



THE GRAMMYS: A BROKEN PROMISE |
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February 22, 2013 • Vol. 109, No. 16



Houghton Students Tackle Independent Film Project

JORY KAUFFMAN

As a group of artists aspiring to learn and grow from the experience of a challenging project, Aaron Fitzgerald, Jordan Meeder, Andrew McGinnis, Graeme Little, Aubrey Thorlakson, and Nicolas Quigley came together at the beginning of the fall semester to begin creating a short film called *Telemachus*.

Fitzgerald, the team's director, said concerning the origin of such a project, "Jordan and I kind of had an idea about it, and had talked about it sort of seriously, sort of jokingly over the summer... but we didn't do anything about it then... Then I sent out an email to him and a couple other people I thought might be interested, and we met, and that was it."

Telemachus functions as a group undertaking for an advanced projects class, supervised by Professor David Huth, Visual Communication and Media Arts. The project's production time spans the entire 2012-2013 academic year.

"We're all doing the equivalent amount of work that would be involved in an individual project... most projects would encompass more aspects of the medium, but wouldn't necessarily do as in-depth kind of



Runaway Jack, the team behind Telemachus

stuff," said Graeme Little, director of sound.

To explain the plot of *Telemachus*, Fitzgerald said, "I think the easiest way for someone to understand it, without revealing too much, is that it's like a loose, modern adaptation of the first three or four books of the *Odyssey*, and then the last two books of the *Odyssey*... I wouldn't say it's a parallel story, but more of a character study."

When asked whether the individuals in the group had ever attempted producing something like *Telemachus* before, Fitzgerald said, "Nothing like this. We've all done smaller, more independent projects."

Meeder, director of photography, said of the project as a whole, "I think it was a challenge to learn to work creatively with other people because

none of us had ever done that before... I think it's a good experience, but it's definitely something you can't really plan for... It's been more of a learning experience than we ever expected."

Fitzgerald went on to say, "I think one of my ideas for this project is to give people who I think are gifted or invested in a certain way a cooler platform to showcase their work on, the kind of thing a lot of other majors have, but the communication major doesn't necessarily."

Since Houghton lacks a specific film department, the group's goal to complete *Telemachus* acts as an experience and essentially an experiment of their own. As Fitzgerald said, "We didn't do this *because*

See **TELEMACHUS** page 2

Programs Hope to Improve Transition to Life after College

ANNELISE HEIN

As seniors graduate this year, Houghton College is revising and enhancing efforts to help students transition out of Houghton and into further education or the working world. Career Services and Student Life are directly involved in programs aimed at the goal of preparing students to enter the world.

Vice President for Student Life, Rob Pool, said, "One view is that every aspect of college prepares you to transition out." In a broad sense, Houghton's purpose throughout each student's entire time at Houghton, from enrollment to graduation, is to prepare students for a life focused on and help them transition out of Houghton.

Pool believes that much of the preparation for leaving Houghton is organic—built into the entire Houghton experience—from formal academic and spiritual life activities to residence life and stress management. While Houghton has thus effectively helped students transition into college, it is less clear how successfully Houghton has aided them in transitioning out of college.

Because this preparation is hard to see, some of the new transition endeavors involve, in Pool's words, "re-packaging" existing programs so that students see the value of what they already have. Last year, Career Services held a business-related fashion show to help students know what type of attire is needed for a professional career. Although Career Services gave away hundreds of dollars in professional clothing, only six students participated in the event. This year, the event has been restructured and will be part of the Campus Store's fashion show on March 15.

There are also new programs, most notably a pilot program for a small group of current sophomores, who in March will attend a retreat designed to help them discover their future vocations and establish a plan for moving toward their goals for the future. Dr. Pool hopes that this program will serve as a model that may be replicated on a larger scale in order that all students can benefit from it.

Career Services is also working hard to make students aware of the opportunities and resources available

See **TRANSITIONS** page 3

Six New Commercial Music Courses Added

EMILY MORROW

Six new courses were added to Houghton's course catalogue last month, all of which focus on music technology and the business aspects of the music industry.

Since the college started offering courses on Pro Tools, much interest has been seen in learning the audio engineering side of music. Kevin Jackson, Director of Sound and Recording and the Pro Tools instructor, has been working to develop Houghton's music recording department and these six new courses since he joined the college in 2007.

The new courses added to the catalogue are as follows: Introduction to Digital Audio and Technology, Introduction to Music Business, Recording Studio Technique, Critical Listening and the Art of Mixing, Advanced Music Production, and Sound Design and Processing. All of these classes focus on skills that students would need when going into the music industry, including further



A student performs in Java

instruction in Pro Tools, recording live and studio events, and managing income streams.

When considering which courses to add to the catalogue, Jackson said, "What would benefit Houghton students to be employable when they leave Houghton?"

While some instruction in this area was already offered, students looking to get work in the music industry needed the inclusion of these new courses.

"Knowing how to use a software program and knowing how to get a mixed balance and make something

sound musical and compelling are completely different things" said Dan Austin, a senior English major who is planning on going into sound engineering after graduation.

Currently, if a student wants to get the full benefit of both the music and business departments, the course load is very heavy, especially to those pursuing a double major.

"It [music and business] is too big, too much, to do it as a double major," said Professor Ken Bates, Business Administration.

The long-term dream would be a major or minor, but first Jackson wants to get these six courses underway.

"There's a lot of red tape [to get through] to be able to make this something more than just courses," said Jackson.

Houghton alumnus John Buteyn double majored in music and business and currently works with Houghton's financial services. Jackson and

See **NEW MUSIC COURSES** page 3

INTERNATIONAL / PAKISTAN FACES INTERNAL STRIFE



LUKE LAUER

STEPHEN HILL

A sit-in protest in Quetta, Pakistan ended on Tuesday when the government allegedly met all of the protesters' demands. The protest was held as a response to the Saturday bombing of a market district, with the protestors rallying around the families of those who were killed in the bomb blast.

The families refused to bury their dead until the government promised to take action to prevent future bombings.

Quetta is the largest city in the Pakistani district of Balochistan, and has a high population of Hazara, who primarily practice Shia Islam. The Hazara are a distinct ethnic group

within northern Pakistan and Afghanistan who trace their ancestry back to the Mongols. Their distinct appearance makes them easy targets for Sunni extremists.

Related protests were held throughout Pakistan, with the largest being in Karachi and Lahore, but also in other cities with sizeable populations of Hazara.

On Tuesday, the Pakistani government arrested one hundred and seventy people in relation to the bombing. Among those taken into custody was a former provincial minister, one of the masterminds of the recent bombings. According to the Pakistani information minister, Qamar Zaman Kaira, the arrests are expected to make a significant difference for regional security.

