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THE HOUGHTON STAR

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

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Chapel Time Changes Beginning Fall 2010

BY ADAM KNEELAND

The College has announced that, for the second time in three years, it will be changing the chapel time slot. Beginning in the fall semester of 2011, chapel will run from 11:30 a.m. until 12:10 p.m., causing minor adjustments to other class times. The change is in response to input from the Office of Student Life, students, and faculty, said Margery Avery, Director of Academic Records.

Avery said that, recently, several voices on campus have independently expressed a desire to change the schedule. A survey in the fall indicated that about 40% of students preferred the old chapel time slot. Avery said "a lot of the students said they liked going from chapel to lunch to eat with the chapel speaker or talk about chapel." The remaining 60% did not, overall, indicate a strong preference.

"So it was thought," Avery said, "that [if] many people prefer chapel later and many of the others don't think the time matters, perhaps this is a way to help several different groups of people."

The science department would also experience changes because of later chapel. A longer morning period will enable some of the two to three



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hour labs to be completed before the afternoon period, something that a 10:15 a.m. chapel makes difficult. Other faculty members also wanted a readjustment of the class schedule to block out a time slot for departmental and faculty meetings, which, under the current schedule, several professors have to miss because of classes. The College was already planning on some changes to the schedule to "try and spread the IS courses so they weren't clumped," said Avery.

The new schedule will also have

as few night classes as possible, leaving an evening free for special events and guest lecturers. The new schedule will have chapel running into lunchtime.

Avery stated, "What we tried to do was build in as much time as possible between chapel and the next class for lunch." The college has also worked with Sodexo to prepare them for a possible "lunch rush."

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Counseling Services Offers Conference for Couples

BY KRISTEN BECK

Tonight marks the start of the Center for Relationship Enrichment conference out of John Brown University in Arkansas, here at Houghton. Led by Jay Barnes, President of Bethel College, and his wife, Barb, the retreat is aimed toward seriously dating, engaged, and married couples.

Those in charge of the seminar are hoping it will present students with an opportunity to talk about their relationships in a controlled setting.

"We have a pretty high divorce rate in our country, and we want people to be looking at what is important in a relationship," said Wendy Baxter, counselor.

Counseling services, as a result of much planning, has been able to offer the retreat for the past two years. According to Baxter, several couples who have attended in the past "found it beneficial so have decided to attend this year." They are among 25 total couples participating this year.

The weekend consists of a two-part series—the first being healthy communication, and the second conflict resolution.

"We're in the business of helping people work things out and develop good skills for their lifetime," said Baxter.

A grant from Windgate Charitable Foundations is sponsoring the weekend. There will be a mandatory follow-up to the weekend one month from now for participants to attend, as the conference seeks feedback about the seminar and how it has worked to benefit, or not benefit, the participants' relationships.

The conference begins 6:45 p.m. tonight and will last until Saturday afternoon. It includes glow-bowling, a "dinner out" for the couples, as well as all other meals are provided, along with other activities planned specifically for the weekend.

This conference is biblically based and created to help people find areas of strength and weakness within their relationship and how those areas will tie together. There is opportunity for couples to read and talk about major issues, like the image of God, emotional intelligence, the

Conference cont'd on page 3

Track Team Addresses Concern for Runners' Safety

BY EMILY RINEHART

During the long winters of western New York, weather conditions can be rough, creating icy roads and low visibility. In a town like Houghton, where athletes train year round, this can raise some concerns regarding runners' safety from cars in dangerous driving conditions, for example.

Heather Sayre, senior, is one of the captains for the track team. She reported that distance runners go on a long run three times a week, up to 15 miles, and are limited in their options of where to run during the winter. While there are several back roads the runners can take, most of them can only be reached a few miles up route 19.

Harold Lord, Athletics Director, mentioned that it is not unusual for the athletic department to receive a concern about runners out around dusk during the winter. Lord noted that in the 24 years he has spent in Houghton, someone makes a complaint every three or four years. According to Lord and Matthew Daugherty, Head Cross Country and Track & Field coach,

passersby also tend to mistakenly associate recreational runners with the track team.

The athletic department provides safety guidelines for recreational runners from both the community and the College. They include wearing plenty of reflective material, being alert to weather conditions, always running with a partner and being sure that someone else knows your route, never wearing head phones while running on the road, and running defensively. Lord explained the idea of "defensive running" as thinking about the external factors before and during a run. How will road conditions affect the way motorists drive? If a car swerves towards you, where can you safely get out of the way?

Daugherty reported that the track team "strictly adheres to running no more than two abreast and if there is consistent traffic we run single file." He added, "All our runners wear a NATHAN safety vest while running during the darker months as well at

Track cont'd on page 3

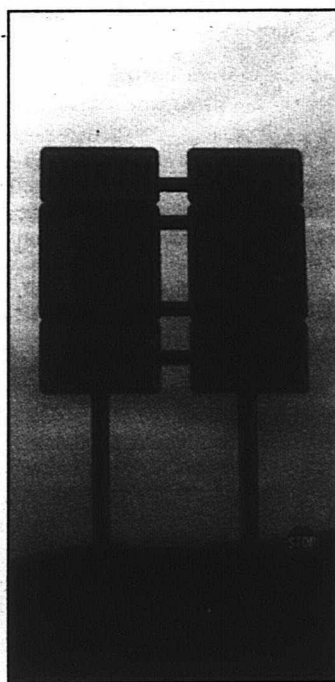


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*Engaging the World**NPR, PBS, and Government Spending in a Time of Crisis*

PHOTO BY DANIEL PEIXOTO

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

I hate to be the bringer of bad news, but if you don't pay much attention to American politics and current events, then you need to know that our country is in the midst of a budget crisis. It is sometimes hard to connect with the abstraction that is the federal budget deficit and the national debt, but if you think about the fact that every one of the 310 million citizens of the United States benefits from government programs and services it becomes clearer. From the grandmother on Medicare to the policeman on his beat to the postal worker delivering mail, government funded services are prevalent in our society; but the spending has gone too far.

Let me give you some numbers (I apologize in advance for the wonkishness of this paragraph). The current national debt stands at \$14.1 trillion; President Obama's 2011 budget proposal is approximately \$3.7 trillion; the budget deficit for the fiscal year 2011 is estimated to be \$1.6 trillion. In simpler terms, the federal government is spending \$1.6

trillion more than it will gain in tax revenue and will add that amount to the already astronomical national debt. If we take a closer look at the year's \$3.7 trillion budget, however, we see that the vast majority of this spending—\$2.4 trillion to be exact—is isolated in four areas: Medicare and Medicaid, Social Security, national defense (including two wars), and interest on the debt.

