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the houghton STAR

Houghton College's Student Newspaper Since 1909

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Grease Fire in Flats Early Wednesday

by SHANNON AMES

In the early hours of Wednesday morning, a fire alarm sounding in the flats forced residents to leave the building and brought the fire department to Houghton. The cause of the alarm was a grease fire that erupted in a first floor flat. Seniors DeWayne Moore and Robert Schian were attempting to deep-fry cheese-filled dough balls on the stovetop when the oil burst into flame.

"My first reaction was to put it under the water," said Moore, who received third degree burns on one hand as a result of the fire. Unfortunately, the water caused the fire to flare up, producing flames that Schian estimates were up to six feet. Several people, both inside and outside the flat saw the flames. Moore reported that some in the flat saw the fire engulf him. He is the first to report that he could have been hurt worse, and is very thankful for God's protection, calling it a miracle. In fact, the overall attitude and testimony of several students who witnessed the fire is one of thankfulness that the damage and injury were not as bad as they could have been.

"I cannot say enough how thankful I am that everyone, especially DeWayne, are okay," said Schian.

Some of their friends even found some irony in the situation, considering Moore's Facebook status posted the previous day, which read, "No words can express how much the world owes to sorrow. Most of the Psalms were born in the wilderness. Most of the Epistles were written in prison. The greatest thoughts of the greatest thinkers have passed through fire... Take comfort, afflicted Christian! When God is about to make preeminent use of a man, He puts him in the fire."

The fire went out on its own, releasing black smoke, which brought the fire department. Junior Nathan Cronk, a member of the volunteer fire department, said there was some confusion when the department arrived as no one came forward to direct the firefighters to the fire.

"It's helpful if students aren't afraid to talk to the fire department and rescue service, and realize that these are community members volunteering to help," said Cronk.

Flat residents waited outside as members of the fire department worked for about 45 minutes to vent the smoke from the building before residents could return.

The fire caused mostly superficial damage to the flat, including grease spatter on the walls and ceiling, soot-like smoke stains on the ceiling, and the damage to the window screen. Ray Parlett, Director of Safety and Security, encourages students to use this experience as a lesson to turn first to the fire extinguisher, located in every building on campus, to put out any fire, since, in any emergency situation, the quickest, simplest solution is best. ★

ECONOMIC DOMINO THEORY IN THE EUROZONE

by CHRIS HARTLINE

In 1992, the 13 nations of the European Communities met in Maastricht, Netherlands, to sign the Maastricht Treaty. By doing so, these nations, which included Italy, France, West Germany, the United Kingdom, and Greece, bound themselves in an association known as the European Union, now comprised of 17 nations. In the process, they created a unified currency—the euro—which forever linked the fortunes of these economies, whether good or bad, in an essentially unbreakable chain.

Douglas J. Elliot, a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institute, wrote on CNN Money that "the road into the Eurozone ran only one way." What he meant was that the Eurozone countries made it almost impossible to dump the euro without leaving the European Union; there is no mechanism in place for such an act. The fear was that if a country like Greece were to dump the euro as its currency, they would set a weaker exchange rate leading to a run on their banks and a domino effect rushing through the Eurozone.

At this moment, however, the very foundations of the European Union are buckling under the weight of debt and instability. The governments of Greece and Italy have both been ousted after



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Government debt has been attributed as the root cause of the Eurozone crisis.

promising substantial austerity packages. The euro itself is in danger of folding, and the nations of the Eurozone watch as each domino continues to fall. Simon Wolfson, the CEO of European retailer NEXT is offering a \$400,000 prize for a plan to break up the euro peacefully.

The root cause of this crisis is essentially government debt, a prescient warning for American technocrats. The Maastricht Treaty mandated that annual government deficits not exceed 3% of GDP while government debt not exceed 60% of GDP. Most European

nations, however—particularly Greece and Italy—used complex currency and credit derivatives to mask the realities of their debt situation.

Currently all the major Eurozone nations have debt to GDP ratios over 60%: the United Kingdom (77.8%), Germany (75.7%), France (83%), Italy (118.9%), and Greece (140.2%). These staggering ratios—particularly those of Italy and Greece—have strained the relationships between banks and clients,

See EUROZONE page 2

BASEMENT RENOVATIONS TO BEGIN OVER BREAK

by KATHERINE BAKER

If you have ever thought to yourself, "the Campus Center basement could use a little work," you may be pleased to hear that renovations are scheduled to begin over Thanksgiving break.

"I think renovations have been needed for a while, so it's great that they are starting," said junior Jody Crikelair, Boulder editor.

The beginnings of the renovation process can be traced back to the Student Project Fund, which was an account meant for students to use for capital projects and permanent enhancements of the College, according to senior

Garrett Fitzsimmons, SGA President. According to Greg Bish, Associate Dean for Student Involvement and Leadership, because of accounting reasons, the remaining \$60,000 in the Student Project Fund would be put toward one final project. Last year, Zach Adams, then SGA president, proposed to spend the money on a student involvement area.