Four suspects were also killed during Tuesday's operation. They were allegedly responsible for the past murders of high-ranking police officers and a Shia judge.

Saturday's blast, which killed eighty-nine individuals, was only the latest in a string of bombings which has left more than two hundred and thirty Pakistani Shi'ite Muslims dead since January 10, when the bombing of a billiards hall in Quetta killed ninety-two people. Since then there have been multiple smaller bombings around Pakistan, including the bombings of a Shia mosque and a police checkpoint at the beginning of February. A Sunni Mus-

lim extremist group, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), has claimed responsibility for the bombing campaign.

LeJ was formed sometime in 1995/1996 as a violent offshoot of a comparatively peaceful religious-political organization known as "Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan." LeJ's stated goals are to forge Pakistan into a Deobandi Sunni state. They are a takfiri group, which means that they consider all of those who hold different religious beliefs to be infidels. LeJ has been responsible for several previous bombings of Shi'ites in Pakistan, as well as being suspected in a 1998 massacre of Hazara in Afghanistan. Besides bombing Shi'ite Muslims, LeJ has demonstrated a proclivity for bombing Barelvi and Ahmadi Muslims; while the latter two are Sunni sects, they do not share common goals with the

Deobandi sect of Sunni Islam.

Pakistan is predominantly Sunni, but has seen a significant rise in sectarian violence in recent years. There have been killings between componential sects of Sunni Islam in addition to the far more common violence between Sunni and Shia Muslims. The first two months of this year have already seen almost two hundred and fifty Pakistani Shia killed by their countrymen. 2012, on record as the deadliest year for Pakistani Shi'ites, saw the deaths of four hundred.

For Pakistani nationals, interracial and intra-religious conflict continues to pose as significant a threat as the more publicized geopolitical conflict which plays out in their country.



NATION.COM

Hazara community ends protest and buires their dead

TELEMACHUS from page 1

Houghton doesn't have a film program; we just wanted to do something, and we thought that fact might be a good marketing platform."

The team establishes its objective as principally gaining experience while deliberately challenging each of its members.

McGinnis, director of editing and effects, said, "I guess for me, the project is basically to get a large production under my belt, whether it turns out good or not. I can just say I helped with a film that was over fifteen minutes long, and basically adding that to my portfolio and seeing what it's like to work in a team atmosphere."

Little's hopes for *Telemachus* parallel those of McGinnis as well. He said specifically, "I guess my goal for the project would be to best create something that is not just my project anymore, but more like part of a larger project, which is like what any project is going to be in the real world."

While the team hopes to eventually enter the film into film festivals in order to gain recognition, this aspiration comes second to the actual completion and experience of the entire project.

"I think our primary goal in this project is really just to learn and to try something that's new and something that we're not used to," said Fitzgerald. "I think a good way of thinking about is not in terms of, 'We're doing this so that we can be known,' but rather something like, 'A good goal for us would be trying to get into a festival,' and that could help drive us to do something better than what we've done before, and do something new and different from what we're comfortable with." ★

Seven Professors Receive Tenure

ABBY BUCKINGHAM

This year, professors Jillian Sokso, Marlene Collins-Blair, Susan Bruxvoort Lipscomb, Ndunge Kiiti, Kristin Camenga, Brandon Hoffman, and David Huth reached tenured status.

The track to tenure begins in a professor's second year of teaching, when they undergo a review within their department. Then, four years into their appointment, they undergo an intermediate review. Six years into their teaching, the professor is reviewed a final time by the chair of their department and a faculty member. Finally, in the seventh year, the professor is reviewed once more and also undergoes a hearing. In the spring, the Board of Trustees makes a final decision.

"Tenure itself is something that is, ultimately, good for the institution because it ensures faculty stability and protects the freedom of scholars to pursue their disciplines," said Professor Bruxvoort Lipscomb, English, of the process. Tenure can also be a stressful process, Bruxvoort Lipscomb points out. "The process itself, however, produces a lot of anxiety because the stakes are so high—professors who are not granted tenure must leave the institution."

The tenure process helped Profes-



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Professor Bruxvoort Lipscomb, English



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Professor Camenga, Mathematics

sor Sokso, Art, gain some insight into her work. She said, "Preparing for the reviews and hearing helped me to gain some clear insights about my teaching and research practices, and I feel that I am a better instructor and scholar because of that reflective process, paired with some intentional goal setting for the future."

All of the tenured professors are great contributors to the communities within their academic disciplines. Sokso recently illustrated one of the criteria for tenure, "integration of faith and teaching/research" in a recent collaboration with Women of Hope International in Sierra Leone. She taught disabled women how to make paper from indigenous plant fibers. She said of the trip, "I saw that opportunity as an authentic extension of both my studio and teaching practices, an example of my commitment to care for God's creation, and the chance to simply love people who have been abused and disadvantaged their entire lives."

Professor Camenga, Mathematics, had the chance to attend the Joint Mathematics Meeting in San Diego, California in January with a few of her students after they spent the summer participating

in National Science Foundation-funded research. This conference is the premier national mathematics meeting and she said she gets "the greatest joy from the accomplishments of my students." She said that she celebrates "the unique path that God is taking each of my students and hope that I had a small part in that."

"With higher education in such a turbulent state right now, I think that many professors feel grateful just to have a job. And it's really a great job—one in which we get to pursue intellectual and artistic development and be involved in shaping the minds and vocations of students," said Bruxvoort Lipscomb.

Achieving tenure is an honor, and all of the professors recognize this fact. Sokso said, "I'm very happy to be among the many established colleagues who have chosen to give of their time, talents and lives to this community." Bruxvoort Lipscomb said, "I know that I'm grateful for my job at Houghton. And I'm grateful that it's more secure now because I successfully completed the tenure process." Camenga echoed the sentiments of her colleagues saying, "I am honored to have been awarded tenure and promotion and look forward to continuing to serve the Houghton community." ★



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Professor Sokso, Art

POLITICS / CONGRESS SCRAMBLES TO PREVENT SEQUESTER



ANDREA PACHECO

SARAH HUTCHINSON

On Capitol Hill, lawmakers are busy trying to prevent the sequester, massive spending cuts totaling to roughly \$85 billion this year and over \$1 trillion over the next ten years, that will hit the federal budget on March 1.

Should lawmakers fail to prevent the sequester, it will lop off a good portion of discretionary spending for defense and domestic programs and will also affect some mandatory domestic spending (most notably Medicare.) No programs will be eliminated, but all will be considerably scaled back.

The sequester will also affect federal employment. According to a Washington Post article, about 800,000 employees at the Pentagon will be put on unpaid leave if Congress cannot obtain a solution to the sequester. Military members and their families will also face cuts to benefit programs. Economic growth in the United States is also expected to slow and unemployment will raise a quarter of a percentage.