Politicians have campaigned, since the invention of politics it seems, on the issue of fiscal discipline. Reducing the budget deficit was a campaign promise of Barack Obama and Tea Party candidates alike, but none have shown the political courage and willpower to take serious steps in that direction. It is an irrefutable, yet seldom acknowledged, fact in political circles that, in order to curb the mounting threat of runaway spending, there must be changes made to the Big Four mentioned earlier. The inability to take the necessary steps to secure our nation's future is due partly to political cowardice, but it is also a result of disjointed and often uninformed opinions of the American people as a whole.

While polls have consistently shown that the American people strongly favor reducing the deficit and debt, a new survey by the Pew Research Center found that when asked about specific government programs, the majority favor not decreased, but increased spending. According to the findings, the majority of respondents favor increased spending in education, veteran's benefits, healthcare, Medicare, combating crime, energy,

scientific research, environmental protection, anti-terrorism defenses, agriculture, and military defense. The majority does, however, favor reduced spending on unemployment assistance and global poverty assistance.

What this shows is that the American people, while understanding on an intellectual level that the problems of runaway spending should be dealt with, have failed to come to the conclusion that sacrifices must be made by all, cuts must be made to popular programs, and taxes must be raised. In European countries, such as Germany and Great Britain, the populace has accepted major cuts in popular government programs, because they have realized that the future of their country depends on these drastic steps; the American electorate has not yet accepted the sacrifices that need to be made.

You're probably asking yourself what all this has to do with National Public Radio and Public Broadcasting Service. I'm glad you asked. This past weekend, the Republican leadership in Congress unveiled their budget proposal with cuts in discretionary spending and a reduction to zero of the government's obligation to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which includes NPR and PBS. By defunding these public non-profits, the government would save \$36 million; for those of you doing the math, that is 0.001% of the total federal budget for the 2011 fiscal year.

Conservatives have always viewed NPR and PBS as "liberal pet-projects," the combination of bourgeois academia and big-

government liberalism, which should not be federally funded. But the truth of the matter is that these two organizations perform a great service for this country. How many of us spent hours a week watching PBS programming as children? To quote a line from the sitcom *Scrubs*, "I grew up on the street...not the hood, the Sesame Street." NPR's programming covers a wide range of political, cultural and intellectual topics with diverse opinion and perspective.

Why are these government programs specifically targeted when they bring about tangible benefits at a negligible cost to taxpayers? It is because our politicians do not have the political courage to propose the necessary cuts in entitlements and defense spending or the necessary increases in taxes to make a real, lasting impact on the state of our government expenditures. As a result they cut indiscriminately, and Republicans are not alone. President Obama has proposed freezing discretionary spending and limited cuts in other areas but has shied away from the tough battles.

As New York Times columnist David Brooks put it, our politicians will "cut programs that do measurable good while doing little to solve our long range fiscal crisis." We as voters must come to grips with the sacrifices that must be made to ensure the long-range future of our country; we must elect principled leaders, and they must take the steps that are necessary. Until then, we are reduced to watching politicians make NPR and PBS the scapegoat of their own impotence.

The World OUT There

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

IBM'S Super Computer Claims Victory in Jeopardy Tournament

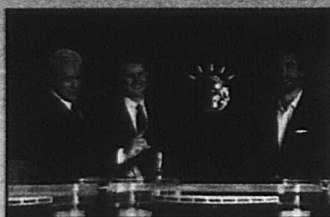
In a triumph of the man-made over the man, IBM's super computer, named Watson, dismantled the competition in a special jeopardy tournament. This three-day tournament matched Watson with Jeopardy's two highest money winners, Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter. While Monday's opening round ended in a tie between Watson and Rutter, Tuesday's round was never even close. Watson ended with a total of \$35,734, even though it answered the final jeopardy question incorrectly, followed by Rutter with \$10,400, and Jennings with \$4,800. IBM has trumpeted Watson, which received clues through digital texts and buzzes in as any other contestant, as a "major advancement in machines' efforts to understand human language."

Corbett Fires Workers Due to Performances of Late-term, Illegal Abortions

Pennsylvania Governor, Tom Corbett fired six workers from the State Department of Health Tuesday in response to the controversial actions of a Philadelphia abortion clinic. According to the District Attorney's office, the clinic performed late-term, illegal abortions for years, using scissors to cut the spinal cords of living babies born during the sixth, seventh, and eighth months of pregnancy. There were also untrained personnel who performed medical procedures sometimes using unsterilized medical equipment, which led to the spread of venereal diseases from patient to patient. As well as the firing of employees, the lead physician at the clinic, Dr. Kermit Gosnell, is being held without bail on eight murder counts and a host of other charges.

Egypt's Military Begins to Work Toward Constitutional Reform

Egypt's military, which took control of the government after President Hosni Mubarak stepped down Friday, has begun steps toward constitutional reform. The military has appointed an "apolitical and independent constitutional committee," which will propose constitutional reforms within the next 10 days. There will be a referendum on the reforms within two months of their enactment. All of these measures are an effort by the military to stabilize the country as it works towards creating a more democratic government, the culmination of which will be elections to be held in sixth months or so. Former President Mubarak, meanwhile, is currently held up at a villa in the resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh.



photos courtesy of www.hightechnology.com, www.nytimes.com, and www.emirates247.com

Hynes Begins Two-Month Maternity Leave

BY COURTNEY COIRO

Beginning this week, Sharra Hynes is taking a two-month maternity leave from her duties as Vice President of Student Life. If this surprises you, it is probably because you may have noticed that Hynes is not physically pregnant. She and her husband, John, left Sunday for Missouri, where they are planning to adopt a baby boy.

The Hynes' arranged a private adoption with a young woman through a mutual acquaintance.

The woman was scheduled to be induced this week, and if all goes as planned, the Hynes will stay in the state for a week before bringing the baby boy home.

Hynes recognized that this is a unique situation, reflecting on how different the preparation is from carrying a natural child. Two-year-old daughter Maryn has been preparing for a new baby along with her parents.