In addition to the money from the Student Project Fund, funding for the basement renovations has been provided by Bob Van Dyk, Sodexo, and the Class of 2011. Van Dyk who also funded the renovations of the Van Dyk lounge, the fireplace, and multiple other projects,

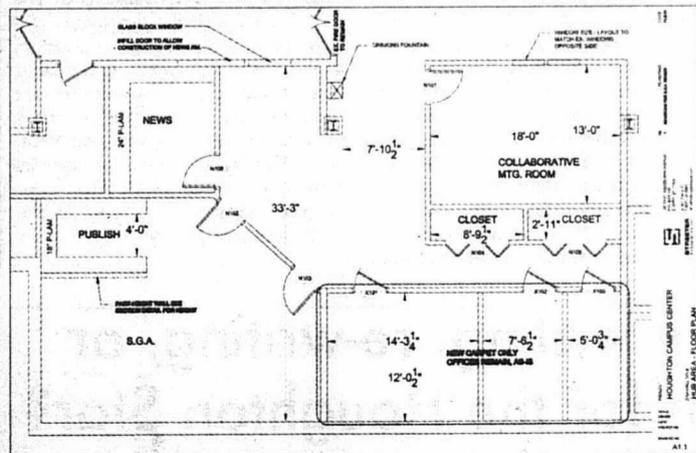
is donating \$100,000 to the basement project. Sodexo sets aside a certain amount of money to spend on capital improvements on campus, so they will be funding some improvements to the snack shop. In addition, the Class of 2011's gift to Houghton was a conference room, which will be built where the Star and Boulder offices are currently located, near the pool table.

The offices of every student organization will be reorganized as a part of the renovations. The Star and Boulder offices will be moved to the student involvement area, allowing for greater collaboration between student organizations. This will create a centralized area, housing all student-led campus wide programs.

"A con of the renovations is that there will be less space for some departments than there was, but a pro of the renovations is that we will all be together, and there will be a big meeting room that all of us can use," said Crikelair.

Senior Kristen Beck, CAB director, said, "Space is changing a lot for us, but where we work every year is changed. We usually meet in the CAB office or Java, so that's why adding the new conference room will be really great for us."

"The idea behind the renovations in the student organizations area is to create a collaborative space without sacrificing the privacy and autonomy



The SGA approved this plan of the student involvement center. Renovations will begin Monday and continue over Thanksgiving Break.

See BASEMENT page 3

POLITICS / CASUAL CHRISTIANITY AND AMERICAN VOTERS



ANDREA PACHECO

by WYNN HORTON

A pizza CEO, an ambassador to China, a politician inactive for 13 years, and the Chair of the Tea Party are just four of the current 16 candidates running for the Republican Presidential nomination for the 2012 election. Even though the Iowa Caucus is less than two months away, voters are still waiting for a Republican candidate who can blow this country's socks off. But how many people in the U.S. will actually leave their homes next November and cast a ballot for the President? Not as many as you might think, and not as many as should.

In 2008 roughly 56.8% of the eligible population in America turned out to vote. That is the highest the percentage has been since 1968, when Richard Nixon barely squeaked out a victory over Democrat Hubert Humphrey and

Independent George Wallace. Over 60% of the population eligible to vote came out for that election, a huge number that has not been reached since. People are simply not making an effort to be involved in the formation of their government anymore. According to Eric Plutzer, a political scientist and researcher at Penn State University, this lack of effort stems from lack of habit. About 30% of Americans are habitual voters—they vote in every type of election, including Federal, state or local, even if the vote isn't going to be close. Another 35% of Americans are "periodic voters," who generally only take part in Presidential or Congressional votes but nothing more. The last 35% is the unregistered younger generations who hardly ever register and therefore hardly ever vote. According to Plutzer, "Young Americans may relocate for college, their first job, or their first mature love interest. When young people move into an apartment, they make sure they have electricity, phone and Internet service, and cable. Registering to vote isn't at the top of their to-do list." It is because of this sense of unimportance that voting has to younger generations that they do not turn out to vote. It is an unfamiliar process, even uncomfortable for some, and therefore many choose to simply not do it. However, Plutzer said, "Get them to the polls once, and they will likely vote again and again." It is just a matter of taking the steps toward breaking a bad habit.

However, being young is not the only factor playing into the lack of voters. Another major issue involved is religion. There are many groups,

sects, and denominations that choose not to interfere with the government that is in place because they think it is unimportant or irrelevant to their faith or belief system. In his recent book, *The Seven Faith Tribes: Who They Are, What They Believe, and Why They Matter*, George Barna, the founder of the Barna Research Group, indicates that "casual Christians" make up 66% of the religious population in America. Barna defines "casual Christians" as those who are, "defined by the desire to please God, family, and other people while extracting as much enjoyment and comfort from the world as possible." They tend to be much more laid-back and consider their faith as more of a tool to fulfill their needs than as a major influencing factor in their life decisions. "Casual Christians" therefore often see little need to vote in elections. As long as the person who will most likely get elected by everyone else is acceptable for the most part, they don't bother to vote. Comfort is key.