The sequester is the result of the debt ceiling crisis in the summer of 2011. It was intended to be an incentive for Congress to come to an agreement to cut federal spending, however, no agreement was ever reached. Originally, the sequester was supposed to take place in the beginning of this year (during the fiscal cliff crisis), but Congress made a deal to prevent the cliff and the sequester was delayed for another two months.

Nobody in Congress is pleased with the situation; neither the Democrats nor the Republicans can agree on how to best prevent the sequester.

President Obama and the Democrats are suggesting that the best way is to increase taxes. Obama has advocated for closing tax loopholes and increasing tax rates for the wealthy. The Democrats in Congress are pushing for tax increases, spread out over the course of a decade, and they are also recommending other measures such as cutting farm subsidies and tax subsidies for oil companies.

Republicans, on the other hand, do not want to raise taxes at all and thus find themselves not able to agree with Democrat proposals. Republicans are also very concerned about defense spending being cut, more so than domestic spending, and are pushing for considerably large domestic spending cuts instead. In an article in the Wall Street Journal, Speaker of the House, John Boehner, wrote, "The president's sequester is the wrong way to reduce the deficit, but it is here to stay until Washington Democrats get serious about cutting spending. The government simply cannot keep delaying the inevitable and

spending money it doesn't have."

Overall, the sequester is another issue in the long debate over the size and role of the federal government, with the Democrats on the side of an expanded government and Republicans on the side of a smaller government. The results of the sequester that arise within the next week should be a test case to the larger debate. Hopefully, though, Congress will find a compromise to the sequester that is appealing to both political parties and will secure the future of American defense and overall well-being.



IVN.US

Capitol Hill

TRANSITIONS from page 1

through their office.

Brian Reitnour works as the Coordinator of Career Services to help students translate their liberal arts education, which encompasses academics, clubs, sports, and other activities, into vocational opportunities beyond Houghton.

As Reitnour designs events and services for students, he tries to figure out what students want, what employers want, and what he can do to bridge the gap between the two. He said, "On a yearly basis, we have to figure out and re-figure out where we want to put our time and energy."

One connection between students and professionals is Houghton Connects, a feature of the online Job Shop. This service links current students with alumni who have similar interests so that they can develop a mentoring or advising relationship.

Additionally, Houghton alumni who are now employers often return to campus to recruit Houghton students. On March 19, eleven employers will be on campus for the Career Fair from 11:00-2:00.

On HELP Day, March 13, Career Services will offer job- and internship-search workshops, alternative chapels, and financial management workshops to give students knowledge they will need once they leave Houghton.

Other opportunities for students through Career Services include Teacher Recruitment Days in Buffalo, free transportation to the Rochester Area Career Expo, and individual appointments. Reitnour said he finds individual appointments the most effective because students can pursue the help they want, whether that be for resumes, cover letters, gradu-

ate school, application processes, or even choosing a major.

Reitnour stressed that Career Services is not only for seniors, although typically about 50% of each year's graduating class will utilize their services. His word of advice, applicable to all students regardless of academic class, is "Don't Wait." Starting sooner—finding internships, writing

resumes, applying for interviews—makes the whole process easier.

Likewise, Dr. Pool emphasized the value of starting early. He said that by the end of sophomore year, students should have finalized their academic plans, established clear vocational goals, know how to maintain high wellness levels, and be creating a network of people who can act as mentors and recommenders. These actions are embedded in the Houghton experience and other services such as the events and resources available through Career Services, but Pool hopes the re-working of Houghton's transitions programs will make these structures more visible and effective.

Surveys show that Houghton students are prepared to encounter the world and become effective leaders in work, ministry, and missions, but Pool said, "We always want to do better." ★



TOPCHRISTIANCOLLEGES.COM

NEW MUSIC COURSES from page 1

Buteyn are planning on joining forces and teaching the newly added courses. Both have had experience working with bands, recording, and the music industry, and will be excellent resources for students pursuing these fields.

"The industry is becoming more and more 'you do it all yourself,'" said Buteyn. "An artist needs to be able to manage themselves and produce their own music."

Jackson's goal is to prepare students for a range of roles in the music industry. Jackson's previous experience working in many major studios will also provide a practical and realistic link to how jobs in the industry

actually function.

"We have so many industry connections that we can really plug our students into music industry [internships]," said Jackson.

Besides gaining many practical skills, Jackson really wants prepare Christians to serve God in this field.

"My real vision is that there are ...places in the secular industry that need light in a dark place," said Jackson. "If we can't train people to do this and get out into those industries, then we're losing opportunity." ★

ROTHENBUHLER TREASURE HUNT

WHAT: a scavenger hunt involving trivia, searching for clues, and a prize

WHERE: all over Houghton's campus, but the official starting place is yet to be determined

WHEN: March 16th from 1-4 P.M.



**See
You
There!**

The Grammys: A Broken Promise

BEN MURPHY

Although such declamations are hardly conventional, this article had better begin with full disclosure on two accounts: I did not watch the 2013 Grammys, and, before writing this, I did not know anything about the Grammy Awards in general. This look is from a newbie. It is not my intention provide a comprehensive list of the winners and reactions; such an angle would be both stale and, from my perspective, ill-informed. I will, instead, try to bring some things that I do know to the 2013 Grammy Awards.

For those not familiar, pitchfork.com is a Chicago area music blog publication, which offers reviews, exclusives, interviews, breaking news, video releases, and recommendations. Off the record, it is only fair to mention that Pitchfork is, in some sense, analogous with snobbery. Such criticism is neither ill deserved nor a secret. Keeping this reputation in mind, ponder this pattern: the worse the Pitchfork review, the better the Grammy reception.

After absolutely lambasting the 2010 “Sigh No More” release, nowhere does Pitchfork even utter the name of the 2013 Grammy-winning “Album of the Year,” Mumford and Son’s “Babel.” And although the winner for “Best Alternative Album,” Goyte’s “Making Mirrors,” is given time of day for a review, Pitchfork actually rated it lower than three of the four losing Grammy nominations, two of which appear on the website tagged under “best new music.” A Pitchfork search for Bonnie Raitt, the 2013 Grammy winner for “Best Americana Album” will only yield a Bon Iver cover of one of her songs. Artists take note; if Pitchfork slights you, you may be in for a golden statue.

Some readers familiar with both Pitchfork and the Grammys may take issue with the above juxtapositions: isn’t it obvious that the two are after different things? Let’s find out. The tagline to Pitchfork’s website reads, “the essential guide to independent music and beyond.” The Grammys, on the other hand, are charged with “honoring achievements

in the recording arts and supporting the music community,” as “The Recording Academy” section of official website states.

