" button and add the subtitle "Life's Problems: One Solution – It's just that easy"). It's interesting that the most easily offended group in the U.S. is the same one that generates so much offensive output – output that patronizes the intelligence of its members and not only makes light of the complexities of life and faith, but makes light of how we are to engage with God in these struggles.

In this way, to be intentionally inane is not simply foolish or even inaccurate; it is distasteful, it is embarrassing, and it is unacceptable. And it has no place in Christian conversation.

The Houghton Star is looking for new writers!

Think you've got a taste for reviews?

Interested in covering the latest concert?

Got any innovative ideas for your student paper?

We want your input!

Contact:  
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*Co-Op cont'd from page 4*

available such as goats' milk soaps and recycled paper products." The Co-op's hope is not to be in competition with local farmers' markets, but will, rather, supplement those offerings while working with the same farmers who participate in these markets.

The Harvest Market, within two weeks of beginning its member-owner campaign, recruited about 35 members. The Steering Committee identified June 1 as an initial target date to see if the opening of the Co-op is viable, with 100 member-owners recruited by that date as its goal. The initial equity payments required for member owners is approximately \$150, with a \$25 annual member fee following. While the Co-op will not restrict its customers to member-owners, member-owners will, in addition to having a say in business operations, receive discounts on products. Profits (surplus revenue) will also be split among the member-owners at the end of the fiscal year. If the Co-op is able to garner the needed support for each stage of the planning process, its doors may open in March of 2012.

The option for becoming a member-owner is available to students as well as adult faculty and community members. The initial \$150 is an equity investment, geared toward covering start-up costs. Kisselstein specified "they even allow up to three students to split the cost of a membership fee." For Houghton students that want to become member owners, it may be helpful to know that the initial equity payment is not required to be paid in a lump sum, but can be spread out over 12 months with each monthly payment equaling \$12.50. When a student graduates, his/her equity investment may be refunded; if anyone chooses to withdraw their position as a member owner, the equity investments

made are fully refunded.

Though graduating this spring, senior Colleen White said that she was "very hopeful for the co-op," especially noting its convenience in location and a helpful consolidation of products for the student that wants to buy local and healthful foods.

Kisselstein added that the co-op "seems like a good idea as long as there is sufficient interest." Spear urged his support for the opening of the co-op, expressing his enthusiasm in terms of the possibility of a voluntary joining together of community members to meet the 'food' needs of Houghton and its environs.

"This isn't the 'College' doing this or even the 'environmentalists' or any other label or stereotype that might be put on those who choose to invest in a co-op... we're simply appealing to the members of this community and asking: 'do you think food—good, healthy, sustainable, nutritious, local food—is important to share and invest in together?'"

There have been a number of informational meetings held at OCG within the past month in order to articulate and garner support for this vision. The next informational meeting is to be held Monday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m. at Our Common Ground. If interested in learning more information about the project and considering becoming a member-owner, you can attend an informational meeting and sign up for the Allegany Harvest newsletter to remain updated on the Harvest Market's progress in recruiting member-owners and its status as a business. If you are interested in becoming a member-owner, you may download an application from the website ([alleganyharvest.com](http://alleganyharvest.com)) or you may contact Allegany Harvest on Facebook or by e-mail ([alleganyharvest@gmail.com](mailto:alleganyharvest@gmail.com)).

**"COME WALK IN MY SHOES"**

An incredible documentary which highlights the collective history and significance of the Civil Rights Movement, including a Pilgrimage of all the unsung heroes.

**Time: 7- 8:30 pm**  
**Date: April 27th, 2011**  
**Location: Library 323**

**\*Alternative Chapel Credit**  
**\*Refreshments will be Provided**

**Panelists:**

- REV. JEFF CARTER:  
Pastor, Ephesus Ministries in Buffalo
- MRS. EILEEN BRITTAIN:  
Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education at Jamestown Community College and Wife of our very own Dear Dr. Brittain
- DR. CHARLES MASSEY:  
Professor of Education/City Semester

These individuals will be sharing about the Civil Rights Movement from their own lens, as participants during that time.

The Heritage Club  
Co-hosted with CAB



## Growing Where You're Planted: Thriving Post-Graduation



PHOTO BY ANDREA PACHECO

BY HEATHER HILL

At Houghton, we pride ourselves on the things we accomplish. What vision do we have, what goals, and what plans to achieve our big dreams? At Houghton, we pride ourselves on the selflessness of our dreams: we want to do things for the world, for the good of people, for the betterment of mankind. We want to make a difference, create an impact, or foster positive change. We pride ourselves on our ability to think broadly, to daily increase the breadth of our learning, and even (with a laugh) on our ability to discuss the points of Calvinism over breakfast.