So Christian colleges across the nation are hit by this double whammy of bad factors. The students are young and therefore most likely fall into the 35% of the voting-eligible population that is unregistered and not habitual. It is also probably that many students at Christian colleges have a more "casual" interpretation of their faith. As a result, many young Christian men and women do not bother to vote in important elections. Can you imagine a world where a united Christian movement was formed and brought tangible change in this country's government? It would be astounding. ★

EUROZONE from page 1

investors and business, government and business, and government and citizens. As a quick aside, the American debt to GDP ratio is 99.6% for the year and ironically crossed the 100% plateau on Halloween according to projections by the International Monetary Fund.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy have led the efforts by the more structurally sound European nations to maintain stability and find a long-term solution. But experts worry they are playing a losing hand. The fiscal monstrosity that is the Greek and Italian bond market, combined with their astounding levels of government debt, has led some to fear the "doomsday scenario."

On Tuesday, the yield on 10-year Italian government bonds reached 7.039%, a rate at which economists believe the refinancing of Italy's debt becomes unsustainable. Were Italy and Greece unable to refinance their debt and default, economists and heads of state alike worry the domino effect will spread through Europe and beyond—quickly. Spain and Portugal would fall, followed by Ireland, and eventually the cancer would reach France.

While France may not be a dominant geo-political power, they do dominate the banking sector of the Eurozone. Germany, the most reliable of the bunch, houses almost all of its capital in French banks. France also holds approximately \$1 trillion in American money. Meanwhile, the French banks have overleveraged themselves in the unpredictable Eurozone market, resulting in France's rocky fiscal infrastructure and dim economic outlook. As rating agency Standard & Poor's stated in downgrading the French banking sector, "we see weaker economic prospects for Europe, including the peripheral countries to which some French banks are significantly exposed."

Eurozone leaders have taken action. At a summit in October, they decided to write down—essentially reduce in value—the Greek debt held by the private sector by 50%. Meanwhile, Lucas Papademos has replaced George Papandreu as interim Prime Minister of Greece and promised a strong effort to pass a significant austerity package.

Last week in Italy, the Parliament voted to approve an austerity package—which includes cutting 300,000 public sector jobs, increasing the retirement age for government benefits, simplifying the tax code, creating incentives for venture capital investment, and reintroducing the property tax—paving the way for Silvio Berlusconi to resign as Prime Minister.

But there are flaws to these measures. The write down of Greek debt makes very idyllic assumptions. An article in *The Economist*, after the deal was struck, commented that the Eurozone's main rescue fund, the European Financial Stability Facility, "does not have enough money to withstand a run on Italy and Spain," while other sources of liquidity—Germany and the central bank—have ruled out further bailouts. The Italian austerity package is vague—such as when it outlaws deficit spending "except in the case of exceptional events" and fails to define "exceptional events"—and the country itself currently lacks a government.

As the dominos continue to fall, the worry shifts from the collapse of the European bond market and banking sector to the impact on American markets. The universality of the worldwide financial system means that the economic domino effect does not stop at the water's edge. ★

First Lego League: Building Bricks to Solve Problems

by REBEKAH HALL

Tomorrow, middle schoolers from around the area will be working with robots here at the College to fight against food contamination. Each year, First Lego League, an organization that seeks to foster interest and skills in science and technology, holds a themed challenge that relates to real-world scientific issues. This year's challenge is "Food Factor: Keeping Food Safe" and focuses on food safety and contamination. The competition is organized by Cattaraugus Allegany BOCES (CABOCES), an organization partnering with various school districts in the area and offering educational programs. According to Professor Kristin Camenga, science, who is the liaison for tomorrow's competition, this is the third year Houghton has hosted the First Lego League qualifiers. This year the College will host the Southern Tier First Lego League Qualifiers on November 19.

Ten teams of up to 10 children, ages nine to 14, and one adult will be participating tomorrow. Each team will start the day rotating through classrooms in the Chamberlain Center and give three presen-

tations each. The first will focus on the core values of First Lego League, which focus on such points as teamwork, friendly competition, discovering over winning, and having fun. They will then present their own solution to a specific and current scientific problem relating to food safety and contamination. Finally, the teams will present a technical design of the robot with which they will compete later in the day. Judges, brought in from outside of Houghton, will score the various presentations.

After morning presentations, the kids will head to the Van Dyk Lounge to practice with their team robots, and at noon, after the Opening Ceremony, the competition will begin. Each team will complete a two and a half minute mission of their choice with their particular robot. According to Jean Oliverio, Art and Extra Curricular Activities Coordinator for CABOCES, each mission will relate to the "Food Factor" theme. For example, kids may maneuver their robot to a cooking timer while commanding the robot to pull a lever to the correct cooking temperature, or move a corn harvester and safely dump the corn. Two teams at a time will complete their missions, each mission focusing

on keeping the food safe and clean, from the field to the table. While cameras capture the action and project the video for all competitors and spectators to see, judges will score the teams' progress. Oliverio, like the First Lego League Web site, said that despite the seemingly competitive atmosphere of teams performing their missions with a timer counting down the seconds, the point is not necessarily to compete against each other, but against the mission. The point, after all, is to get kids excited and interested in solving real world problems like how to make sure harvested food is not contaminated and that food is cooked properly.

