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HOUGHTON STAR

Volume 111 • Houghton, NY • September 24, 2010 • WWW.HOUGHTONSTAR.COM

Pre-Law Society Sponsors Constitution Day Event

BY ABBY ECKING

Though Houghton's Pre-Law Society is still in its early stages, the group has already managed to ring in the new school year on a grand scale. This newly minted society recently worked with the non-profit group Providence Forum to bring a full-sized replica of the Liberty Bell to campus. Todd Curry, a representative with The Providence Forum, accompanied the bell and spoke on the mission of the Forum in relation to the separation of church and state.

Commemorating the original signing of the U.S. Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787, Constitution Day was made a federal observance in 2004 and is celebrated by every federally funded institution in the country. This year's celebration at Houghton was marked by the presence of the replica Liberty

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PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

Members of the Pre-Law Society stand with Todd Curry, second from the right, after the reading of the Bill of Rights in the foyer of the Chamberlain Center.

What is your definition of "Liberty"?

Many students paused before the replica of the Liberty Bell to reflect upon the question: "What does Liberty mean to you?"

"Liberty is having the choice to go to chapel or not."

"Because of the Constitution, I will never have to be afraid. America is my home, and America keeps me safe. I love my country!"

"Liberty means the freedom to choose, the freedom to live, and the freedom to preach and teach the truth. Liberty is my brother's blood left on a foreign shore. My father's and grandfather's presences in world wars. Liberty is giving and serving one another."

"Liberty is freedom in Christ—it doesn't matter where I am or what kind of oppression I face—I'm free indeed!"

"Liberty is colorful."

Living Within Our "Kingdom Job Description"

Andrew Marin speaks on humbly approaching and loving the LGBT community

BY EMILY RINEHART

Andrew Marin, founder of the Marin Foundation of Chicago, Illinois, spent Monday through Wednesday speaking and interacting with Houghton students and faculty.

According to its website, the Marin Foundation is "the very first organization that works to build a bridge between the religious and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT)

communities in a non-threatening, research and biblically oriented fashion." Marin spoke in chapel both Monday and Wednesday, co-lead a panel discussion on Monday evening, and spoke to various student groups on campus, including Residence Life and members of the SGA.

In Monday's chapel Marin introduced himself to Houghton students and began to share his view of how he views the interaction between evangelical Christian faith and homosexuality. His belief that "the Holy Spirit convicts, God

judges, and we're here to love" was heard throughout the week.

During Monday evening's 7:30 discussion, entitled "Elevating the Conversation About Homosexuality," was led by both Marin and Dr. Michael Lastoria, director of the counseling center. They gave a joint presentation of data collected through two separate surveys.

Lastoria presented findings from "Religiosity, Sexual Attitudes, and Sexual Behavior Among Christian College Students in the United States", a survey sponsored by the

ACSD Committee on Research. The information ultimately given represented 19 schools from 14 states. The survey, as indicated by the title, did not just ask questions regarding homosexuality but other sexual issues as well. 2,360 students responded to the survey but only 1,957 completed the entire survey. Of the students who responded, 245 reported same sex attraction. When asked if same

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Engaging the World

Political Tensions in Thailand

BY LUKE CRAWFORD

Violence, anger, vandalism; these words illustrate the nature of the events that took place in the spring of this year in Bangkok, the capital city of Thailand. Between March 15, and late May, of 2010, thousands of protestors, known as red shirts, traveled to Bangkok and set up makeshift shelters in the center of the city in a mass protest against the current Thai government and Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva. Sadly, these protests, though peaceful at first, soon became violent as protestors clashed with military personnel and police forces. However, in order to best understand the events that occurred, one must first take a brief look at the political temperature of the nation of Thailand during the last half-century.

Thailand is a constitutional monarchy, which means that, like the United Kingdom, Thailand has a royal family, who holds de facto power, and a prime minister who holds de jure power. The current king of Thailand, His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej, was crowned king of Thailand on May 5, 1950, and is the longest reigning monarch in world history. During his reign the country of Thailand has seen over 15 military coups, 16 constitutions, and 27 changes of prime ministers. Despite these

challenges he has steadfastly served the people of his country, and held the nation together politically as they begin a new millennium. Enter ex-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Thaksin Shinawatra was elected in the year 2000. After a successful first term in office, he was re-elected in 2004. However, allegations of corruption plagued Thaksin's second term, and on September 17, 2006, the military staged a bloodless coup overthrowing the government while Thaksin was in Europe attending meetings with the United Nations. Since the coup in September of '06, a Thai court has convicted Thaksin of corruption, and sentenced him to three years in jail. Despite this court order, Thaksin has refused to serve his term, and has not re-entered the country.

Since the military coup the country has experienced a lot of political tension. After protests against the prime minister, by a group known as the yellow shirts, which shut down the Bangkok airport in December of 2008, the nation held re-elections which brought the current prime minister into office.