The names we celebrate at Houghton are those clearly walking this path. While they are students, they balance studying, volunteering, and campus jobs, followed by internships, networking, and graduate school. We feature their success on our website, in our college mailings and the Houghton magazine. Sometimes they get invited to speak on campus; to share their story at executive dinners, classrooms, and chapel. These are the names we celebrate at Houghton; these are the names we as the

Houghton College community put forward to emulate.

When we graduate, we no longer have a syllabus to dictate to our lives, and we no longer receive grades. So a question is, what do we use to measure the success of our own lives?

While at Houghton today we speak of the far-off dream of helping the world in some form or other, but what about in the meanwhile? What about in the reality of today? Even if "all"

you want is just to be wealthy and enjoy yourself, it is not an overnight leap for most of us. Facebook has so many comments from recent graduates, thanking Houghton for nothing. What good is a bachelor's degree—let alone at the cost we pay at Houghton—when the jobs they find are in fast-food?

What good is vision in real life? How many people, of all who ever dream or dare to reach, become President of the United States? How do we look at ourselves in the mirror when the face that stares back at us is ourselves today, bleary eyed and wondering how to get things done, rather than the face we hope to present some day?

Wherever we are in life—current student, faculty/staff, alumni—we mustn't let ourselves feel like dust on a book that has fallen behind the couch. We aren't! Wherever we find ourselves, expected or unexpected, anticipated or dreaded,

consider that there is probably something there for us which we have yet to discover, something so ordinary that it becomes, in the end, extraordinary.

Sometimes I wonder at the ambitions Joseph, son of Jacob, must have had as a youth; dreams of success and prosperity not unlike the ones we know of, that led to his brothers' betrayal of him. For all of his plans and ambitions, for all of the things those around him may have thought

him destined for, he became a slave with little hope of anything better. He became an exile from his land, the land he loved and knew; from his language, from his people and his family. But he grew where he found himself. He became the very best slave he could be. He allowed himself to grow roots in the place he was so surprisingly planted, and he flourished. Then it

happened again (how could it happen twice!?)—he found himself in prison. Who would have thought something could be worse than his slavery? Yet again, he grew where he found himself. He connected with those around him, he bettered the place that held him, he lived fully, beyond the measure that most of us would be able to imagine in such circumstances.

It was not even as though Joseph was trying to stay there, either. He asked the cup-bearer to remember him to Pharaoh. He still had dreams, wishes, longings—a

vision of freedom, of a place where he might be happier more easily. And then one day years later, it happened: the goat-herd boy from nowhere became at once the second most powerful man in the world. Looking back, you might say that his slavery and imprisonment were his MBA classes. He learned management there, people skills, and built connections. He knew the levels and the customs of the world that suddenly he found himself helping to rule. He lived a dream bigger than anything he, in all his youthful ambitions, could ever have imagined; and he was prepared for it in the end not because he planned a very careful step-by-step path, but because he chose to grow where he was planted.

Along with celebrating all the people who have done the great things and walked a strict, hard path to their goals, we should remember to celebrate those who grow wherever they find themselves. Life is a tricky, trippy thing, and we should take pride in the people who take what they get and better it, who choose to live fully no matter what, no matter where. The "end" is important, but no matter how winding or unimportant our path there may seem, so is every step of the way. All the young alumni out there who are adjusting right now in the world, in the places they are finding themselves—I'm excited for them and proud of them. They are taking everything they are and everything they know and the things they have learned here at Houghton and before, and are trying to figure out what it means to live it where they are, and to live it fully. I would call that a measure of success.

*Heather, Class of 2008, is the Houghton Fund Officer*

**We should take pride in the people who choose to live fully no matter what, no matter where**

### The Penultimate Word

## The Role of an Opinions Section in a Student Newspaper



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY ELISA SHEARER

A college newspaper—much less its Opinions section—may not seem a "big deal" at first, and certainly not in comparison to the more famous presses of large cities. But when one considers the amount of money and time invested into the community by each student, the importance of a news publication becomes apparent. A newspaper is as important as the efforts and investment of its members, and in Houghton's case, those investments add up to quite a bit of time and money.

A unique aspect of a college newspaper is that its readership population is both abnormally stable and constantly in flux: stable because the population of a college remains at a constant age of 18-22, in flux because the actual members of the population are completely new every four years. This means that any consensus the previ-

ous population of students decides on can very easily be lost as soon as those individuals leave.