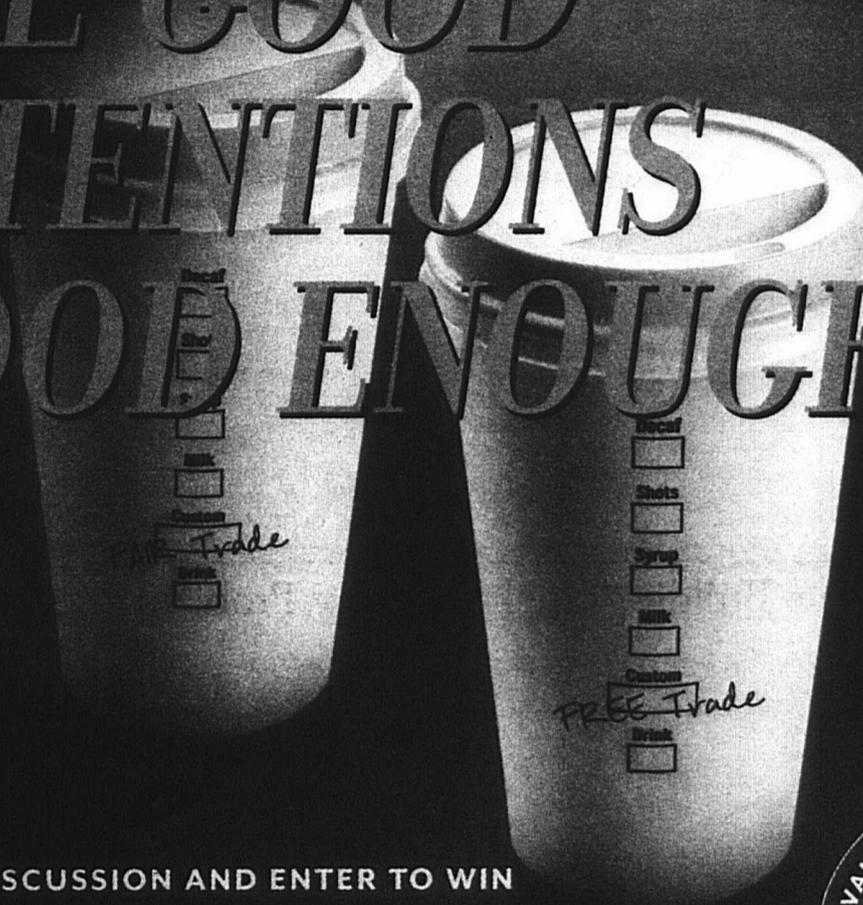
Winning may not be the entire goal, as the experience is a benefit in itself, but this will be a qualifying round for a further competition. The three teams with the top scores will move on to compete at the University of Rochester December 4. Students, faculty, and community members are welcome and encouraged to watch the teams compete at noon tomorrow in the Van Dyk Lounge. For more information on this year's First Lego League competitions, visit www.firstlegoleague.org. ★

Interested in writing, re-writing, or taking photos for the Houghton Star?



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BASEMENT *from page 1*

of individual organizations," said Fitzsimmons. In the original plans, the Star office was going to be contained in the SGA office. However, those involved reworked the design so that the Star could maintain its autonomy and remain separate from the government by having its own newsroom.

Renovations will begin Monday, according to Bish. The building contains asbestos, which is safe as long as it is concealed, but construction requires abatement, which is the removal, sealing off, or encapsulation of asbestos. Workers will therefore build new walls, then demolish the old in order to begin the process. Abatement specialists will be on campus taking care of the asbestos, said Fitzsimmons.

After the abatement, the renovation of the student involvement area will begin. The renovations will continue after Thanksgiving break and through Christmas break. Over Christmas break, the snack shop renovations will also begin. "We can relocate and work remotely for those final weeks of the semester, but the snack shop cannot," said Bish. Both the student involvement area and the snack shop renovations are projected to be completed by the beginning of the Spring semester, according to Bish. The conference room that was donated by the Class of 2011 is also projected to be finished by then but will be started after the renovations to the student involvement area are underway. "We need a place to move the Star and Boulder offices before we begin the construction of the conference

room in their place," said Bish.

The renovations to the snack shop aim to create a more flexible space, with more diversity in seating options and more of an Applebee's-type feel, according to Bish. There will be an oversized booth, high tables and stools, updated lighting and decor, and televisions, along with improved wireless access points and increased cell service. "Once the antenna is installed, you will have the same cell service in the basement that you have outside," said Bish.

"Throughout the basement we are looking to have computer terminals in a few locations rather than one computer lab," said Bish. The current computer lab will become the College Conference Office instead, which is where Becca Crouch, Director of Conferences, will be

moved. The final part of the basement renovations is called "The Pit." The room that is next to the computer lab and currently used for storage will become a multipurpose area that can be used by student clubs, organizations, or groups to hold meetings or socialize. This particular renovation is expected to be completed by Summer 2012.