"She knows she should be excited," said Hynes. Still, at a Superbowl party she noticed that Maryn seemed jealous while she was

holding another baby. "We're not naïve—we know this will change a lot of things," said Hynes, but "this is something we feel called to do."

Hynes' office responsibilities for the interim have been divided between Dennis Stack and Mike Lastoria. She worked hard to be prepared for the break, working ahead on routine tasks, like meeting agendas and continuing special projects such as the NCAA athletics discussion. A donor has also expressed interest in funding renovations to the basement of the Campus Center; Greg Bish will continue discussion of possible

plans with an architect already contacted in Hynes' absence.

Hynes plans to be back to work after Easter break in order to be at Houghton for graduation and other important end-of-the-year events.

"It is kind of hard to walk away" from Houghton for a time because of her investment in Student Life, she said, but it is also a blessing.

"I love being a mom," Hynes said. "We feel privileged to have [a new baby] join our family."

Chapel cont'd from page 1

"I appreciate the fact that this is being shown to me," said Jim Ruoff, General Manager of Sodexo. "Sharra Hynes really was up front ...[asking] what effect this might have."

In response to the probable crowd after chapel, Sodexo is adjusting their hot lunch hours to run from 11:50 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Ruoff said that, even if there is a huge crowd after chapel, "by expanding the time afterwards, the students in the classes right after chapel will know they can still get a hot lunch."

"A bag lunch takes away from the community... we're really hoping [to avoid that] by expanding the hours," said Ruoff. Another possibility for especially busy students would be carry out containers. Overall, Ruoff said, "Change happens, and you get used to it."

However, the change to the new chapel time would only allow for a 20 minute lunch period between the end of chapel and 12:30 classes.

Avery emphasized the amount of positive input from all quarters and the readiness of the College's departments to implement the changes. The changes to the schedule, she said, will have minimal impact on the student body, and the differences that students notice will be positive. ★

Track cont'd from page 1

least one runner in each group wears a flashing safety light."

Both Sayre and Daugherty made it clear that track and cross-country coaches assess the situation of the roads before practices, and Daugherty called it their "number one priority."

Lord said he views the expansion of what he called "running culture" as part of the reason for an increasing number of runners, both those who are part of a team and those who run for recreation and wellness. He added that, with this expanded interest there has also been an expanded response—companies selling running apparel and equipment are also selling an increased amount of safety equipment, revealing that the need for safety is far from ignored. ★

Tired of the same monotonous workout, or lack there of...



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Conference cont'd from pg. 1

relational necessity of forgiveness, communication, resolving conflict, and maintaining godly, healthy sexuality.

Seniors Matt Thompson and Lauren Haggerty are attending the conference this weekend. "I'm excited about receiving input from couples who have already experienced trials that will inevitably come with long term relationships," said Haggerty.

Thompson said he wants to learn new ways to have "God be the center of our relationship" after listening to what Jay and Barb Barnes speak.

Aaron Martin, senior and Katie-Jean Vandura, junior, are attending for the second year in a row. "It was nice to be surrounded by other couples who are dealing with the same things and looking for the same growth," said Martin. The weekend theme of communication is "intentional" and allows couples to bond over similar experiences. Vandura said she is looking forward to an event that is "geared towards couples because it isn't often that Houghton provides opportunities like this." ★

The Houghton College Lecture Series
Presents

Pete Ondeng,
Co-Founder and President of
Making Africa Work

**"South Sudan:
An Opportunity
To Redefine 'Development'"**

7 p.m., Monday, February 21
Wesley Chapel

Free and Open to the Public

Vibrant New Iron & Wine: "Kiss Each Other Clean"

BY DAVE GIANETTI

I have one unsolvable problem in my life. Through whatever fantastic or supernatural means I conjure up in my head – time travel, reincarnation, mind swaps, or displacement during a ninja pirate war – I never end up related to Sam Beam, the genius behind Iron & Wine. To appear more sane, I will be honest and say these are not daily considerations. These far-flung fantasies only appear when I end up in an Iron & Wine phase. This time there is an excuse for it: less than a month ago, Iron & Wine's latest studio album "Kiss Each Other Clean" came out on Warner Bros. Records.

For those of you unfamiliar with Iron & Wine, they are part of the folk revival that exploded in the earlier parts of the past decade. Starting out with a home recorded lo-fi album full of wispy ballads, Iron & Wine's first album leaves its audience feeling as though Sam Beam was in the same room, sitting cross legged and staring at the moon, or hunched over on a chair jamming with a guitar slide and coaxing every last tone out of his old guitar. Their second album captured the same atmosphere, though with better recordings, including songs about childhood, coming of age, and life in the South.

Then, one fateful day in 2007, it all changed. This is when Iron & Wine lost some fans and confused others, all the while revealing their genius. With the release of "The Shepherd's Dog" Sam Beam kept the same signature folksy core and poetic lyrics but threw in influences from West African music,

dub, blues and other styles. Beam had previously been known for his subtle falsetto and rhythmic finger-picking. With the third album, Beam's music grew in complexity and made it onto several Best Album lists for that year.

"Kiss Each Other Clean" reflects the complexity that Beam brought to his music with "The Shepherd's Dog", but seems more continuous and conscious of its sound and feeling throughout the album. Similarly, it is filled with many creative layers. The song "Big Burned Hand" opens with a sax solo, while "Half Moon" features a doo-wop chorus in the background, the synth, and even some heavier guitar riffs. Though "Kiss Each Other Clean" is not a progressive jump from simple to complex, or lo-fi to layered studio music, it further proves Sam Beam's brilliance. The album is a joyous and well-done album full of just as much skip and pump as "Shepherd's Dog", though perhaps more cohesive. It leaves room for the listener to pause and reflect along the way to appreciate the roots and core of Iron & Wine's music.

This album has left me more than satisfied. It is undoubtedly a premium artistic endeavor by a talented artist who has continued to make his music new and refreshing, retaining a sense of vibrancy, creativity and energy that is coupled with the beauty and sweetness of his older music.