On a college campus, particularly a smaller one like Houghton, it is essential for each generation of students to decide actively why they follow the rules of the community. If this is not done, the reasoning behind the rules fades from the student consciousness, leaving only a thin layer of that's-how-it's-always-been holding up important statutes. This results in a complacent and unthinking attitude in the student body, which fosters decay in the social structure and eventual (intentional or unintentional) abuse of the rules by the student body, the administration, or both. This is why constant communication and re-evaluation of the rules is so important on a college campus—communication which depends upon an accessible public space for open discussion. An Opinions section provides such a space.

We can surmise that opinions pages are not space-fillers for the newspapers of small communities; they are an essential part of a good news publication. The New York Times, The Boston Globe, and The Washington Post could all be said to be household-name press standards, and all have opinions sections, complete with editorials, guest opinion pieces, and letters to the editor. Opinions pages are a necessity

for a decent newspaper, not a luxury.

Note the emphasis on "accessible" space and "open" discussion. Opinion pieces will, hopefully, avoid the two extremes of a spineless, pointless non-statement and an unsupported, unresearched rant. News articles involve the disinterested investigation of fact, and opinion is an offered interpretation of that fact. The point is not to force upon the public the opinions of the editors of a newspaper or any random letter-writing community member. Opinions pieces in good newspapers are not tyrannical—they are not a demand for agreement—they are an offering and an invitation to conversation.

Therefore, it does not excite me much when someone tells me that they completely agree with something I wrote. It does excite me when someone reads what I wrote and wants to talk about a point on which they are confused or disagree with my reasoning. If I write on a topic about which I am confused, I welcome answers. If I write a topic about which I have a strong opinion, I welcome intelligent argu-

ment.

And when I say "argument," I'm referring to a specific type of constructive discussion: arguments done correctly involve two people working towards the same goal, and are essentially creative. Arguments which involve one or both parties trying to "win" regardless of what might actually be true or right are essentially destructive.

A decent newspaper must have an Opinions section—a place open to discussion among members focused on the growth and development of the community served by the newspaper. Houghton being a small college, an Opinions section is especially essential to provide a sense of continuity to the discussion between a small and ever-changing population of students. Most importantly, an open arena of civil public discourse is essential for a news publication's underlying mission of community dialogue, transparency, and integrity.

*Elisa is a junior Psychology and English major*

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## From the Editor's Desk

## Cynicism, Complacency, and Public Discourse at Houghton



PHOTO BY DANIEL PEIXOTO

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

G.K. Chesterton, when speaking about the tendency towards complacency, said, "We do not want joy and anger to neutralize each other and produce a surly contentment; we want a fiercer delight and a fiercer discontent." In the context of a place like Houghton, his argument points to the necessity of finding a balance between joy and anger falling neither into complacency nor cynicism.

In recent months, I have written articles criticizing Houghton in which I have failed to find that balance. The articles were written out of a desire to see Houghton succeed—a point I also failed to get across—but in doing so, I often slipped into cynicism, elevating the abrasive style of writing and thereby making the real argument moot. The goal of an opinion article should always be to raise questions, present issues, and open lines of communication and discussion. Reverting to cynicism, however, does not raise the level of public

discourse, but rather reduces it to a rhetorical, quasi-pedagogical shouting match taking place on the pages of the Star, email chains, and Facebook walls.

President Mullen pointed out to me recently, "It is so easy for critical thinking to sink into cynicism. Cynicism is a 'safe' stance and can appear, at first glance, to be more sophisticated than a position mitigated by the values of Grace and Hope." But this safety is simply a mirage.

The problem is not criticism. If Houghton was not subjected to any criticism, it would be a sign of much greater, deep-seated inadequacies. As Aristotle put it, "Criticism is something we can avoid easily by saying nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing." The problem, rather, is criticism with the intent simply to tear down rather than build up.

To paraphrase Chesterton, "If a man loves some feature of [Houghton], he may find himself defending that feature against [Houghton] itself. But if he simply loves [Houghton] itself, he may lay it waste and turn it into the New Jerusalem." Public discourse must not pit student against student, organization against organization, student body against administration, to the detriment of the institution as a whole. It

must raise honest but respectful questions that relate to the institution as a whole with a desire to revise, resolve and reform.

I, and others who have written editorials, have sometimes failed in this endeavor, and as with many vices, cynicism is contagious. Many students, faculty, staff and administration have responded to cynical articles in kind, as is their prerogative.