Also part of the basement renovations was the renovation of the post office; the walls around the mailboxes were resurfaced, new drop boxes were put into place, and the window was moved. Only trim work is left.

"The renovation process is moving forward quickly and decisions are being made as we continue," said Bish. "It is a fluid process." ★

Piffaro Brings "El Nuevo Mundo" to Houghton



Piffaro is the most renowned Renaissance band in the world; their traditional instruments are created to be the most exact recreations of the originals as possible.

by ELIZABETH SPAULDING

The Renaissance band Piffaro will be performing at 8 p.m. tomorrow in Wesley Chapel as part of Houghton's Artist Series. Piffaro, a world-famous Renaissance wind band, has been steadily gaining acclaim and recognition ever since their formation in 1980. Based out of Philadelphia, the band has since travelled all over the world to music festivals in not only the U.S. but also South America, Germany, England, France, Belgium, Spain, Austria, and the Czech Republic.

The band's music is classified as "early wind," a style that encompasses all forms of music leading up to the Renaissance period. Piffaro employs several traditional instruments, ranging from the more common guitars, lutes, bagpipes, and harps to the rather unusual shawms, sackbuts, dulcians, and krumphorns. Percussion is also relied upon to give the group a more filled-out sound without compromising their authenticity. Their instruments are manufactured to be the most exact recreations of the originals as possible.

The band has also garnered recognition for their ability to create an organ-like sound out of the use of several recorders playing in unison. The name of the group itself can be literally interpreted to mean "pipe" or "wind instruments" in Italian, thus making Piffaro a very fitting name for the ensemble, which is currently recognized as the most renowned Renaissance band in the world.

Piffaro's original sound and style comes from their ability to combine both the more pastoral sounds specific to the peasantry of the times with the ornamental, elegiac elements of professional Medieval and Renaissance bands. Typically, Piffaro, which has released 13 studio albums and one live album to date, has tried to make their performances truly an experience for their audiences. They often perform in music festivals and attempt to create the feeling of a traditional court festival or church service during their concerts. They have also been known to hire dancers wearing traditional garb to add some pizzazz and further the immersion aspect of their performances.

For their most recent tour, Piffaro seems to have toned down things a bit, providing a powerful program of music as usual, but performing it with a bit less pomp and show. The series Piffaro will

be performing at Houghton is a Spanish program called "El Nuevo Mundo," or "The New World" in English. The compositions explore an interesting historical theme: that of the introduction of European music into the colonies conquered by the Spanish in the new world. The natives of South America were very receptive to the Spanish forms, even going so far as to perform their music in their churches. With this in mind, Piffaro brings "El Nuevo Mundo" to the stage.

The show promises to be an entertaining one, with vocals provided by musicians from the band, and an eclectic mix of pieces to be performed. Free tickets for students will be available to pick up ahead of time at the base of the stairs in the Campus Center during mealtimes and at the Info. Center in the hours between lunch and dinner; faculty and staff who want to attend can contact the music office. Free tickets, however, will not be available at the door.

Allegany Harvest Co-op Update

by JOYCE TAYLOR

The fate of the Allegany Harvest Cooperative Market depends upon the success of the membership drives, which help determine if the market will open on schedule—on the projected date of February 15, 2012—as well as determine the scale of the grocery store.

Project manager Ginny Routh explained, "The big motivating aspect for this current member owner drive is that this is the time to join. If you are waiting to join until after we open, our trouble with this is twofold: if we do not have you join as one of the first 300 member owners, then we cannot open. There has to be 300 member owners to open. Second, how well the co-op can stock the shelves and provide a variety of selection of products depends on how many members we can get before we open the store; if people join afterwards, they may not be impressed by what they see on the shelves, because they didn't support it before it opened."

The co-op is trying to be a niche market, with products on the shelf that you cannot find in northern Allegany County, to serve small family farms in surrounding communities that do not have other outlets for year-round sales. The co-op has no plans to interfere with the sales of other local favorites such as the Amish store or Jubilee.

In line with the member owner drives, there has been a call for community support to join and help the co-op meet the start-up budget to reduce the amount of bank loan. This member loan drive has been a phe-

nominal success. This week there was a push to meet the \$40,000 loan goal. Twenty-six different member owners are currently giving to these loans; the average loan size is about \$1,400. The loans will determine what the store looks like, among other factors. The goal is to reach \$107,000 in loans, but the organizers' hope is to push for \$140,000.

Of the first 206 members, 13% are students, 50% are people from the 14744 zip code, and 34% have no connection to the College at all. People from as far as Nunda, Angelica, Cuba, Franklinville, and Canaseraga have joined the co-op.

While community membership flourishes, student membership continues to remain low. "In putting your dollars into a piece of ownership, every dollar you invest is still your dollar; when you graduate you can request your equity back," said Routh. "Think of it as a savings account sort of scenario for students looking to join." She continued, "Invest now—anyone can shop there but the member owners get deeper discounts. Freshmen: invest for your junior and senior years; get the groceries in Houghton; walk across the street instead of driving 45 minutes. If you want the co-op to open while you are at Houghton, vote with your dollars. Seniors: leave a legacy behind."