I am convinced that this album has created and cemented Iron & Wine's career as innovative and original artists, and that Sam Beam will never lose his ability to gently croon us to sleep and dream within his music. ★

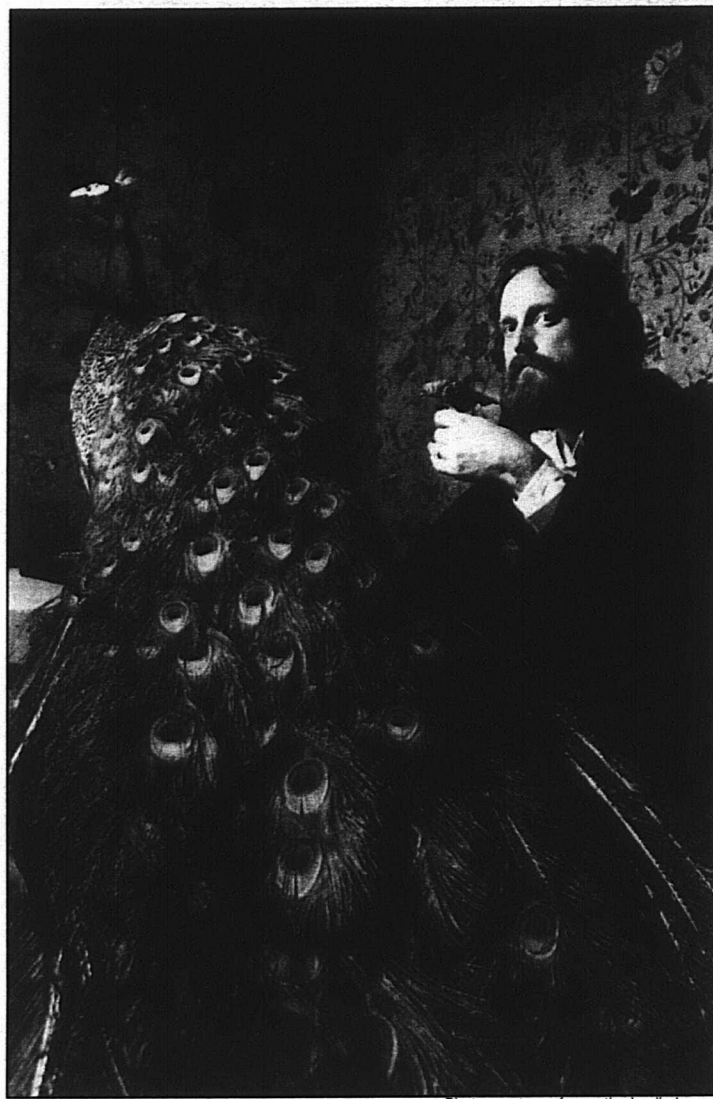


Photo courtesy of www.thedeathhub.com

Grace An "Edgy Subject" in WAI Play

BY LINDSEY HOUGHTON

What do a down-and-out detective, a patron saint, a motherly landlady and a snippy murder witness all have in common? They are all characters in this year's Willard Avenue Irregulars production, "The Curious Cases of Artemis Butcherson: The Final Fare".

This is the third production of Houghton's theater group, The Willard Avenue Irregulars, a group that only performs original works written by students or community members. This year's production was written by Matthew Stein, a senior communication major. Stein described the play as "a 1950s murder mystery" which follows the adventure of private investigator Artemis Butcherson, who is in need of a case. He prays out of desperation, and a man named Nicholas Basil Twixt appears. Twixt claims to be the patron saint of detectives, and has a case for Artemis.

Stein, who wrote the play in just 30 days, said he read several plays in order to prepare for the creative process, including "Wit" by Margaret Edson. In addition, he felt that his role in last year's Irregulars' play ("Candlewick: A Goblin's Tale", written and directed by Josiah Armstrong) helped him prepare for the undertaking. As well as acting in the play, Stein said he "helped with last year's editing and writing, and that helped prepare me to

write my own play this year."

The Willard Avenue Irregulars' first two plays – "Swallow" in 2009 and "Candlewick" in 2010 – set the precedent for the Irregulars to be perceived as an edgy group who were not afraid to push Houghton boundaries and ask difficult questions. Both were written and directed by Josiah Armstrong, who has since graduated, and dealt with dark themes and controversial issues such as homosexuality and self-identity. Both productions were also quite lengthy – "Swallow" exceeded five hours while "Candlewick" came in at just under three hours. This year's production is shorter, between one-and-a-half and two hours in length, and without the polemical subject matter of earlier Irregulars productions. However, this lack of controversy does not mean that the Irregulars are sacrificing their trademark edginess: "We seek to engage in ideas about religion, the world, and human experience," said Mark Lauer, president of the Irregulars.

"Edginess is certainly one way to come to an understanding of the truth, but it's not the only way. Forgiveness and grace, one's perception of the world, what's seen as reality – these things that seem commonplace should be questioned and examined just as much as other topics. Though at first glance it may not seem like it, grace is certainly an 'edgy' subject."

Director Eric Mikols agreed.

"It's a very crisp play with a lot of humor and a lot of film noir kind of elements, but it's also a typical deep Irregulars play."

With the production dates over two months away, Mikols is in the process of finalizing the cast list and getting the production preparations under way. Though he has been involved in theater before, this is Mikols' first time actually directing a play.

"I'm looking forward to the whole experience of directing an actual show, and learning from the people who've done it before," Mikols said that anyone coming to this Irregulars' production should expect themes of "internal guilt that leads to repentance, that leads to confession, that leads to forgiveness. I think the audience will really relate to how relieving it can be to have been forgiven."

Matt Stein said he "hopes that [the audience members] will laugh and enjoy themselves. I hope they can leave thinking a bit about the role of faith in our lives, and what place rationality has beside belief."

"The Curious Cases of Artemis Butcherson: The Final Fare" will be performed on Thurs. April 28, Fri. April 29, and Sat. April 30. Tickets will be sold in the Campus Center in the coming months. ★

Baseball, Softball Recruiting Begins

BY NICK FREDETTE

As spring semester continues on Houghton College's campus, the spring athletic season is set to begin. This year, however, there is great excitement surrounding the addition of intercollegiate baseball and softball for the 2011-12 seasons. As Houghton looks towards a possible transition into membership in the Empire 8 in Division-III of the NCAA, it must meet certain standards – one of which being sports offerings. Adding baseball and softball to Houghton's roster will help the college meet the requirements for NCAA D-III membership.