Responding to Elisa Shearer's column last week on the ambiguity of Houghton's alcohol policy, one student pontificated on Facebook about how Houghton's alcohol policy is beneficial.

Elisa's column, of course, in no way argued that the alcohol policy was not beneficial. Rather, it attempted to point out the different documents at Houghton that address the alcohol

policy in sometimes divergent or at least ambiguous ways. The student immediately thought the worst when reading Elisa's argument and that is a result of the cynical culture that is prevalent in the United States and in Houghton.

But we cannot just accept this fact and move on as if it was inevitable and is irreversible. Houghton is not a perfect community, but if perfection is our goal we are simply asking to be deceived or disappointed. We can, however, seek to

improve the community from the bottom up by being respectful yet adamant in our criticism and discourse.

We cannot ignore the painful or the difficult or else we all fail. As students, we all have a stake in the future of Houghton as an institution. For some, it is simply pragmatic; the desire to succeed in the future is dependent on an alma mater in good standing. For others, it is idealistic; some students love Houghton because it embodies principles that should guide us in our future dealings and those principles must remain true.

Either way, our stake in Houghton should lead us to find that middle ground in our discourse between delight and discontent without sinking into cynicism. To draw once more from Chesterton, "Love is not blind; that is the last thing that it is. Love is bound; and the more it is bound the less it is blind." Thus our stake in Houghton binds us to see both the positive and the negative of the institution and act accordingly with all due diligence and respect.

I know I and the other members of the Star staff will always seek to do so. I cannot promise that we will always succeed but I can promise that we will do our best. I invite all to do so as well.

*Chris is a junior History and Political Science major*

**Our stake in Houghton binds us to see both the positive and the negative of the institution**

## Letters to the Editor

Send to

houghtonstar@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

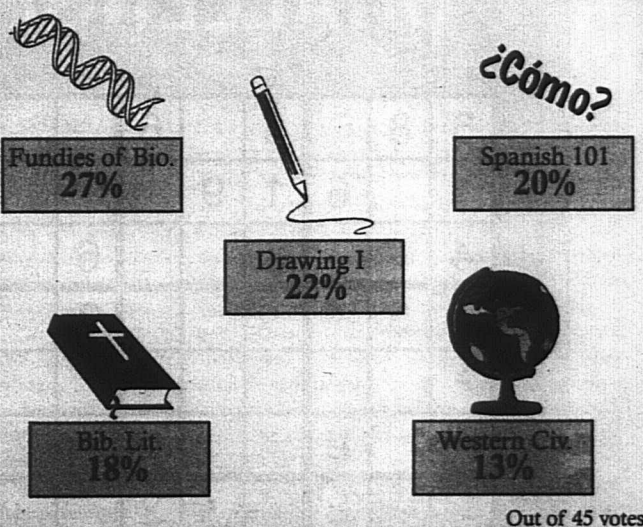
I am writing in response to Chris Hartline's article, "The Myth of the Houghton Experience," published two weeks ago, in which he critiqued Houghton's sincerity as a liberal arts college. I just wanted to add a few things. When I came to this school, I thought Christian liberal arts would mean thriving academic excellence, fellow students interested in philosophy, history, and other such subjects, and more. But I see two growing problems. The first is how seriously Houghton College actually takes the liberal arts, and I think Mr. Hartline covered that fairly well already. My second concern is how Christian Houghton actually is.

In terms of thoughtful theological discussions, the majority of students seem unwilling to engage seriously in ideas that they disagree with. I have heard students respond to the issue of homosexuality by saying that the Bible is perfectly clear on the matter and that we should just accept what it says (although if one looks back

at the original language in those passages, it is not at all clear), and I have heard students laugh off ideas like predestination or transubstantiation as preposterous—scoffing at anyone who would believe those things—and yet there are Houghton students who hold these beliefs, which demonstrates a serious lack of respect for fellow students for one thing and a lack of open-mindedness for another. In terms of policy, although possibly beneficial, the policies against alcohol and smoking are Wesleyan, not Christian. The Community Covenant even admits that these things are not necessarily wrong, just against the Wesleyan tradition. And I have seen administration and Student Life staff demonstrate a lack of Christian love in enforcing these policies. And to visit the faith-based re-branding issue again, I wouldn't mind going to a faith-based school (it could be very constructively open-minded), but this institution is distinctly Wesleyan and can hardly call itself anything so misleading as "faith-based." I would like to say that there are members of the student body, administration, and certainly faculty who are exceptions to the above description, and I am not arguing with the policies themselves either, but I wanted to point out the general trends that I've been observing and encourage all of you to make Christian mean more than having Hawk Nelson concerts in Wesley Chapel.