Join at www.alleganyharvest.coop/ownership/join-now/, or mail in the application form in the brochure and the first month's payment to: Allegany Harvest Cooperative Market, PO Box 83, Houghton, NY 14744, or to stop by Our Common Ground (the future co-op space) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Looking for a Christmas idea?
Give a Java 101 gift card (any amount)
and receive a free card to send it in!

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Give it in this.

Thanksgiving Efforts in Full Swing

by HANNAH HANOVER

What do a Toy Story green army man, a turkey, a pilgrim, and an Angry Bird all have in common? That's right, they are this year's options for Dean John Brittain's Harvest chapel costume, one of which will be selected by the class who donates most generously to the College's annual Turkey Drive. In previous years, Brittain has graced the chapel stage as Elvis, Pikachu, and Buzz Lightyear.

The Turkey Drive unofficially began in 2001, with a fundraising effort by students to provide Thanksgiving day meals to families in Allegany County. The effort was dubbed the Turkey Drive and in 2003 became a competition among the dorms. A monetary goal was set each year, and if the goal was achieved, Brittain donned a turkey costume for the Harvest chapel. Soon the dorms requested to pick Brittain's costume for him, and the competition intensified. For 2011, the Turkey Drive is a competition between the classes of 2015, 2014, 2013, and 2012.

This year the goal for the Turkey Drive is \$2,300, which will provide over 200 families in Allegany County with a Thanksgiving day turkey. Turkey recipients are determined by local social service agencies and church food pantries working with Houghton's Director of Safety and Security, Ray Parlett. Success over past years may be largely attributed to Harrington's in Belfast and Jubilee in Fillmore, who accept the coupons for a turkey distributed by Houghton. Coupons for families are accompanied by Thanksgiving day cards signed by students, faculty, and staff.

Junior Alexa Burns is this year's Turkey Drive coordinator and has worked with Greg Bish, Associate Dean for Student Involvement and Leadership, and Stephanie Wittenrich, Assistant Director of Student Programs, to make the drive a fundraising triumph.

"Seeing that it was for a great cause, I didn't hesitate to say 'yes,'" said Burns about her reaction when Bish and Wittenrich asked her to participate. The Turkey Drive is sponsored by the Student Government Association and supported by the Student Programs Office. "The SGA has done a great job each year to set and meet the goals and organize the events," said Wittenrich.

Turkey Drive festivities and fundraising efforts are now in full force and fierce. A fundraising coffeehouse featuring a variety of student performers, including freshmen Riley Adams, Mike Kerr, and Jake Vogan; sophomores Ben Murphy and Sergio Nalvarte; juniors Matt Vogan, Sarah Jacoby, and Burns; and seniors Melinda Ramey, Cameron Thibault, Erin Carr, and Laura Stoltzfus was held in Java last night, with 10 percent of Java sales during the coffee house donated to the drive.

A Turkey Drive basketball classic tournament, sponsored by Sodexo, is being held today and tomorrow. Participants include Houghton, Roberts Wesleyan, SUNY Cobleskill, Mohawk College, Walsh College, and Penn State-Brandywin. A bake sale will be held today in conjunction with the tournament to continue raising funds. Tournament times are 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., and 8 p.m. today, and 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. tomorrow.

DIVERSIONS/ MUDDY WATERS

by HANNAH JENNINGS

I've heard it called itchy feet. Wanderlust, if you prefer. In any case, it's easy to get when every possible place to spend time reading, talking, or working is within walking distance. The Muddy Waters Coffee House in downtown Geneseo offers an escape that is familiar with the relaxed environment of a college town and a calming atmosphere appropriate for either conversing or delving into the newest addition to your bookcase. The 45-minute-plus drive may make you pause in the off-the-cuff decision to get off campus, but the distance might be just what you crave.

Despite the characteristically unpleasant weather of the evening, my most recent trip to the coffee house with a friend proved to be remedied upon walking in the door. The always-friendly baristas patiently explained

what spices went into my latte (nutmeg, cinnamon, honey and cocoa, if you were curious) and served me the oversized homemade pumpkin muffin. When it comes to the quality, the coffee and food aren't beyond the expectations of what would be available in a small college town. Aside from offering lunch and dinner menus, our own Java 101 meets the needs of fellow caffeine consumers just as well. But the low lights, comfy couches (showing much love from over the years, I might add), mellow music, and quirky displays of local artwork accompanied with the knowledge that you are removed from the everyday small-campus encounters creates the combination for an enjoyable change of pace. Plus, there is live music every Wednesday night if you are looking for more to your mini road trip experience. So if it's a distraction that you are looking for, Muddy Waters might be just right.

"Both basketball teams and the Athletic Department have been a strong supporters of the Turkey Drive since it started," said Wittenrich.

Decorated and slotted Pringle cans designated for Turkey Drive donations may be found on residence hall desks, the Welcome Center, Java 101, and the Campus Store, and the class who donates the most will determine Brittain's costume for Monday's chapel.