The process for adding these sports is not taken lightly, and selecting coaches for each program has been approached carefully. Brian Reitnour has been named head coach for the baseball team, and brings with him years of baseball experience. He was a member of the varsity baseball team at Messiah College, and has been involved in coaching for over 15 years. He coached most recently

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SPOT Perseveres Despite Unorthodox Proceedings

BY MEGAN SPECKSGOOR

If you never thought you would hear allusions to the music of Lady Gaga being made in the Chapel, or watched the theatrical film Phantom of the Opera but don't remember seeing dancing sleeping bags in the background, or were under the delusion that Roberts football players are all scholar athletes, then you were probably pleasantly surprised some time during SPOT last Saturday. The biannual Houghton variety show was much anticipated and well-attended as usual with skits, videos, comedic and serious songs, dances, and other forms of the general tomfoolery which has inevitably build up over a long Houghton winter.

The acts ranged from sibling duets to hillbilly love ballads, to Julian Smith parodies to music videos about romantic strife caused by veganism, to a stellar instrumental Muse cover. This Spring SPOT also saw the return of singer/songwriter Alex Glover whose humorous lyrics have been a favorite amongst students for years. However, the changes implemented this semester – namely the lack of a hosting pair – have received mixed reactions.

Senior Matt Geeze had positive things to say about the idea of using multiple hosts, commenting that President Mullen and Dr. Mill's kickoff was "a perfect way to start" and did an effective job of "setting the tone." Geeze appreciated that past SPOT hosts made stage appearances to transition between the acts, but suggested that "[planning] ahead a bit



PHOTO BY ANDREA PACHECO

Cee Lo Green was required to change the words to his hit song to "Forget You" at the Grammy's, but this group preferred "Faith-based" in their rendition.

more" might allow for previous SPOT hosts and even recently graduated ones to join in as well. Geeze recommended that the multiple host format be used again, but he was disappointed by the absence of a designated SPOT band. "There wasn't too much down time [in between acts]" he said, "but having a band usually adds something."

In addition to Geeze's playful song about the secret competitive life of the Shen Olympics, Sarah Jacoby's comedic song about the difficulty of choosing a major also resulted in considerable laughter from the crowd. Moving on from her fall semester hope of getting her M.R.S, Jacoby is now

formulating an *extremely* long-term goal to just focus on her Bachelor's degree. She jokingly measured her musical success by saying, "I had five new friend requests the next day" and is still welcoming more. "I had the idea for the song over Christmas break," said Jacoby. In reference to the new SPOT style, Jacoby said that the multiple hosts was "interesting to try" and she did enjoy having an increased number of people involved, but, like Geeze, she said she wishes a SPOT band would have filled some of the transitional periods when the stage was dark.

Sophomores Dan Austin and Becca Booth both said that they preferred the traditional dual hosting approach. Austin said that the lack of a reappearing pair made the transitions seem "disconnected," mainly "a big string of acts" akin to an "open mic" atmosphere. Booth agreed that the new format made SPOT "feel more like a

talent show than an event" and that even though she found the quality of the acts to be good, she "liked [SPOT] better with one host, even just for continuity's sake." To combat future issues with hosting decisions and even with the number of students who audition for SPOT, Austin suggested that more emphasis be placed on advertising. He said he believes that the planning was mostly successful, but the promoting could be enhanced.

A multiple host approach and the absence of a SPOT band were not the only new alterations this semester, and perhaps not the most controversial either. A small gathering of students protested the recently established tradition of preferred SPOT seating for sophomores. Carrying homemade signs, they called for equal opportunity among all classes to secure favorable seats and to enforce the literally long-standing Houghton tradition to wait together, anticipate together, and most likely freeze together outside the main doors of the chapel.

Junior Ben Clark was among the protesters and said, "We have no problem with the sophomore class's cooperation with the administration for an event, that they had an event only for the sophomore class, or that they got whoopies or beanies. I just don't think that they should be arbitrarily privileged at a community-wide event. SPOT has always been for students, by students, from what I can remember."

Chris Clark, junior, also participated in the protest, but clarified that the group was not specifically protesting the sophomore class. In fact, he said that he is "personally grateful to the sophomores who were receptive and moved to the other line or at least took [the protest] seriously."

Despite the atypical adjustments to this semester's SPOT, the night progressed with the same dose of talent, wit, and Houghton humor. ★

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at Allegheny College, serving as a full-time assistant coach and interim head coach. As he looks to revive Houghton's baseball program – one which has been inactive for over 25 years – he has already begun recruiting student athletes. Reitnour said he firmly believes in athletics being a tool for development in all areas of life. He will be looking to use the baseball program as a means "to bring student-athletes to a responsible maturity and enable them to serve greater purposes than their own individual interests."

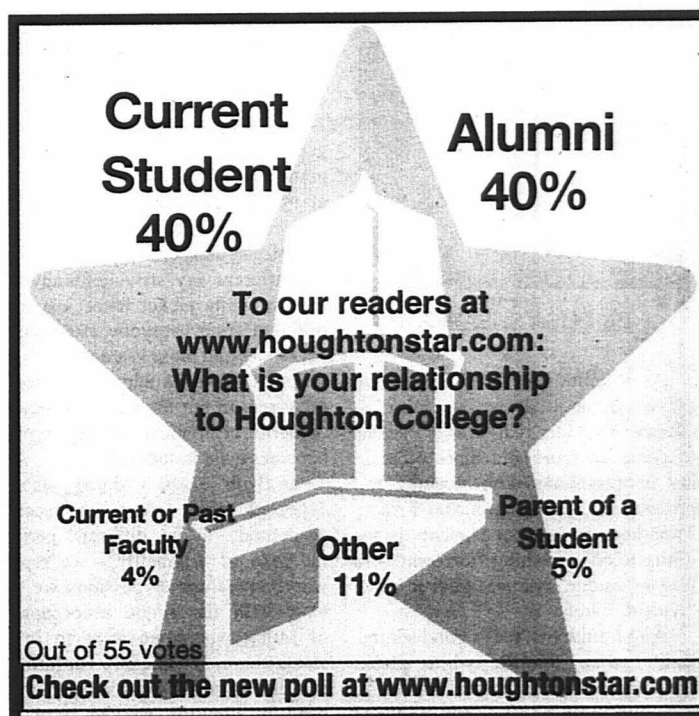
Through this recruiting process, Reitnour has worked to bring in quality student athletes, and has already signed Houghton's first baseball athlete in over 25 years. Kameron Konert is a transfer junior from Cicero, NY, and has an impressive athletic career. He was a three-year starter for Bolivar-Richburg's basketball and baseball programs, and a four-year starter for their football team. Konert attended Davidson College where he played Division-I-AA football, and also attended Ithaca College. He understands the rigors of life as a student athlete, and is a strong foundation for Houghton Highlander baseball.