*-Joia Otto, Class of 2013*

## If you could be exempted from one IS requirement, what would it be?

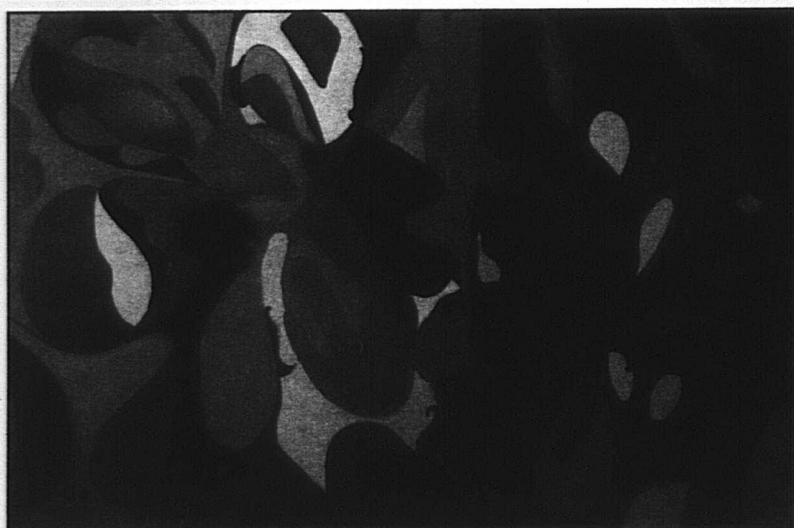


Check out the new poll at [www.houghtonstar.com](http://www.houghtonstar.com)

Correction to the April 8 issue:

Broc Verschoor and Alex Glover were the winners of the Narrative category at the Film Festival two weeks ago, for their film "Missing Frames".

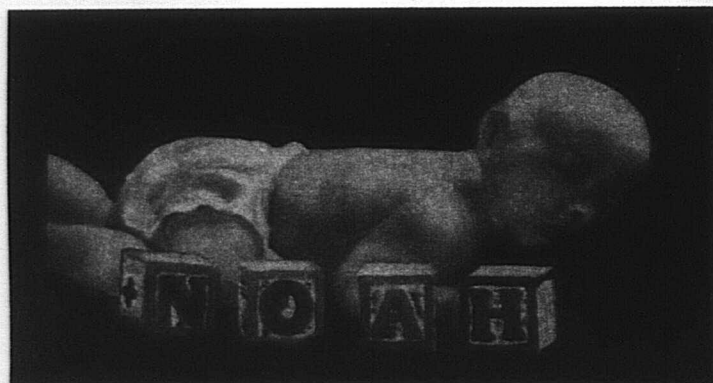




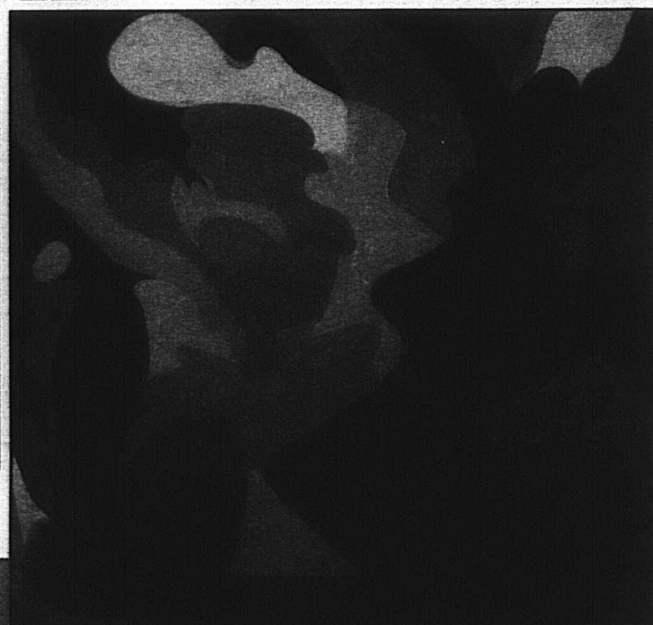
# Beverly Snyder

ARTIST of the WEEK

A note from the artist: I Dream of Lapis Lazuli. What a gift!



Clockwise from top: *For Kevin. My Butterfly.*, oil; *Persephone*, clay; *Noah*, oil; *Shambuska!*, oil



## sudoku CHALLENGE

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

Sudoku solution for 4-2:

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

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