However, the country is sharply divided between supporters of Thaksin (red shirts) and supporters of the current prime minister (yellow shirts). The red shirts, hoping to have the same success that the yellow shirts had in 2008,

staged a protest for two months this spring. Unfortunately for them, the Thai government refused to give in to their demands for a re-election. Sadly, as the protests went on, the red shirts began to resort to violence, assaulting police and military troops, and vandalizing buildings. As the red shirts became more frustrated with their lack of progress, they increased their vandalism and hostility towards government forces.

This hostility culminated in violence on the weekend of May 20, 2010. Seh Daeng, a former military general and red shirt supporter of Thaksin, who was advocating change through increased violence, was shot by an unknown sniper. Four days later, on May 21, Seh Daeng died. The red shirts responded to his death by increasing vandalism in the capital city, and burning down Central World, a large, multi storied business building. Throughout the week following Seh Daeng's death the military successfully moved the protestors out of the capital, and imposed a curfew while they attempted to establish peace. Sadly, when the dust settled, over 60 Thai citizens had lost their lives, over a thousand had suffered injury, and billions of baht of damage had been done to the capital.

So where does this leave Thailand now? The government has managed to

establish peace, however, tensions still simmer below the surface as the nation deals with its political issues. During the conflicts this past spring the red shirts were portrayed in some media venues as the oppressed poor attempting to overthrow a power hungry government. However, this is untrue. Spurred on financially by ex-Prime Minister Thaksin, who legally should be in jail, the red shirts protested in hopes of bringing a leader into power that would favor them. Thaksin is known for his dishonest means of garnering supporters, and many of the red shirts were paid to protest.

Adding to the simmering tensions is the fact that the king is in poor health, and his death could result in a political explosion within the country, as corrupt forces attempt to gain power. Thailand, unlike neighboring countries Burma, Laos, and Vietnam, is a democratic nation with religious freedom. Political upheaval could seriously damage that freedom. Unless national leaders can establish long lasting peace, the country could likely experience a lot more violence, anger, and vandalism. Thailand, its government, and the people, need our prayers as the country attempts to regain its balance and thrive as a nation.

The World OUT There

BY DEREK SCHWABE

Radical Islamic Websites on the Rise

Radical Islamic websites were reported this week to have multiplied exponentially within the last decade. According to Interpol head Ronald Noble, the number of jihadist themed websites has grown from 12 in 1998 to over 4,500 by 2006. Noble expressed his worry over this dramatic increase, stating "the threat is global, it is virtual and it is on our doorsteps." The internet has opened an entirely new outlet for radicals to cheaply and easily connect to their largest recruit source: young middle-class Muslim men. A researcher at the London-based International Centre for the Study of Radicalization reported that the number of radical websites is now far higher than the figure given by Interpol, adding that governments are finding this growth impossible to stop. "As soon as you knock out one, another pops up. It's like playing 'whack-a-mole'."

Top White House Economic Advisor Resigns

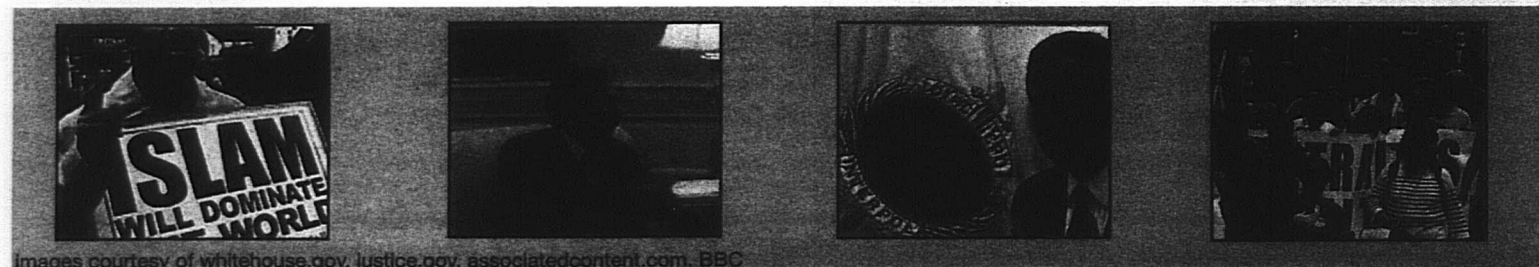
A head economic advisor to President Obama, Larry Summers, announced Wednesday his intentions to leave the administration by the end of the year. He is the third key economic consultant to the president to quit since July. The president commented, saying "I will always be grateful that at a time of great peril for our country, a man of Larry's brilliance, experience and judgment was willing to answer the call and lead our economic team." Mr. Summers, who will return to a position at Harvard University, noted that he would miss "miss working with the president and his team." The Federal government issued a statement reaffirming its commitment to taking additional measures to support and aid the economy.

Google Adds Censorship Tools

Google released its Transparency Report earlier this week, a set of maps and tools aimed at exposing levels of censorship among national governments. The report showed that within the first six months of 2010, the US government had made 4,287 requests to Google for confidential user information, more than any other nation listed. This new release has come with great accolade from civil rights associations who tout the new tool as invaluable to activists determined to plot government censorship around the globe. Some such groups are already even requesting greater transparency. "The more data we have the more useful it will be," said one civil rights leader. Google is currently investigating its ability to post more data regarding details and motives of censorship initiatives.