"I am extremely honored to help build a baseball program with Coach Reitnour and other guys here at Hough-

ton. I think we have a unique opportunity to be a part of something special. We will be committed to serving Christ and others, along with making this the best place to play baseball in the country. In 20 years, I know every single one of us who will help start this program will be able to look at the Houghton College baseball team and be proud to call ourselves Highlanders. Is it the spring of 2012 yet?" said Konert.

While working hard to recruit for next year's season, the baseball program may also consider looking to Houghton's current student body as a potential source of talent. Over the last few years, there has been a club baseball team here at Houghton, and many of the players that have been associated with the club team are looking forward to playing this year. "I can't wait for baseball to start here at Houghton. To have a team with Christ as the common bond, it's going to be a great experience," said Jason Reid, a freshman who is planning on playing for the club team this spring.

On the softball side of things, the College is still in the process of searching for and hiring a head coach from what they say is "a pool of high quality applicants." The softball coach will begin taking on some similar responsibilities as Reitnour, and will start recruiting for the 2011-12 season. ★



Re-evaluating Our Motivations for Seeking an Education



BY RENEE ROBERTS

I've recently been considering a semi-permanent move to France.

I know, that's not really a statement you hear that often, even from Intercultural Studies majors. So, let me explain.

In France, specifically Caen, there is a university which exists for the sole purpose of fostering learning for learning's sake. There are no diplomas, no course work or required readings for class - heck, you don't even need to have any educational background and certainly don't need to pay any tuition. The professors are paid through sponsors and the school teaches various courses like: the philosophies of Epicurus and Jeremy Bentham, medical ethics, literature focusing on Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, and even psychoanalysis.

Most of the courses are discussions between the students and the professor with a bit of lecture sprinkled throughout. Papers aren't assigned, grades aren't earned. Those who sit in the lecture hall seats are there because they just want to know more about Bentham's utilitarianism or Emerson's

transcendentalism.

This is beautiful.

Perhaps I'm making a wide, sweeping generalization here, and I apologize if I am, but I think that many of us have come to college because that was either what was expected of us or because we believe that there is no other way for us to succeed in the world without a piece of paper that declares we have completed four years of study and now have a BA or BS in History, Biology, or Outdoor Recreation.

Yet, in Caen, there is a university where students come in flocks (upwards of 20,000 students attend any of the 122 classes offered yearly) to learn for their own enrichment, not for their own benefit. I think it's necessary to make the distinction between "enrichment" and "benefit" in this context especially. A little grammar lesson quickly - "enrich" means to supply with abundance of anything desirable. "Benefit" however, can mean to derive advantage. And isn't that how we view college a bit? That by coming here and leaving with a diploma and perhaps, if we are lucky, some glowing recommendations, we will have a leg up on another potential employee who went to a big state school where his/her professor didn't know the kid in the front row from the one in the back

and a TA read the papers?

Whatever happened to learning because we are curious? Sure, go ahead and say that, there isn't time to just go and pick up a book from the library

If our motivations towards education aren't strictly pure now, what happens after we toss our caps in May?

and read because we are genuinely interested in farming technology in Africa in the early part of the 19th century or correct ukulele strumming technique. But I think it's more than that. We are a culture that believes in being rewarded. We play sports to win shiny trophies. We create art to have it appreciated. We go to school so we can get a job.

So, if our motivations now aren't strictly pure - that is, we only entrench ourselves in our current education because it's necessary for some ultimate good later on - what happens after we toss our caps in the air in May? There won't be time then to learn for the sake of learning. Before we know it, some of us will find ourselves walking down the aisle, throwing money into a fixer-up house, and chauffeuring the kids to soccer practice before going to that company party on the other side of town. Some of us will be working in DC or New York City, wheeling and dealing and collapsing on the couches of our penthouses. Some of us will be cuddling orphans in South Africa or helping to rescue women from sex

trafficking in Thailand.

But once we are established in these lives, we mustn't let our brains shut off. Once I am fixed in my life, I mustn't let my brain shut off. We need to keep engaging with knowledge, keep inquisitively pursuing. It means going to the art gallery opening or checking out the historian at the library giving a talk on Civil War medicine. It means taking our kids to museums during summer vacation. It means scanning the NY Times book reviews and actually reading a few from the non-fiction section. It means signing up for that Russian Literature class at the local college. Because aren't we curious about something? Is there a subject, a time period, an author that has us questioning? Well, yes. Then what's stopping ourselves?

Nothing but ourselves.

It's time we, time I, seize the information, the knowledge that's so widely available to us. There are so many opportunities for us to engage with the subjects that we're fascinated by - we just don't.

Maybe then I will rethink the semi-permanent move to France and challenge myself to check out the Albright-Knox's upcoming "Arp, Miró, Calder" exhibit, or to read *The Meaning of It All: Thoughts of A Citizen-Scientist* by Richard Feynman. Because when it comes down to it, I'm thirsty—I want to be informed and to maintain a passion for knowledge, and I don't want my curiosity to ever be fully quenched.

So cheers, friends. Cheers.

Renee is a junior History major

The Penultimate Word

That's Typical: Succumbing to Social Expectations



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY ELISA SHEARER

As a junior, the issue of how we as Houghton students are going to operate in "the real world" seems to come up more and more often in my conversations with students and professors. One sentiment I hear sometimes from other students is the desire to do something "different" - to lead a "unique" life, not to sink into a "typical" career.

And I think that that's good advice. Don't strive for the white picket fence (or whatever 'typical' means to you) just because that's what everyone else does. We shouldn't base life

choices on a need to be like everyone else. That neglects the importance of our own strengths and passions.

On the other hand, I think our generation especially can become too preoccupied with "originality". So afraid are we of leading a 'generic' life that we run in the opposite direction of conformity and commit the same crime in a different way: striving for anything but the white picket fence just to be different from everyone else. What I hear more and more is a denouncing of different lifestyles and careers for no other reason but the fact that they are 'generic' or 'typical'. Being 'typical' becomes a sin in itself.