SPORTS RECAP

WOMEN'S SOCCER:

SAT 11/12
vs Roberts Wesleyan - T 1-1
Roberts advances on PK 3-2

Season Record: 16-4-1

UPCOMING GAMES:

SAT 11/19
vs. Northwood (Fla)

MEN'S BASKETBALL:

FRI 11/11
at Notre Dame College - L 76-79
OT

SAT 11/12
at Malone Univ. - L 79-91

Season Record: 0-2-0

UPCOMING GAMES:

FRI 11/18
vs Penn St-Brandywine @ 8PM

SAT 11/19
vs Mohawk College @ 2PM

TUE 11/22
at Keuka College @ 8PM

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:

SAT 11/12
at SUNY Canton - W 67-41

TUE 11/15
vs Morrisville State Univ. - W 59-34

Season Record: 2-0-0

UPCOMING GAMES:

FRI 11/18
vs Penn St-Brandywine @ 6PM

SAT 11/19
vs Cobleskill College @ 2PM

TUE 11/29
vs Mansfield Univ. @ 7PM

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

ATHLETE PROFILE: JILLIAN WATTS



by NICK FREDETTE

Jillian Watts is a senior therapeutic recreation major, and a two-year captain of the field hockey team. From Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Watts has certainly made an impact in her four years at Houghton. She is an excellent field hockey player and is involved in the Houghton community. Watts is one of the only juniors ever to be named a captain by her teammates, and on the field, she excels as a defender.

"Whenever she would get the ball, we would all just stop and watch—not only because she has amazing stick-work, but because we had so much trust in her, we knew she wouldn't lose the ball," said Jenna Newcombe,

a sophomore on the team.

She posted two goals and six assists this year and excelled in the intangibles. Her defense is reliable, and her teammates trust her unconditionally on the field. Her co-captain, senior Ashley Daigler, attested to this. "She is a solid defender that we all have complete confidence in on the field," said Daigler.

In addition to her talents as a field hockey player, Watts has a different impact with her teammates as well. She is a strong leader on the team.

"She has really made it a point to push our team to work our very hardest in order to reach our full potential," said Daigler. She puts forth a focused effort to make those around her better, and it does not go unnoticed by her peers.

Off the field, Watts is an active member of the Houghton community. She is a fixture on campus and can always be seen with a smile on her face. She volunteers regularly with Houghton Wesleyan Church, and her kindness can be seen in the small things she does to encourage those around her. Watts is also involved in many campus activities, including intramural sports and volunteer work. On any given day in the Campus Center, one can see Watts and Daigler encouraging the younger field hockey players and laughing with their friends. Watts is truly a great example of servant leadership, and that is evident in her actions on a day-to-day basis.

Gospel Concert

by MELINDA RAMEY

The Gospel Choir's biggest concert of the semester takes place from 8:30 to 10 p.m. Sunday in Wesley Chapel, with around 50 participants in the choir and band contributing to the performance.

The concert is a meticulously-planned and lovingly-prepared way for students to engage in authentic involvement of worship and fellowship with each other. The goal of the choir is that people would come and worship as a body of participants, welcome to experience the majesty and awesomeness in the power of God through this time of prayer and song.

The vision of the Gospel Choir from past to present has been to recognize the reverence of the Lord and fully glorify Him. Choir director Zina Teague, senior, said, "The choir meetings act more as worship, rather than practice times. Everyone's encouraged to do whatever they need to be worshipping freely: be it with closed eyes, kneeling on the floor, or lying faces down."

This semester the choir had the opportunity to travel outside of Houghton and represent the school while also inspiring other communities to understand and feel the wonder and excitement that comes with putting the Lord in a place of honor and glorifying Him. The heart of this choir's purpose is, in Teague's words, to grapple with "The glory of God, learning about God and His characteristics... understanding that we have the opportunity to glorify God. Doing that through what He's given us, in our gifts and abilities. Even if that's just daily saying hi to people. So the concert will reflect that, a lot of what we're singing is just giving it back to God and glorifying him."

The concert is free of charge for those who would like to attend and join in worship.

Recognizing the Value of Family Motivation



by SARAH WRIGHT

There are many important factors in academic success or failure in college. Some of these factors can be the student's drive, the expectations of the teachers, and the student's ability to work. But I think one of the most vital factors is family relationships and home situations. As a student coming from a stable home environment and with an unusually strong relationship with my family, I can see firsthand the benefits this factor has in my studies. Granted, academic success or failure depends on a lot more than the kind of home situation a college student has come from, but I believe

that a lot of the weight of a student's academic achievements rides on their relationships with their family.

A study done in 2004 by Donna K. Ginther and Robert A. Pollak recorded that students from single-parent homes are more likely to have a negative impact on their college attendance and graduation. This certainly isn't the case for all college students who come from single-parent or broken home situations. For example, a good friend of mine is attending Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota Florida. She comes from a single-parent, rather unstable home situation, yet is excelling in every class. This is a good illustration of someone who draws their support from other outlets to compensate for the lack of support from their home and family. On the other hand, some college students from broken homes find it very challenging to get through college with good grades. My father is a perfect example of this. My dad came from a single-parent home-life that was not very supportive or nurturing. As a result, he barely got through two years at a community college before dropping out and failing to graduate.