Strikes Continue in France Over Pension Reform Bill

Strikes continue in France for another day to protest the rise in retirement age and the national age to receive pension. Over 200 demonstrations are planned already, and the strikes are expected to affect transportation systems the most. As of Wednesday, only one or two trains was running and about half of all flights out of Orly and approximately 60% of flights out of Charles DeGaulle airports will be cancelled. The retirement age will be raised from 60 to 62, and the pension age will be 67. France has one of the lowest retirement ages in Europe. The bill has already been passed by the lower parliament and is expected to pass through the Senate on Oct. 5. By 2018, the French government will save about 70 billion euro due to the changes.



Images courtesy of whitehouse.gov, justice.gov, associatedcontent.com, BBC

Pre-Law cont'd from page 1

Bell in the Chamberlain Center for two days. Members of the Pre-Law Society who helped organize the event were stationed near the Bell to answer questions and provide facts about it. On Friday at 12:10 p.m., members of the Society read the Bill of Rights and rang the bell.

Later that day, Curry gave a talk entitled "Government and Religious Liberty: Competitors or Mutual Supports?" where he discussed why people continue to debate religion's presence in government. He also outlined the Founding Fathers' thoughts on the separation of church and state and summarized a few key debates surrounding this topic within the judicial system. Concerning the diversity of religions and their influence on the government, Curry emphasized that there "needs to be a culture of understanding" cultivated in our country.

The tentatively named Pre-Law Society is in its first year at Houghton. Headed by Peter Meilaender, professor of political science and pre-law adviser, the Society aims to create a better understanding and awareness of politics on campus. In addition to organizing the Constitution Day celebration, they plan to host a campus event around the November elections and before

each State of the Union address.

The Society also plans to hold practice LSATs and other preparation activities for students interested in attending law school after graduation. These sessions will be open to all students, not just to members of the Pre-Law Society. To supplement these activities, alumni who have legal experience or have advice on how to succeed in the legal and political world will be brought to campus to speak to interested students.

Although aimed at future lawyers, the Pre-Law Society is open to anyone with a particular interest in law and/or politics. There are currently about 15 members spanning all four classes at Houghton. While most of the members are history, political science, or intercultural studies majors, there is no major requirement to join and all with an interest are encouraged to do so.

As in previous years, Meilaender will follow up the Constitution Day discussion by leading a book discussion group. This year, the group will be reading *Founding Faith* by Stephen Walden. They are tentatively scheduled to meet from 4:00-5:00 p.m. every other Tuesday, beginning on Sept. 28. Professor Meilaender can be contacted with questions at peter.meilaender@houghton.edu. ★



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

Professor Meilaender, who heads up the Pre-Law Society, examines the Bell.

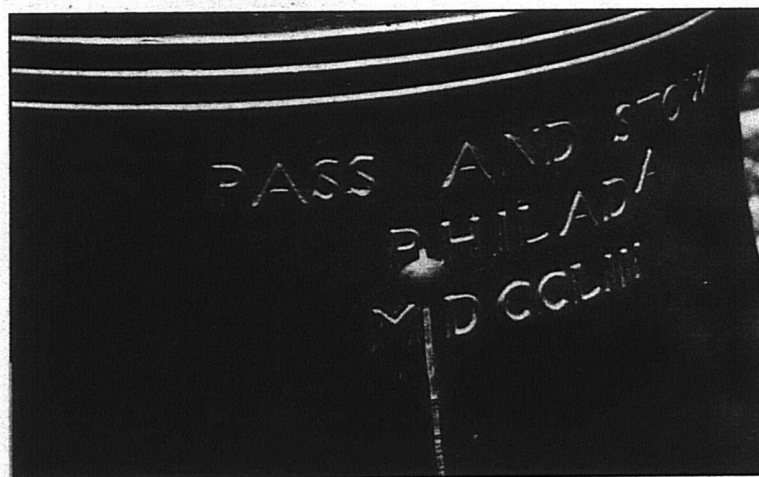


PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

"Pass and Stow," reads the front of the Bell.

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sex attraction is acceptable, over 70% said no, 15% said yes, and around 4% responded as unsure. The remaining 11% percent had no answer.

Marin's information was collected by the Marin Foundation in collaboration with Northwestern University. While the ACSD survey is taken from evangelical Christian communities, Marin's survey was conducted in a secular setting primarily among those of same-sex attraction and/or behaviors. Both Lastoria and Marin agreed that one might assume less individuals identifying as homosexual exist in the evangelical community and the survey taken.

Marin's survey also focused on the way the homosexual community views religion. He pointed out information he felt was unexpected, such as the

favorable feelings towards religion, something that often pushes homosexuals away. According to Marin, for this reason homosexuals are often viewed as favoring the spiritual rather than the religious. For the

purposes of the presentation, Marin defined "religion" as an organized faith-based community centering around one God and one holy book.

Another figure Marin found unusual was the amount of homosexuals who had been raised – meaning a consistent interaction from ages 0 to 18 – in the church. The number was 86.3%. Marin also noted that this data is not definitive and is still in progress. Based on his evidence thus far, Marin suggested that the homosexual debate among the evangelical church is not an "us vs. them" fight, but one better termed as "us vs. us."