In both cases - doing what is expected for safety or seeking desperately to be different just for the sake of originality - we replace whatever values or passions we may have with the single preoccupation of fitting where we want to in the status curve. Whether we conform out of a need for safety or rebel out of a need for attention, we end up making choices for the wrong reasons.

Blindly conforming and blindly reacting are two different ways of doing the same thing - they both are ways we allow social expectations to control our actions. Some of us are choosing to do whatever is expected of us because it's safe, and some of us are avoiding the 'typical' lifestyle for no reason but to avoid doing whatever is expected of us. In both cases we allow our passions and strengths to be trumped by our reaction to social expectation.

And 'typical' means a different thing to every person. There are students who've gone into missions simply because they wanted to be different from their white collar family, and there are students who've gone into missions just because they want to fit in with their missions-focused family and church. Conversely, there are students studying business just because that's what their entire family and social group tends to do, and there are students studying business only because that's exactly the opposite of what is expected of them.

When we base our decisions on

social expectations (blind conforming or blind reacting) we are in a sense denying ourselves autonomy. Whether we are majoring in economics or worship ministry - whether your interest happens to be exactly what is expected of you or your major choice breaks generations of tradition - be aware of why you're making your decision. We need to accept the privilege and responsibility of making our own decisions. If our lifestyle and career choices are based on our own passions and calling, whether that is the South African bush or a Volvo and a picket fence, only then will we fill our potentials as individuals and as followers of Christ.

Elisa is a junior Psychology and English major

From the Editor's Desk

"Keep the Sabbath Holy as I Commanded Your Fathers"



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY MONICA SANDRECZKI

Last week at senate, Zach Adams announced in his presidential address that Houghton was accepted into the Empire 8, but one of the contingencies is that the conference hosts "limited" games and meets on Sundays. Now the question is, do we join?

As we know, Houghton has maintained a "Sunday Observance Policy"—our version of keeping the Sabbath holy. According to the Statement of Community Responsibilities, "we maintain that the Houghton community, both individually and corporately, should set aside the Sabbath as a time for worship, meditation, rest, renewal, recreation, fellowship and service to others, especially people in need."

Let me clear the air and say that we

all know that "Sabbath" does not have to mean "Sunday," but face it, that is the day traditionally held to be such and that is the day currently observed by the College. Try going to the library or Java 101 if you don't think so.

Thus far, we have never held that "recreation" meant track meets and volleyball matches. In fact, when the Ultimate Frisbee team asked for funding several years ago, they were not granted it because several of their week-end tournaments took place on Sundays. Ergo, no go cash flow. But the search for a new sports conference evidently creates the need to re-evaluate our theological beliefs as a college.

One of the arguments is that Empire 8 has "limited" Sunday play. But what does "limited" mean? After just a brief

look into the Empire 8 website, empire8.com, one can find the schedule for the entire spring season and see that there

are games and meets on at least half of the Sundays in January, February, and March. Living with a cross country runner, I know how often they have meets—nearly every week-end. So, unless "limited" means "slightly less than normal," it is a fairly misleading word to describe the amount of Sunday play.

Adams also mentioned at last week's senate meeting that this is not a black and white issue, that there is a lot of grey area to it. Frankly, it is black and white: we play sports on Sundays or we don't. The grey area seems to be with terminology and how we decide to define words and what we can wiggle around and re-interpret.

On a different note, in the past year

or so, we have had a fair bit of dialogue about the new disciplinary action taken when a student does not meet the Chapel attendance requirement. At one point, consequences for falling below chapel par were the equivalent of a Student Life slap on the wrist. Since the enactment, however, students have been kept from living in townhouses, kicked off of club cabinets, and even suspended—undoubtedly more stringent than action that was in place, even in my freshman year.

To me, the Empire 8 Sunday play discussion doesn't exactly scream consistency with the tight leash of disciplinary action in regard to Chapel attendance. How can we be so strict in one area and so yielding in the other?

Don't get me wrong; I am not definitively pro or con on either the Chapel or the Empire 8 issue. However, I do believe that not only are these issues that should be discussed, but, overall, Houghton policy should at least strive for consistency.

Monica is a junior French and Intercultural Studies major

Letters to the Editor

Send to

houghtonstar@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

Bradley Meyers, I noticed my name in last week's paper and felt obliged to answer your questions. You picked all Old Testament verses. That's interesting because we are no longer under the old testament or "covenant" because of Jesus' death on the cross. Let's take a look at the first verse mentioned: Leviticus 19:19. I'm going to use the King James Version because that's what I read. "Neither shall a garment mingled of linen and woollen come upon thee." Although I'm not an expert on Bible interpretation, I believe this command was given to symbolize to Israel not to mingle themselves with other nations. By not mingling together two different materials (or seeds or cattle as the verse mentions earlier), they were keeping themselves "pure" in a symbolic fashion. I believe verse 32 is talking about respecting the aged and showing on the outside that the aged are important and worthy of being respected. I haven't studied Israelite culture but I would suspect that they would stand as a sign of honor in the presence of one gifted with many years of life. Exodus 21:7? If you look at the beginning of the chapter, it says, "Now these are the judgments which thou shalt set before them." This is a list of rules that God is setting out before Israel so that if these situations occurred, the Israelites would know what to do. But then again, I'm no

expert. And then Exodus 35:2. This is about the Sabbath. The Sabbath is a Jewish day of rest. We as Christians are not Jewish and being freed from the law by Jesus, are not forced to hold to what the law (also called the Torah) entails. Now, I'm not saying that it's a bad idea to keep a day of rest, I'm just saying that we don't have to "take that law into our hands," as it were, and kill our roommate for doing homework on Sunday (actually Saturday which is the correct day for the Sabbath).

I hope that helps!

-Nicole Pepe, Class of 2014

Dear Editor,

In response to Bradley's letter and invitation for clarification of scripture, I would like to give a few thoughts. I had in fact seen that particular clip of The West Wing. The arguments made about the Old Testament laws which modern Christianity does not exactly follow today, and then leading this into saying that homosexuality is also listed as one of those 'taboos' is all well and good on the surface. Except—except, I don't recall seeing these laws repeated again in the New Testament.

The purpose of many of the laws that God had ordained for his Chosen People in the Old Testament, or Old Covenant, were to set them apart, to be a nation where people would visibly recognize the difference in them. When Jesus arrived, He turned what everyone believed in upside down. It was no longer about the law—it became about having true faith in God.