If both of these claims are to be taken seriously, then the relationship between the two is actually pretty clear. Pitchfork operates within a specific, small, dry spot underneath the umbrella of “the music community;” it is within precisely this genre-niche that the three Awards discussed in the previous paragraph belong. The question, then, is should we take both claims seriously? Is one unforgiving but honest, and the other, while ostensibly broad, much less open-minded than service to the “the music community” ought to demand?

Consider *The Rolling Stone’s* review of “Babel” on September 10, 2012. Apart from suggesting a lot of things that I don’t pretend to understand, including the implications of the group doubling down on “the ‘ole time religion” and the complications of using ‘church flavor’ to supersize and complicate love songs,” the article does bring some interesting observations to the forefront.

The reviewer gives Mumford and Sons praise for a “shinier, punchier, more arena-scale” performance. He twice compares the new sound to U2 and suggests that the accompanying lyrics are full of “Biblical metaphors swirling like detritus in a Christopher Nolan film.” Whatever original or unique elements that, three years ago, squeaked “Sigh No More” painfully onto Pitchfork

See GRAMMYS on page 5

BASEBALL SEASON PREVIEW

LAUREL WROBLICKY

Along with the rest of the spring sports, the baseball team’s pre-season training will be put to the test in two weeks. Their season will officially begin Friday, March 1 when the men play against St. John Fisher at a neutral site in New Jersey.

As last year was their opening season, the team struggled in the wins and losses column. There will be new starters at center field, second base, and right field due to graduating and injured players, but essentially the rest of the team is returning. With a year more of experience under their belts, the men have different goals for this season.

“I’ve seen tremendous improvement this year...Their camaraderie and brotherhood is just fantastic. I have coached baseball for 15 years and this is the most fun I’ve had coaching baseball,” said Coach Brian Reitnour. “I’m really pleased with the progress we’ve made and I just want to see them continue to strive for excellence in everything they do, not just baseball.”

“Goals, realistically, are definitely to do better than last year. We want to finish with a 500 record or greater,” said junior captain Ignacio Villalobos. “In preseason rankings we are last in our conference, so we want to prove that wrong. And at least be in the top four.”

“I want to make sure we aren’t going to be run over by teams, because we are good enough, we just have to finish, because that was a problem last year,”



ATHLETICS.HOUGHTON.EDU

Kameron Konert

sophomore Michael Kerr said.

Not only has the team been practicing together for the past three weeks, but they have also been involved in service projects in the area. Last Friday night they volunteered at Houghton Wesleyan Church with the Valentine’s Dinner. They also help out with Little League in Fillmore.

Members of the team have highlighted the spiritual community they have built together. “Devotionals have helped us get closer knit as a team. Even the freshmen have been really involved, which has been really cool to see,” said Villalobos. “The guys [who] came back from last year have

See BASEBALL on page 5

CALENDAR

2/23

- Jason Green Ortlip Gallery Reception

2/25

- Faculty Recital: David Davies, composer

2/26

- Coffeehouse: Elizabeth Wallace and Ben Murphy

3/1

- BB @ Diamond Nation
- MLAX @ Elmira College

3/2

- BB @ Diamond Nation
- WLAX @ Utica

3/4

- Faculty Recital: Ernest Lascell, clarinet with John Gonder, piano

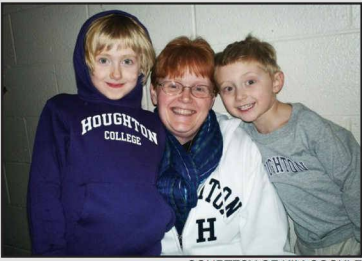
3/5

- Coffeehouse: Taylor Wilding

3/6

- Student Recital: Maribeth Olsen, voice and Elizabeth Martindale, piano
- Student Recital: Anne Nickerson, composition

All information from
http://athletics.houghton.edu



COURTESY OF KIM COCKLE

Clancey, Kim and Reid

KIM COCKLE

A few of you may know that I like to bake a lot. When I was younger, I would watch and “help” my mom and grandmas bake. Joining 4-H and taking home economics classes in junior high and high school continued to cultivate my interest.

Now, I have the pleasure of baking with my children on Sunday afternoons; my daughter, Clancey, is eight and my son, Reid, is six. They have been baking since they were toddlers and old enough to stand up in a chair next to me to add ingredients. There are times when they are basically just waiting for a chance to lick the chocolate spoon, find a stray chocolate chip, or snitch gobs of cookie dough, but there are also other times where they are completely into the whole process from start to finish.

Just this past Sunday while baking with Reid, I mentioned we were going to double the recipe and right away he started saying instead of two cups of flour we will need four and so on.

Things to Eat

Baking is fun math, even the fractions!

There are life lessons in baking too: finish what you start, because something half-done is just a mess, and share whatever gift and bounty God has blessed you with, just like you would share cookies, and use patience to wait for dough to rise or cupcakes to set and cool.

In church, we have a group that does “Overt Ops.” One of their ministries is taking baked goods, provided by our church family, to local merchants as a thank you for their service to the community. They have received reactions ranging from, “Why are you doing this?” to “Wow, what a treat!” What a great opportunity to show your care for community members and perhaps to plant some small seed.

Both of my kids also know that what we bake on Sundays is shared at the office on Mondays. When I get home from work on Monday nights they always ask, “How did they like my [insert whatever we made the day before]?” They are excited and pleased when they hear compliments and are ready to start pouring over cookbooks and looking at online recipes for what to make next week.

They have learned to take pleasure in serving others in this small way. Just last week, Clancey asked to make our “Famous chocolate chip cookies with the secret ingredient” for her class Valentine’s Day party because some classmates had asked her to bring in that particular treat. She collected all the ingredients, mixed up the cookies, and put them on the cookie sheet all on her own.

For me, baking is relaxing. Kneading dough and mindlessly stirring batter is

cathartic. I could care less about how something looks when finished as long as it tastes good. I have been bringing in Monday treats for several years now and have gotten to know people a little better by them just stopping in for a snack.

Sometimes we have groups or individuals come to our house to have the space and equipment to do some larger scale baking, and I’ve gone to students’ places to bake together and fellowship, pray, or have some serious conversations. There is something about doing a task together, like baking, that puts you at ease and distracts you from the cares of the day.

Below is Clancey’s “Famous Chocolate Chip Cookies” with a not-so-secret ingredient. Invite someone over to help you make (and eat) them:

- ¾ cup brown sugar
- 2 ¼ cups flour
- ¼ cup white sugar
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 cup softened margarine or butter
- ¼ tsp. salt (optional)
- 2 eggs
- 1 (3oz.) package instant vanilla pudding (use dry)
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 c. chocolate chips

Combine sugars and margarine until creamy. Add eggs beating one at a time; stir in vanilla. Add flour, baking soda, salt, and pudding mix; mix until well-blended. Stir in chocolate chips - batter may be little stiff. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 8-10 min or until set.