Reflecting on this information, Lastoria called for a viewpoint of humility. Because little definitive data has been formed, he said that anyone speaking in an authoritative voice on the matter should be questioned. Marin affirmed this statement, and both asked the audience to keep in mind that each individual carries with them a different past, a unique story.

The question and answer position of the event went until

9:00 and brought up a myriad of interesting questions. Lastoria cited one particularly interesting question as one of temptation and sin – where is the line? Lastoria, who spent the majority of Marin's visit with him, cited Marin as someone "straightforward, with no agenda... comfortable in his own skin."

Marin openly admitted that he doesn't claim to have all the answers. During dinner with the SGA cabinet and class presidents, Marin discussed the Marin Foundation's mantra of "Commit, Stay, Reconcile, Grow" and his desire for this type of thinking to permeate the very culture of Christian universities and church cultures. Earlier during an interview, Lastoria termed this mindset as a new, third view of what he called "culture wars."

In a dialogue involving student leaders, Marin said, "When I leave, if this leaves with me, there's just isolation again" for those wrestling in any way with issues of homosexuality.

**"Commit,
Stay,
Reconcile,
Grow"
-Marin
Foundation
mantra**

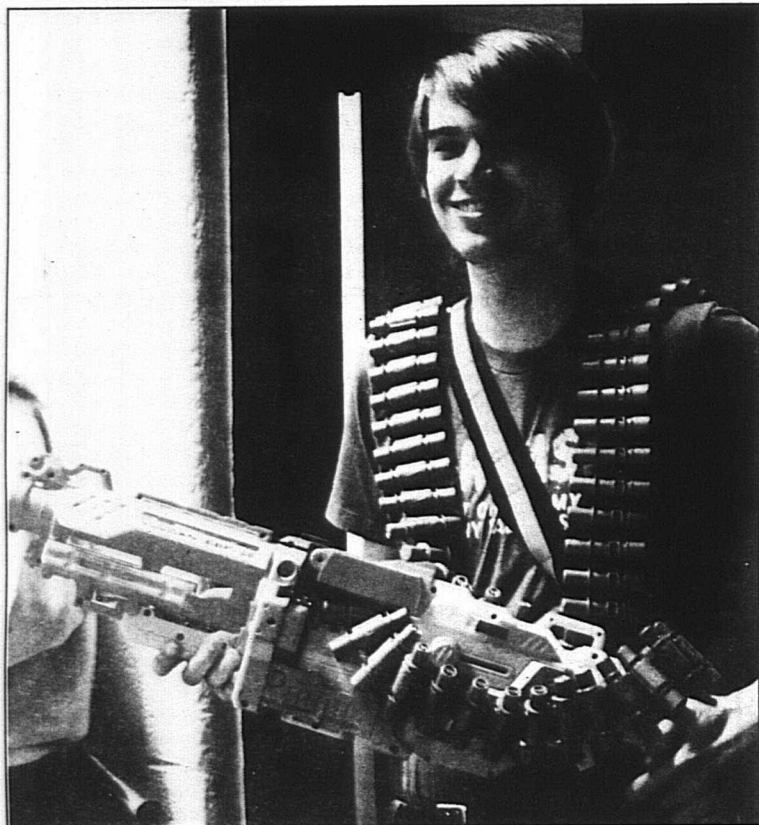
He charged the group with sustaining an atmosphere of Christian love – not simply a conversation of "how?" but a movement to the actions themselves.

Rusty Renn and Nick Spoth, both seniors and RA's in

Shenawana Hall, said that Marin had similar words for the Residence Life staff later that evening. Renn particularly appreciated the idea that in some situations, regardless of whether or not one has the "right answers," it's better to give love. Spoth mentioned that this is not an uncommon idea – but few take the time to explain how to put this into action. Both enjoyed Marin's explanations and ideas for taking the "how" question to the next level.

Marin's home base is with his wife in the Chicago area, though he spends half or more of his time traveling. After leaving Houghton on Wednesday, Marin headed to Washington, D.C., as a regular part of his schedule. In D.C. he interacts with various committees and subcommittees as well as members of the Obama administration, sharing research and continuing as a representative for the Marin Foundation. Marin was referred to the United Nations by officials in Washington, and now travels internationally speaking on matters of faith and sexuality. ★

READY, SET, NERF!



Nerfer Benjamin Valyou is ready for battle.

PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY ERIK BEALS

Over the course of the past school year, a group of Houghton students have begun gathering and playing games with their Nerf guns. Their attempts at becoming a club have been met with difficulties and controversy. Recently though, some of their focus has shifted away from gaining club status.

"We've abandoned the effort, but since there's no feasible way to become a club, I'm okay with that, and I recognize that it's the best thing," said Chris Clark, president of the Nerf group.

In fact, Clark goes to great lengths to make sure that it is not confused with a club, or even referred to as one. "Our official title is Houghton Underground Nerf (H.U.N.), not the Nerf Club, because we are not a club," he said. "As long as we

don't act like a club, say we're a club, or use the word 'club', then basically Student Life can pretend we don't exist, which is best for everyone – a win-win situation."