I was recently reading in Galatians, chapter 3, a passage entitled "Faith or Observance of the Law". It states: "Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? ...

Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, 'The righteous will live by faith.' ... Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us ... Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law. You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

So, following the law to the nth degree is just not feasible. We are inadequate human beings—apart from God that is. He enables us to follow His ways, but this requires faith. Christ became the atoning sacrifice for us, bearing our burden of disobedience of the law, that we may find forgiveness and grace in Him. This isn't

to say that we can go on willfully sinning, but to say that the Old Covenant has been superseded by His New Covenant to us, and if we earnestly turn to Him we no longer need to obey the past laws.

Despite the other laws not being repeated in the New Testament, however, it is still clearly stated that homosexuality is a sin. Now I'm not the judge of what that implies about whether a person can be homosexual and a Christian, or whether it is inherent or not—I let God be the judge of that.

All that I know is that God extends His grace to us freely, and I don't have to worry about wearing my Houghton shirt made of two different fabrics. Hopefully you'll begin to feel the same way.

-Hannah Vardy Class of 2013

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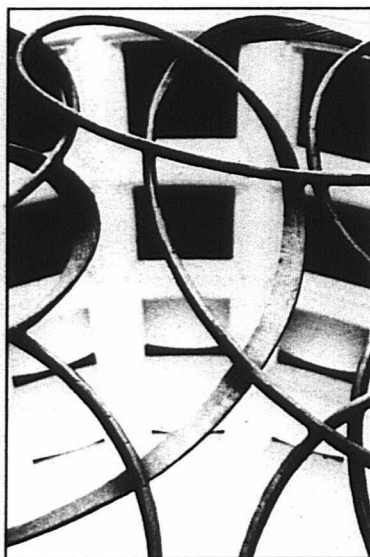
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ARTIST of the WEEK



Venezia, photograph

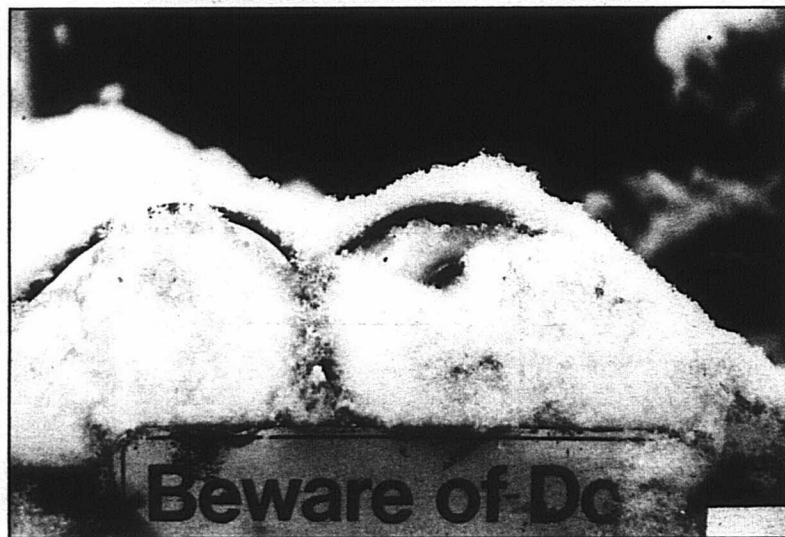


V & A, photograph

A note from the artist: I like natural opposition - it always catches my attention. Lights and darks, highlights and shadows, reality and reflection, the actual and the perceived... I find my eye naturally drawn toward rooting out these basic themes from every composition. From behind my lens I have been able to bring them into clearer focus in my work. The goal of my photography is not to shed light on some deep meaning, but rather to share a moment with the viewer: to bring the viewer to my perspective and share with them the beauty, grace, elegance, and inspiration I have been able to find wherever my feet have taken me.

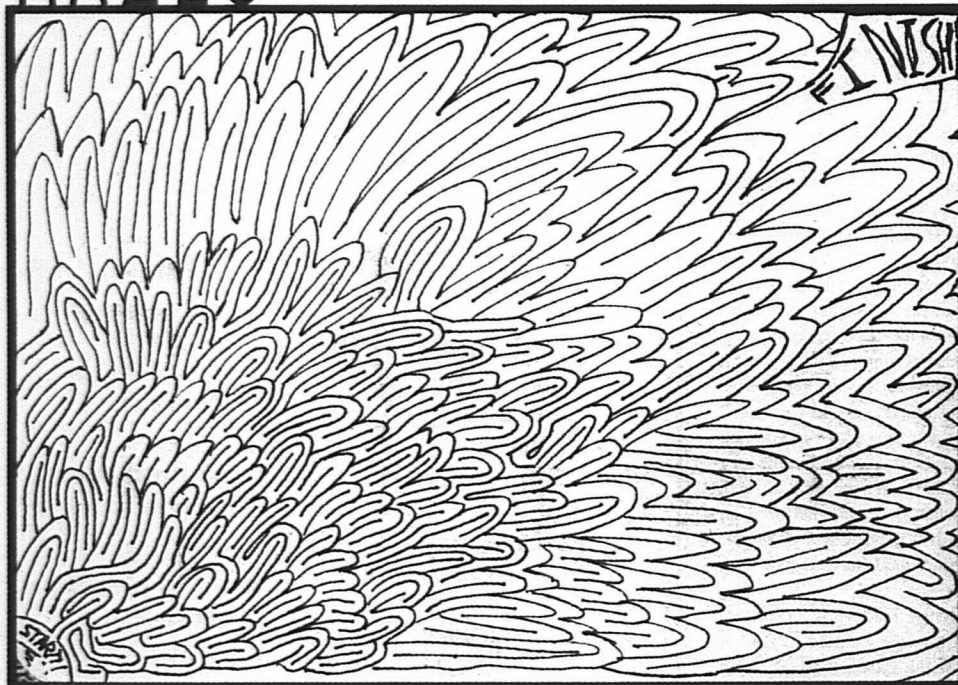


Jacob's Ladder, photograph



Fair Warning, photograph

MAZES [BROUGHT TO YOU BY ALEX GLOVER]



"Peacock"

SURPRISE PRIZE!

Last week's winner of the Sudoku challenge was Larissa Widrick! Please come by the Star office to claim your prize.

Bring your finished MAZE to the Star office clearly marked with FULL NAME.

Solution for Feb. 11 sudoku:

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