BASEBALL *from page 4*

really found team chemistry from it; just focusing on the right thing: having the purpose of playing for Christ and the goal of being successful on the field.”

Kerr said, “We find joy in the hard work. Our team chemistry is better than it has ever been since we started the Bible study.”

“We are trying to be a team of grace and that is difficult within competitive athletics, because grace and competition in most people’s minds don’t mix. But I want to show them that they can; that it is not necessarily about reducing your opponent to an object, but allowing them to push you to become the best human being you can be,” said Reitnour. “It is about how can I make my brothers better, how can I be a witness, how can I use baseball as an act of worship?”

With all other athletic teams and intramurals sharing time in the gym, it is difficult for each team to get adequate training. The baseball team has made use

of Burke Field when they can.

“Having the turf facility here is amazing,” said Reitnour. “Once we have the baseball field completed, that will be even better, because then we won’t have to compete with men’s and women’s lacrosse, or softball. But I’m pretty used to being in a gym at this time of year.”

The projection for the completion of the baseball field is sometime this summer, meaning the team will not be able to make use of it until preseason next fall. In the meantime, most of their home games will be played at Bolivar-Richford High School, a 45-minute drive south of Houghton. They will also have one game at Dwire Stadium in Batavia and play a four game series against Stevens Tech at St. Bonaventure.

“I know this year that will be tough with our games farther away, but I would really like this to be a place that people want to play because of the community,” said Reitnour. “I really hope we get some good support from the other teams and people [who] don’t even play on campus.”★

Best Pic Nominees

EMMA HUGHES

With the Oscars just around the corner—taking place this Sunday, February 24—offered here is a quick look at the five Best Picture nominees, previously unreviewed by the *Star*: *Zero Dark Thirty*, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Silver Linings Playbook*, *Django Unchained*, and *Amour*.

Zero Dark Thirty: Hauntingly, Kathryn Bigelow’s latest direction begins with a black screen, as the audience listens to 911 phone calls made from the World Trade Center the morning of 9/11, and from here never lets up. Though it may be better-known for its controversy, *ZDT* may actually be a surprising work of art.

Beasts of the Southern Wild: At first glance, the quiet indie flick may seem more geared toward issues of poverty and survival, but at its heart, it centers deeply on the touching relationship between a father and daughter, and the way in which such relationships are a bedrock of one’s life.

Silver Linings Playbook: Alongside the rest of the field, David O Russell’s film seems misplaced: it’s dramedy, fluff romance, gooey optimism. It has none of the relentless questions or haunting situations of its fellow nominees, and its treatment of mental illness comes off as less than authentic, and more in line with its emphasis on blind positivity.

Django Unchained: Quentin Taran-



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tino’s latest, *Django* leaves the impression of being more dedicated to the memory of spaghetti westerns and the glory of blood-letting than to the real humanity and personhood of the characters involved, but it left me wondering how through his hyperbole, Tarantino speaks, however superficially, to the outrageousness of slavery’s horrors.

Amour: Perhaps the most poignant of the nominees, this soft-spoken French-language film confronts mortality and questions about the end of life, as an elderly couple deals with the wife’s deterioration, and her husband’s caretaking of her. Through its shots and performances, *Amour* places its audience momentarily within the isolation and grief of old age.★

GRAMMYS *from page 4*

have since been completely replaced with a new, homogenized amalgamation of Batman and Bono. Music that once belonged, however tenuously, in the realm of indie is now awarded for having become something else.

This is not meant to be an indictment of the Grammys. The point is not to praise the obscure and denigrate the popular. The issue lies in addressing a broken promise. Despite its own proclamation, the Grammys are about performance and popularity. The Award Show is a reproduction of the radio punctuated by mini-Super-Bowl halftime shows. Some genres are elevated and others, such as the small and shrinking categories devoted to alternative, americana, and folk, are neglected. What should, according to its own standards, support the “music community” actually and simply reinforces the music industry. ★

Athlete Profile



ATHLETICS.HOUGHTON.EDU

Mark O'Brien

MEGAN SPECKSGOOR

If there are two things that seem to be unanimously attributed to senior Mark O'Brien, it's his athletic dedication and the strength of his character, both of which are apparent on the basketball court.

Teammate Michael Ball commended O'Brien's persistence and work ethic. “Mark is always one of the first guys in the gym and one of the last to leave the gym. He has impressed me with the amount of things he has on his plate and how he handles the many different things that he is involved with here on campus,” said Ball.

Teammate Seth Shay added, “For the past four years, Mark has been a go-to player for the men’s basketball team and has set a very good example for the younger guys. Houghton College will miss his high level of play and his incredible leadership skills. I couldn’t have asked for a better teammate, and a better friend.”

Coach Drew Hannan agreed with Ball and Shay’s appraisals and added to Mark’s list of qualities “leader” and “competitor.” “The hope is with any player you’ll see development in athletic skill,” said Hannan, “but Mark really took ownership of the program and what we are trying to accomplish. He stepped into a leadership role with the guys looking to him for direction and I think that has

really helped him blossom as a player, being at that level on a daily basis.”

Hannan also commented that Mark’s character has been noticed by people who do not practice with him. “Mark is always one of the first guys to step up and volunteer when someone needs something done,” whether that be service related or manual labor, said Hannan. “His effect and personality go beyond himself” in a positive and inspiring way that Hannan best described as “infectious.”

“Playing on the team for four years has helped me grow a lot and gain perspective both on life and athletics,” said O'Brien. “It’s taught me to compete, be a good teammate, be a good friend and work hard every day, even if I sense things aren’t going the way I want them to. It’s really grown me up.”

Though O'Brien admits to occasional obstacles in motivation, leadership, and performance, he has demonstrated his ability to “work through adversity” and to “really care” enough to continually expend himself to his full potential for the good of the team.

O'Brien said that what he has enjoyed most about college basketball is his teammates. “They’re my buddies, my best friends, they’re hilarious, and I love hanging out with them outside of practice,” said O'Brien. “Doing what we do isn’t easy and a lot is demanded of us, but I’m proud of my teammates and wouldn’t trade them for anything. It takes strong people to keep fighting.”

After he graduates, O'Brien said he will miss the rest of his team as well as the competition and “just being around basketball.” Although O'Brien’s main postgraduate pursuit is business, he hopes to coach some day.