The heads of the group, such as group Secretary Marilyn Holt, have recognized that now is not the time to continue the efforts to go official.

"In order to be an official club, it has to pass through senate with a 50% vote, and we probably couldn't pass right now. And if it didn't pass, we wouldn't be able to play at all. It's better to play with no funding than not be able to play at all," said Holt. When asked if they might try sometime in the future for official club status, Holt replied, "Maybe in a couple of years, but not right now."

Even without official club status, the group is making sure they're staying responsible so they can keep playing. "The

college has this stereotype of Nerf as being bad, but we keep it safe," said Treasurer Tyler Reynolds. Indeed, at the beginning of each session, the leaders make sure any new people sign waivers, and the rules pertaining to safety and off-limits areas are explained more thoroughly than the rules of the individual games they play.

"We maintain a very good working relationship with Safety and Security, but other than that, we try to avoid everyone else," said Clark. In fact, Clark goes through whatever building they will be playing in before anyone else arrives and makes sure everyone already in there knows that people will be running around with Nerf guns soon thereafter.

Holt acknowledged that and said, "There's some risk with Nerf, but no more than in any other game where there's running and other physical activity involved." Holt knows this better than most, having broken her wrist after falling while playing last year. She shrugged it off as no big deal, calling it a "granny sprain," and added, "I just as easily could have broken my wrist falling on the ice ... it could have happened to anyone."

Everyone involved agreed that it is a very fun time. Reynolds attributes the excitement of Underground Nerf to the variety of games and people who come. For a stereotypically male oriented activity,

there are a good number of females who regularly attend.

"It's not just a guy thing," said Holt, "every girl who has come to Nerf who I've talked to has had a really fun time, and we have some girl players who are really, really good." Due to their non-official status, info about the club has to spread through word of mouth, and Holt said that "most guys didn't think to mention it to girls. More girls would probably be receptive to this than you'd think."

On the subject, Reynolds clarified that the group is very inclusive and open to all. While many would immediately dismiss the possibility of attending due to the fact that they don't have any Nerf guns, the group and some of the members provide a number of guns and darts for those who don't have any of their own, welcoming anyone who wants to attend.

"I like it because it's safe, fun, and a nice change in the week to get out and have fun with friends," said Reynolds.

Holt likened it to the childhood game of Cops and Robbers. "It's something that everyone should try because it is a lot of fun."

Anyone interested in learning more about Houghton Underground Nerf should contact Chris Clark at christopher.clark12@houghton.edu. ★



Boxes of Nerf Ammunition

PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

Houghton Athletics Considers Switch from NAIA Division

BY ERIKA BREMER



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTS.ORG

The Athletics Department at Houghton College has been considering a transition from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Division III.

This would include a number of important changes to athletics at Houghton. Some of these include the possibility of additional sports. The recent addition of baseball and softball

to the college's upcoming sports roster is part of the process of pursuing this possibility, as it fulfills the required minimum number of sports to join the NCAA DIII.

Coach "Skip" Lord said that this is Houghton's decision to walk through the doors toward the switch, as long as those doors continue to open. "We're looking at the situation and the diminishing number of NAIA schools and realizing that we need to figure out what the best home for our Athletic Department is in the future, and how that can tie in with the institution's strategic plans." These strategic plans include finding a conference that is closer to Houghton, geographically speaking, as well as being on the same level of academics and sharing the mission of character education through sports.

Lord wanted to be clear that this is in not to be a negative reflection of the NAIA. Instead, he said he hopes the community understands that this is about location and strategies for better inclusion of athletics for the institution.

Member of the varsity basketball team, senior Shannon Daugherty, expressed some hesitation and said, "It is sad to think of the AMC [American Midwest Conference] breaking up... Ideally it would be great to stay right where we are but it seems that we are forced to make a transition."

As Lord expressed, "We live in the middle of the DIII hotbed," and this change makes the most sense. Houghton plans to apply to a chosen conference that meets these

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Addressing Cultural Boundaries with Light and Letter

BY EMILY RINEHART

"My Forked Tongue III," an unusual and striking collection created by Anila Quayyum Agha, opened on Saturday, Sept. 18 in the Ortlip Gallery. Agha is an artist generating an increasing amount of interest and prestige.

Despite leaving her native Pakistan to settle in the United States only ten years ago, Agha has already garnered renown in international reviews. Agha now teaches at the Herron School of Art and Design in Indianapolis, IN, a school Prof. Jillian Sokso noted as one of the top art schools in the country. Sokso, who recently passed her position as gallery director on to Megan Luhrs, mentioned that Agha was originally interested in coming to Houghton in 2005. At the time, however, the gallery was unable to accommodate Agha's goals for the show; goals which included a catalog and the possible sale of some of Agha's pieces. During the five years between the initial contact and actual visit this month, Agha gained the interest of the art world and created her dramatic installation piece—something many students attending the show considered to be the highlight.

The installation piece, stretching from ceiling to floor in five ascending, receding tiers, is a vivid example of Agha's ingenuity and unique perspective on language and art. Strands alternate between letters of the Urdu, English, and Hindi alphabets in white, black, and red and hang from metallic threads. This is the same Pakistani thread used by girls as young as age three to begin creating their wedding attire in preparation for their future. Agha created the strands as transportable and adjustable pieces of art.

Agha began installation on Thursday, Sept. 16 and, with the help of Luhrs, Sokso and art majors Sally Murphy, Rachel Preville, and Erin Carr, spent 8 to 10 hours a day working on the piece until the opening.

Rather than seeking a space for her piece, Agha seeks a way to fit the piece to the space. In the Ortlip Gallery these strands begin near a corner and flow out,



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

Agha's installation is comprised of English, Hindi, and Urdu characters that hang from the ceiling on exotic thread.

filling the space as it extends. When the gallery is lit the shadows of the letters reflect on the wall behind it creating, in Agha's words, "a new language."

Sophomore Spencer Adams, who attended the opening, admired the piece for "the number of ways you can look at it," both physically and metaphorically.

Murphy and Preville agreed with Adams and pointed out some different perspectives—that of being "in" the piece, of being outside, of the piece as a growing, expanding object.

Agha also presented six 2D framed works, representing two collections of three frames each. The first is entitled "Speak." The second set is entitled "When Words Are Not Enough." Both are quilted mixed media featuring Urdu poetry. Preville admired Agha's use of natural, intimate substances such as

coffee and teas, used to dye the paper in "When Words Are Not Enough" and pointed to these things as evidence of Agha's past work as a textile designer.

When speaking at the exhibit's opening, Agha mentioned these sets to be inspired from childhood memories. When women gathered to quilt they worked with their heads down. To Agha this represents an ability only to listen, rather than judge another—you cannot see them, only hear them. Preville cited this as only one example of Agha's intriguing style, and said she "found it really interesting that every little bit is intentional."

Agha's ideas of "big" concepts also interested Preville. Communication, for example, was something "My Forked Tongue III" brings up for discussion. Agha said that ideas must be made

personal, particularly in art, otherwise they simply "lack resonance." Murphy said she considered Agha a dedicated artist who "sees issues she's working on as pertinent to our time and place." To both Preville and Murphy, Agha spoke of her work's goal as opening the mind and changing perspectives.

Sokso reported that in the past five years, Agha's exhibit is only the second installation piece to come to Houghton. Regarding general gallery care, Sokso said that artists are scheduled anywhere from one year to 18 months in advance, and the gallery is the public extension of what is done within studios and classrooms.

Agha's works will be on display for eight weeks.

According to Sokso, the next exhibit will be by ceramic sculptor Bill Stewart. ★

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characteristics and this will determine the application to the NCAA DIII.

Some of the benefits of this would be the enhanced marketing and branding opportunities within Houghton's primary recruiting area, as well as increased championship opportunities for the women's field hockey program. It has already been mentioned that there could be more sports opportunities in the future, after the baseball and softball programs are grounded. In regard to these benefits, Daugherty said that "it is very important for Houghton to increase its visibility in Western New York—especially Buffalo and Rochester. More publicity in those cities could potentially increase Houghton's

diversity as well."

Probably the most controversial facet of the potential switch to NCAA DIII concerns the termination of athletic scholarships at Houghton, but Lord makes it clear that athletes within DIII of the NCAA receive financial aid greatly similar to what Houghton athletes currently receive—the same caliber of athletes will be recruited and they will receive financial aid, just not specific scholarships.

This matter of athletic scholarships is the initial objection students like Daugherty have had to the switch, but she understood that this can provide more opportunities for athletes to receive aid because they will be counted as average students when their

financial aid packages are compiled.

Among Houghton's reasons for choosing to add baseball and softball are increased opportunities for sports activities—both as athletes and as spectators—in the spring semester.

Additionally, there is a hope that male enrollment will increase with the addition of baseball, and both these sports have athletic components that fit well with the liberal arts model.

Brian Reitnour, Career Services Coordinator, who is in charge of recruiting and coaching, said that he believes "athletics play a vital role within a liberal arts education...I look at your experience here as education and I think that a number of the things you do contribute to your overall

education and bettering of life. I think baseball...can contribute to that."

Starting next school year, the Houghton baseball and softball teams will be practicing at Fillmore High School's diamond.

The addition of further sports depends on how the community feels these can contribute to the institution as a whole, said Lord.

And for those students who are concerned, Lord said that we will continue to compete with Roberts Wesleyan and have a good-spirited rivalry with them, just as we have in the past.

Lord is willing to answer questions to clear up any confusion. ★

Surviving in a Type A Culture

BY THEODORE JANNEY

"In college you learn that you have three things to do: school, sleep and socializing. Choose two out of the three." I chuckled when my host shared this maxim with me two years ago. I was the all-knowing high school senior, who was convinced that I could go to college and somehow balance all three aspects of college life. Then I went to college and as the all-knowing freshman I amazed myself at how well I balanced my life.