“I hope to see him do big things,” said Hannan. “He’s been nothing but successful since he came to Houghton and there’s no reason to expect anything different in the future.” Hannan described the best way to quantify O'Brien by quoting a man in charge of parking whom O'Brien volunteered to assist. “He’s one of the best.”

Things to Do

KATHERINE BAKER

If you haven’t taken a trip to Angelica’s Main Street yet, shortlist it right now. If you have, you know you want to go back for another visit; I am willing to bet that you haven’t experienced everything the village has to offer.

West Main itself is a quaint little street with lots of small-town charm. You can stroll up and down the sidewalk peering into the local shops and restaurants and perhaps pop into one of the many antique stores for a look around. From old clothing and furniture to interesting books and knick knacks, I can assure you that you will find what you’re looking for.

If you are in the mood for some desserts, stop at the Angelica Sweet Shop. Want to check out some local hand-crafted pottery? Then the Three Clay Sisters is for you. For more local art, visit The Main Center gallery.

New in town is the Angelica Ink Letterpress, where you can purchase hand-pressed cards and stationery. Another new addition is The Village Closet, which sells new and recycled women’s clothing and accessories, among other various wares.

To break up your day of shopping and browsing, walk to the roundabout where there is a gazebo and a small

park surrounded by a more residential area and numerous steepled churches. You will most likely see local children laughing and frolicking on the swingset or the teeter totter in the playground.

And now we come to my personal favourite in the village, the Black-Eyed Susan Acoustic Cafe. I would recommend having a meal there on a Friday or Saturday when the restaurant features live music during evening dining hours.

I have always enjoyed the food I’ve ordered at the Black-Eyed Susan, and the music is definitely worth the trip in and of itself. It is nice to hear from local musicians outside of Houghton College every once in a while.

Tonight Pat Kane, an Irish and American performer and songwriter, will be featured. If blues is more your style, plan to attend Dallas Lucore’s gig this Saturday. Check out the Black-Eyed Susan’s website to find out more about these and future shows.

In addition to quality music, the restaurant features local artwork; the watercolors of Cuba native Lisa Robinson are currently on display. For a day exploring charming village shops and an evening listening to some great acoustic music over dinner, there is no better destination than the nearby Angelica, NY.

The Kingdom Value of Proclamation



ANDREA PACHECO

KYLE GREGORY

“So you’re here studying Arabic. Are you a Muslim?” I heard this kind of question all the time in the Middle East last semester. Often it led to a spirited discussion about our faiths. Some people recommend avoiding the topic of religion when you meet a Muslim for the first time. I say, “Good luck - it’s impossible.” Even though I grew up in a church that taught personal evangelism, I wasn’t quite ready to take the plunge. I figured that before I could broach the subject of religion with someone, I would have to build a deep relationship with them and show them Christ’s love in tangible ways. However, being pushed to talk about my faith all the time made me reconsider the role of proclamation in missions.

I think most of us would agree that the Church’s ultimate mandate is to spread the objective truth of the

gospel, which we believe will ultimately transform lives in practical ways. But to be honest, when I look at my own life and at the way many people approach missions, I’m not convinced that we really believe this. When I identify far more chapel services and conferences on issues of poverty and justice than on bridge-building and evangelism, I can’t help but wonder if we’ve lost the essence of the Church’s mandate. I wonder if our passion to prove our message through our actions has swung so far that we have lost some of what it means to be Christ’s ambassadors.

You don’t have to look any further than the Old Testament to find out that God’s story of redemption is inseparable from social justice. The people of Israel were to be an attraction to the nations around them as they exemplified God’s attributes by their equitable treatment of the marginalized. But when Christ appears on the scene we find that His life of service was only a framework for His message. When He sent out the seventy-two disciples, He told them, “Heal the sick ... and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you’” (Luke 10:9). The primary occupation of Jesus and His disciples was proclamation. Their miracles were always accompanied by words of life. It was Peter’s bold preaching, Paul’s careful apologetics, and Philip’s faithful obedience that allowed the gospel to spread and the Church to

I can’t help but wonder if we’ve lost the essence of the Church’s mandate.

grow. So, fundamentally, the real distinction between the way God’s mission was carried out in the Old and New Testament was the absence or presence of proclamation.

We have all seen evangelism done wrong. If you’ve seen the gospel turned into a campaign, a decision-rally, or a popularity boost I can’t blame you for being slow to talk about your faith. But perhaps we have over-reacted, thereby reducing our mission to neutral, meaningless philanthropy. Some of us seem to be in danger of relegating proclamation to a secondary position, thereby losing the distinction of New Testament mission.

Professor Benjamin Hegeman, Islamic Studies, has noticed a drift in the mission organization

he serves with. As missionaries became more specialized in their work and social action began to take a bigger role, he saw his colleagues spending more and more of their time in compounds doing translation, accounting, fundraising, and medical work, until they had all but forgotten how to proclaim the gospel. He saw committed missionaries doing what the apostles firmly refused to do in Acts 6 – leaving the preaching of the Word to serve tables. Of course, these practical activities are all necessary components of spreading the gospel. But it was as if missionaries were making the work of mission into a dualistic mandate, where their job was

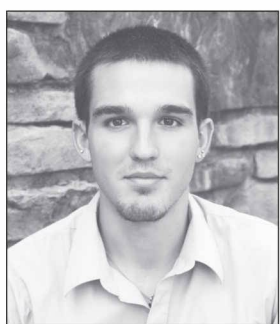
purely doing the practical things that they were so good at.

I have the deepest respect for experts in the fields of social action and physical need. We need more of them. Christopher Wright reminds us that mission is, by definition, holistic, and proclamation alone isn’t the whole gospel. But it seems that St. Francis’ idea that we are to “Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words” has become a refuge where timid souls can quietly live out Christ’s love, hoping that unbelievers will get the point. For some, it has become a mantra that gives them an excuse for being lax in memorizing scripture, studying other religions, and learning apologetics – a far cry from the boldness St. Francis displayed when he travelled to Egypt to preach to a powerful Muslim sultan during the Crusades. David Hyams was right when he wrote, “The answer lies not in being nicer, but in communicating the substance of Christianity.”

The irony of proclamation is that if it’s artificially manufactured, it’s useless. It must flow out of an authentic relationship with God and with others, which will make it look different in every context. But we must be intentional about it. The gospel will be hindered from making its full impact on communities unless we seriously prepare to engage the world - on the basis of actions - with proclamation. ★

Kyle Gregory is a senior intercultural studies major

Ex Mea Sententia / Military Innovations: Cheapening the Sanctity of Life



LUKE LAUER

ANDRE NELSON

Talk surrounding drone strikes has increased significantly, and many valid points have been raised both in objection and in support to the use of these killing machines. Drones are unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) that are armed with weaponry and serve both for reconnaissance and for combat purposes. Arguments surrounding the use of these machines have revolved primarily around the moral and ethical dilemmas that their use entails.