Come the end of freshman year, I decided to take on some more responsibility. Need someone to lead a Bible study? Sure, I'm game. Need someone to review campus clubs? Count me in. I need to make more money, so I'll take on two more jobs. And what's the difference between 18 and 16 credits anyway? I signed up for just about everything and was actually proud of myself for turning down some opportunities.

There is a difference between knowing that x activity will have y amount of preparation time and experientially discovering this. In other words, I got on campus and was flattened by responsibilities. I was overwhelmed.

I quickly found that in trying to make the most opportunities, I had forgotten how to relax. Even

in those few moments when I had nothing pressing to do, I was stressed out enough that I thought I had something to do. I was living in expectation (and a little dread) of the future, rather than in the present.

Relaxation is a forgotten virtue in American society.

We are focused on productivity and efficiency. How many times a day do we think, "is this an efficient use of my time?" "Am I making the most of this moment, this second, this nanosecond?"

I have found I am very good at coping with stress. I make schedules, lists, personal deadlines. I schedule every moment of my day and to deviate from that schedule is to be a slacker. I get a strange sort of pleasure

from knowing that I can complete all of my self-assigned tasks in a day.

But is this truly healthy? Is it wise to have every moment of every day scheduled? What about spontaneity?

The other day, I had a massive load of homework and some cleaning to get done. It was raining outside and one

of my friends wanted me to come out and jump in puddles with her. I was thinking that this was one of the more childish things I had ever heard of. And then it struck me that I was obsessing over work, to the point where ten minutes' deviation from the schedule was anathema.

I quickly found that in trying to make the most of opportunities, I had forgotten how to relax.

Whatever happened to taking a break from work? Does work have to be unenjoyable and all-consuming, or is it possible to get the necessary things accomplished while avoiding stress?

Does work have to be so oppressing?

So you have to read fifty pages of political philosophy. Why not read it at the Overlook and

take a few seconds every five minutes or so to enjoy the view? As for chemistry, read the textbook while listening to a good soundtrack. Every fifteen minutes or so remind yourself that not everything in life can be explained in terms of chemical bonds!

There is, of course, the opposite

problem. When we decide to not be productive, we forget entirely about work. In other words, we view work as oppressive so we ignore it for hours and hours on end. Then, when the deadline is in an hour (or an hour ago), we cram. But this is precisely what makes work stressful! Get work done right away, and then forget about it!

Take time to enjoy the moment. Today only comes once in your lifetime and before you know it tomorrow has arrived. The leaves are turning and the air is clean and pure. Friends are laughing. Relax. Take a deep breath.

Now about that philosophy reading...

Theodore Janney is a sophomore History major

Letters

to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I greatly resonated with the theme of Josiah Armstrong's editorial in last week's paper (September 17, 2010). The idea of integrity is one that has been occupying a lot of my thoughts the past few months. As such, I thought I would continue the discussion started by Armstrong.

Integrity has a huge impact on a person's identity. A person with integrity is a person who actually is the person they say they will be. That is what is meant by having integrity. Your actions match up with your words. Armstrong's example of "scanning and scrambling" for chapel is an example of someone who said they were going to be a Houghton student, but then did not actually complete the necessary actions that go along with being a Houghton student. He then gave examples of people claiming to be Christians, but then not (according to him) acting with Christian love.

Let's think of a few more examples

of what it means to have integrity. As Houghton College community members, we agree not to smoke or drink. If we choose to smoke or drink, we lack integrity. As college students, professors expect us to do our reading for class. A student who goes to class without having completed the day's assignments lacks integrity. As human beings with driver's licenses, we agree to follow traffic laws. If we do not obey the speed limit, we lack integrity. If at any moment you are not the person you said you would be, you lack integrity.

The hard thing about thinking about integrity is that it is really easy to see how other people lack integrity, but hard to see it in yourself. Breaches in integrity are most easily observed in areas where the observer feels he has great personal integrity. It is easy to point out someone else's mistake in an area where you pride yourself in having integrity. Then we get to judgment. Never forget that you have a plank in your own eye any time you try to remove your neighbor's speck.

-Bryan Overland, Class of 2011

Your words could be here.

We want our readers to be an integral part of the conversation.

Letters to the editor (signed) should be 350 words or less and be submitted to houghtonstar@gmail.com. If letters to the editor don't appeal to you, register at www.houghtonstar.com and comment on our articles online.

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From the Editor's Desk

Don't Come Any Closer: Keeping the Mask Intact

BY ERIN CARR

StumbleUpon.com, for those who have not yet heard, is the newest and coolest web tool besides Facebook that any college student ever used to waste time. Create an account, select among hundreds of interests ranging from "Eastern Studies" to "Goth Culture" to "Cats", hit *Stumble!* and hunker down for a good three hours of literally stumbling upon an endless amount of uncharted web territory.

A friend of mine discovered, through this site, a fashion page called *Lookbook* ("The Internet's largest source of fashion inspiration from real people around the world"), a forum in which anyone the world over who possesses a computer and a superior sense of style can post photos of her/himself and explore other people's postings. Many of the photos are often near-professional quality, which is unsurprising as many of the members are aspiring photographers, graphic designers, fashion designers, musicians, or artists in some degree. The most popular age bracket for the site spans mid-teens and early twenties; hence photos with titles such as "oo oo oo, i just wanna groove," "i'm waisting [sic] my time - i got nothing to do," and "i was a little late to class because of this pic."