A major concern deals with the large amounts of civilian casualties caused by drone strikes. According to a study by Stanford Law School and New York University’s School of Law, the level of targets killed as a percentage of total casualties is around 2 percent. For every terrorist killed there are approximately 50 civilians killed. According to the Bureau of Investigative Journalism one reason for the 98 percent civilian casualty rate is not a result of lack of training or terrible aim but rather a “double tap” strategy—reminiscent of terrorist organiza-

tions—which aims to target people who gather at drone attack sites to mourn the victims.

Arguments in favor of drones emphasize the utility of these machines in sparing American lives. Why risk sending a regiment of young men to risk their lives when you can send in an unmanned drone? From the perspective of the officials this isn’t even a question; there is no reason to ask someone to risk their lives if there is an alternative. But how many foreign lives are worth the American lives that are spared?

The question I would like you to grapple with focuses on the sanctity of life.

The military has always been on the forefront of technological advances. If it weren’t for people always trying to find more innovative and efficient ways to kill and conquer each other, we would not have anywhere near the amount of technology that we do currently. What’s happened as a result of these innovations is that we have increasingly distanced ourselves from the act of killing, without decreasing the amount of killing. We are still using bullets and firearms, but instead of seeing, hearing, and feeling the individuals we are killing, we are merely seeing his or her figure through an iron site, a scope, or worse yet, a computer monitor.

In an interview with a sniper, the reporter asked if the soldier felt anything when he pulled the trigger. His chilling

response was, “Yeah, the recoil.” This illustrates the effect of the progression of our military innovations. As we create weaponry that distances us from the people we are fighting, we are not just distancing our soldiers physically, but we are removing them emotionally and even spiritually from the understanding and appreciation of the sanctity of life.

It is crucial for those doing the killing to fully witness the act, so that they may fully understand the severity of their decision. The truth of the matter is that

We have increasingly distanced ourselves from the act of killing, without decreasing the amount of killing.

we are, in pulling the trigger, condemning our enemies to an eternity of something--whether that is heaven, hell, or simply nothingness--and there is no

coming back.

When I play Call of Duty or any other first-person shooter game, I have no emotion connected with the act of killing my opponent. When I pull the trigger, all I feel is the vibration of the controller. Similarly, when the fighter pilot drops a bomb on a target, they do not feel anything except perhaps the shock from the explosion down below. When the sniper takes down his target, all he feels is the recoil. And when the soldier controlling the drone locks in on a group of suspected terrorists, all he or she sees are figures on a screen, no different from those on any other first-person shooter game. There is no better example of this than the always capricious Prince Harry. According to

CNN, the young man who once wore a Nazi uniform to a costume party, “compared having his finger on the trigger of rockets, missiles and a 30mm cannon to playing video games.”

The Vietnam War was the first time in history where live footage of the war was broadcast. The result was widespread protests against the war. People were outraged because of what they were seeing. Since then, war has become a source of entertainment, to the extent that you can see footage of live fire combat filmed with the use of Go-Pro cameras fixed on the helmets of soldiers.

We have made a joke out of combat, and a huge reason for this is that we have distanced ourselves from the seriousness of killing. We are so quick to hop on board with the “kill them ay-rabs” attitude, without recognizing that once the trigger is pulled, their life is condemned to an eternity of heaven or hell.

This is not to say that defending your home is wrong. Being a soldier is not sinful. Of all of King David’s sins, being a warrior was not one of them. Nevertheless, God forbade him from building the temple because he was a “man of war and had shed blood.” This is because life is sacred, and though it is not sinful in and of itself to take a life, you are responsible for having committed the act. What is not right is making it easier—emotionally—to take a life, because it cheapens the sanctity of life. ★

Andre is a senior communication major

FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF/ Re-structuring Senate: The Answer for SGA?

"The last thing Senate needs is to worry more about Senate."

This sentiment was recently expressed to a *Star* staff member, telling a student's frustration with the latest amendment effort springing from the Student Government Association.

This amendment, alluded to by the said student, is a push by SGA toward "re-structuring Senate" in hopes of more accurately representing the Houghton student body within SGA itself. It would appear that a side hope of SGA regarding the possible structural overhaul would be an increase in student body interest in their representative body.

Currently, there are three senators per class, and eight senators-at-large. There are no other pre-requisites besides being a member of their class, and/or interest in being a senator. As a result, the general population of the student Senate may be dominated by students from a certain demographic, such as a political science major.

The proposed changes would transform this Senate into an assembly composed of three senators

for each class, a senator from each residence hall or area, one senator from varsity athletics, and a senator representing each academic category (of which categories there are seven). As of yet, SGA has not reached a consensus on how many senators would comprise the final group—the only word so far, is between 6-8. This brings the final potential total of senators between 24-26, since each senator may only represent one category.

That the Senate currently struggles with representing the student body at large is not a question the *Star* staff debates. Re-structuring the student's representative body in a way that better reflects the student body is a noble, worthy aim. Accurate representation is always something to be appreciated, and one that has obvious merits. Rather, our question has to do with the apparent hopes SGA has cast upon this proposed change: hopes that by increasing the accuracy of their representation, they will increase their

relevance to the student body.

During a recent Senate meeting, a question was asked that sums up the heart of what is at stake. The student's question asked what exactly has brought on the need for this proposed amendment. The answer given by SGA Vice President Ben Hardy was that "there is a massive disconnect between

other students and the students in this room about what the Student Government does. Sometimes it's just a joke, but sometimes it seems serious when people ask

what we do besides Donut Day. Hopefully a [forum] will give us a better sampling."

As noble as a more accurate representation is, increased relevance to the student body does not necessarily follow from this proposed change. The last thing Senate needs to become more relevant to the current student body of Houghton College is to look inside, and change itself. Too much introspection on the part of Senate, and too much in-

ward, SGA-focused work is exactly why Houghton students seem tired of giving attention to SGA, as indicated by comments such as the one given by the student above.

The Student Government would do well to expand outside itself, if it wishes to be known for more than its donuts. It well-enacts this outward focus in notable, appreciated areas such as the regular blood drives, and the various service days and projects it undertakes. Through these efforts of uniting the student body with community members, SGA performs valuable, visible work. It is through these visible, external projects that the Student Government forms a face and identity by which it may be known to students, and known for its impact.

Student Government's current quest for greater relevance and a more visible face is better pursued by a continuation of their external activities and community projects on a larger scale than by another focus on inward dynamics. ★

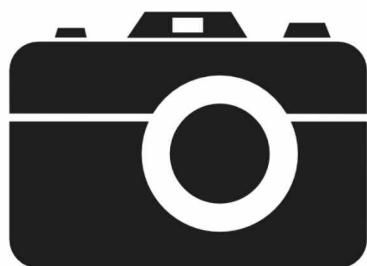
Through these efforts of uniting the student body with community members, SGA performs valuable, visible work.