As a lover of all things aesthetically pleasing, I must admit that *Lookbook* is very entrancing, what with its abundance of pretty

clothes and stunning good looks. Yet for all of its geographical variety, I am still somewhat puzzled by the tendency of all the looks to meld into the same basic fashion. The high-waisted shorts, tousled hair, gladiator boots, patterned blazers, scarves, and 21st century signature expressions of apathy... let's face it: I'm scrolling over one gigantic Urban Outfitters ad.

A group of art majors expressed similar surprise last spring after they'd attended the Philagrafika printmaking conference. Artists from across the nation were suddenly concentrated in one small section of Philadelphia; individuals that would in any general population retain their signature look now became one of many. In short, there were all manner of hipsters in attendance. And, in short, they all looked the same.

My dad always liked to remind my brother and I that teenagers' attempts to be different typically result in a branded type of "different": rebellious in lieu of their parents' generation, perhaps, but largely unoriginal within their own social group (see, for example: Goth Culture). Trendsetting may take a fair dose of confidence, but following trends surely does not. I think many of my peers would

agree that the term "emo", as of the past eight-ish years of our adolescence, describes a fairly mainstream group of "outcasts" distinguished by an affinity for whiney music like Jimmy Eat World, black eyeliner, long, jagged bangs, Converse sneakers, and skinny jeans

(before they became a household item). And of course, feelings - lots of them; bring on the angst.

Of course, there is the known comfort that comes in identifying oneself with any group of peers, with being on the inside. And what teenager doesn't experience feelings of angst and isolation? What

human being outgrows these, for the matter?

It is this longing for the security of being accepted that I find so prevalent on *Lookbook*, mainly among the younger users. It's the same slouched pose, the same frail bodies, the same careless look painted on each face. The apathy is feigned for artistic cred; if they didn't care about the approval of their peers - or to prove themselves to their competitors - the forum wouldn't exist.

And really, what's so wrong with that? Why is the yearning to join the crowd so looked-down upon? Getting down to it, we all want assurance that

we aren't as weird as we think, for someone to come along and befriend us despite the messes we are.

Admittedly, crowd-joining often implies that we hide even further our true selves. But I'm hard-pressed to find a way to sever all ties to any crowd and quit conforming. If you're reading this and believe that you've in fact escaped classification, it's time to reexamine your position in this culture. If you're attending Houghton then you're either a Christian or, at the minimum, expected to adhere to Christian ideals (and unfortunately, living in any Christ-based environment often brings pressure that has nothing to do with Christ).

To be human is to live in a social context, within all manner of contradictory desires and pressures. We want desperately to be close, to be fully known and accepted, but refuse to make ourselves vulnerable. That possibility would surely bring judgment - we're hard on ourselves and each other, and we know it. Of course, if we want to retain our ability to save face in any way, we've got to hold on to some sort of judgment. We may not be able to look good on our own accounts, but as long we keep that ranking system in place (be it religious or fashion-oriented), there will always be someone to surpass. This, I fear, is leverage that will not be sacrificed.

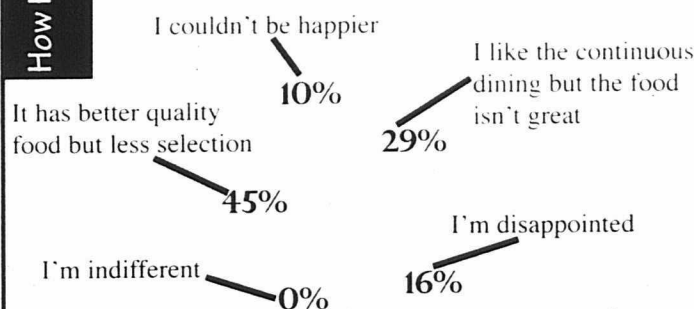
Erin Carr is a junior Art major

Getting down
to it, we all
want assurance
that we aren't
as weird as we
think

How Houghton feels about...

Sodexo Food Service

(From 31 votes)



Visit www.houghtonstar.com
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What did you think of this week's
chapel speaker, Andrew Marin?

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Kids These Days, photo



Untitled, photo

GREG ANTONOW

ARTIST
of the
WEEK



Wooden Animal Set

A note from the artist: I've always loved to draw ever since I was a little kid, as well as work with my hands. That's why I think photo editing and 3-D art allows for such a creative way to alter objects to anything you can come up with. I'm currently working on designing and crafting a set of handmade wooden animals to be sold as children's toys or decorations. In a mass-produced and consumer world I saw a need for the handmade and creative; plus I just really enjoy animals and creation.



His Breath, photo

sudoku CHALLENGE

THIS SUDOKU IS
EASY

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

Last week's winner of the Suduko challenge was Katrina Koehler! Please come by the STAR office to claim your prize.

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

Prize:
Leroy Townes
and the
Lonestars'
album!

THIS SUDOKU IS
HARD