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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.

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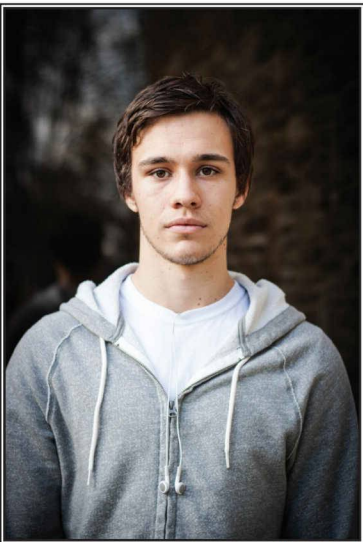
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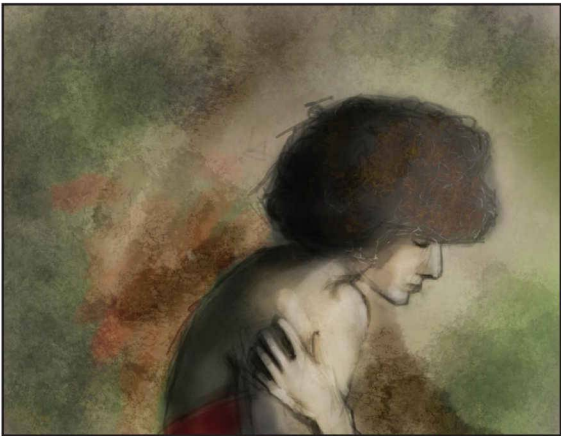


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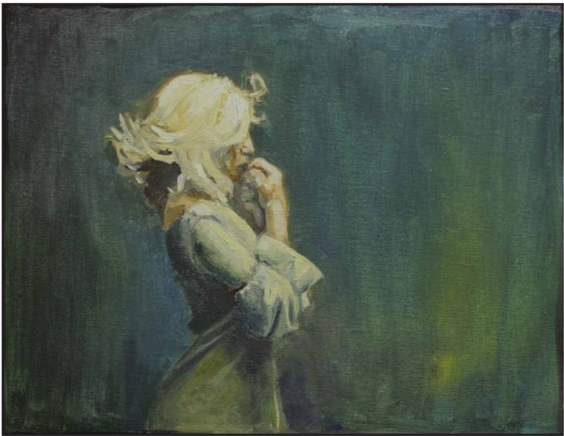
AARON
FITZGERALD

Stories are the gateway into new worlds, experiences, and ideas. Not only can they expand our view and understanding of the world, but they can also impact and inform them. I have always been fascinated with the power of narrative. As a storyteller, I dream of changing and informing the world, while being changed and informed by it.

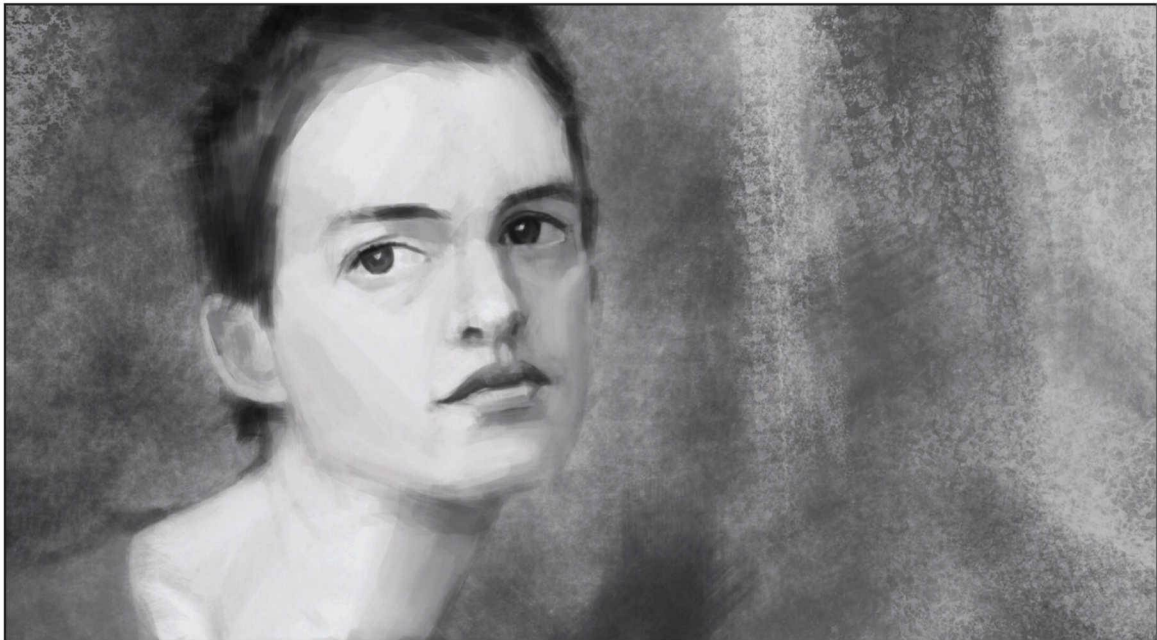
Aaron is a senior double major, studying communications and art.



Failure, Painting



Graffiti, Digital painting



Fantine, Digital painting

SUDOKU

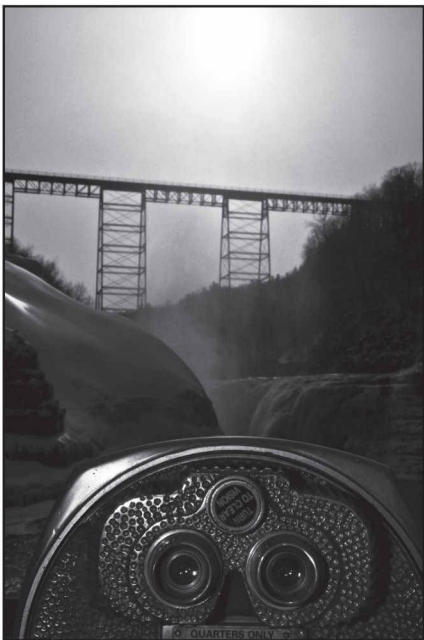
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To see crossword solution from 2/15 go to www.houghtonstar.com/crossword
Last week's winner was ANEKA ZIMMERMAN! Your Java card will be sent to you through campus mail.

To enter a drawing for 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 6 PM on WED 3/6.

Photo
of the
Week



SHAWN GILLIS

Letchworth State Park in the winter