On the other hand, children from intact families tend to complete

more years of schooling and achieve higher educational attainment than do peers from other family forms, as reported in *The American Journal of Sociology* in an article by Timothy J. Biblarz and Adrian E. Raftery. I can see the evidence for this statement in my childhood friend who is attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania Academy of Culinary Arts, in Indiana, Pennsylvania. My friend comes from a loving, supportive home and his parents expect him to study, work, and succeed. The motivation he receives from his family plays a key part in his achievements and success in his schooling. That is not to say that everyone that comes from an intact, stable family will succeed at college. My cousin, who came from such a home situation, completed only two years of college before dropping out. She decided not to go back to college despite her family's disappointment and expectations. Obviously, family motivation isn't the only thing that success or failure is hinged on, but it still plays a very large part in a student's college career and beyond.

College is a season in our lives of gaining independence and responsibility. The level of such things

varies per individual, but I think we as students must not be too quick to 'burn the bridge' between us and our families in our lunge for freedom and responsibility. The fact remains that family expectations is one of the key motivating factors in a college student's life, to cut oneself off from one's family would be to remove that source of motivation and expectancy. Some students may not have a good relationship with their family; some may even feel out of place at home. I would encourage these students to do what they can to form stronger bonds between them and their families. As my mother, a wise woman in her own right, said to me when I was little, "Peers and friends will come and go in your life, but family will always be family." With that single statement, and her own expectations, I came to see the truth in her words. I may not have the same friends to support me a year or two from now, but I will always have my family to watch my back, inspire, and encourage me as I gain my independence and go through my college years.

Sarah is a first-year psychology major

Letters to the Editor

houghtonstar@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

As Christians, we often complain about how our culture is distorted through the lens of Hollywood. Unfortunately, the true nature of historical figures are also frequently warped by the allure of a more pleasing plot. On November the 5th, I gathered with a group of friends to watch *V for Vendetta*, the story of an anarchist who seeks to follow in the footsteps of Guy Fawkes, who attempted to burn down the Parliament building in 1604. Admittedly, I am a big fan of the movie and there is nothing better than seeing the Parliament building blown to pieces while Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture plays in the background.

After watching the movie on November the 5th, I was surfing the Internet when I came across an article on CNN's Belief Blog that reminded me of the power of Hollywood to change history. Dan Merica noted in his article that Fawkes' gunpowder treason was a plot not necessarily to stand up to a corrupt government, but a plot to kill King James, a Protestant, in order to restore Catholic supremacy. For a long time, November the 5th was a celebration of Fawkes' failure, with strong anti-Catholic undertones.

I do not seek to undermine Chris Clark's point in his November 11th article. I only seek to point out the errors of rallying around the likeness of Fawkes as a figure of freedom and rebellion. As for the point of Mr. Clark's article, I urge my fellow students to take advantage of the opportunities given by the SGA to seek a more perfect schedule. Since many of us, myself included, are not affected by the current imperfections of the schedule, those affected should take advantage of the student government. But I wonder how we can expect the student body to be involved in their student government when most of my peers did not take the time to request an absentee ballot and vote on the 8th

of November in their municipal elections.

-Joel Peterson, Class of 2015

Dear Editor,

Last week's Op-Ed Alicia Gardner discussed, "The Dangers of Kitsch," in Christianity. And though built up with an intriguing introduction, it turned out to be honestly, pretty simplistic, and frankly, inappropriate for the audience. From her depiction of the "plastic-coated" community, "Christian industry," and mid-90's DC Talk flashback references for modern day faith; to touting the idea that contemporary Christianity is the prototype for complacent piety; Gardner's argument seems better suited for the newsletter from the local church's "The Edge" youth group, rather than as an end-all label for her amorphous "we" (re: most Christians?).

Most broadly, Gardner could have chosen a more appropriate milieu than Houghton, to give the name "mindless automatons" to its students, and not just because we are liberal arts scholars with "a higher purpose in mind."

Take something so run-of-the-mill as classes, for instance. Any fresh-out-of-youth-group freshman who has had her idealist Christian conception of individualism and self-exaltation ripped to shreds then painfully sewn back together before her eyes in Dr. Airhart's Western Civ class; or nauseously stewed over the idea that he wasn't really a Christian after having his belief in free will and a fully omniscient God kicked out the door in PHIL 202; or has been plunged into the black abyss of complete aloneness, musing about *The Silence of a God Who Speaks*, that Gardner-named "authenticity of silence," in *Nature of God*, can testify that the T-shirts, the messenger bags, and the Petra reunion tour concert tickets were dumped by October Break freshman year. Could Gardner, then, shed some light on who these people are that think that our "perfect bubble [is] super-duper?"

Shameless professor plugs aside, it seems that the present-day "kitsch" that Gardner names, with the paraded faith, "having it so together," "denial of pain" (really?), "poster Jesus," "feel good worship," and accepting "Sunday School answers," is more in step with a Jim Bakker sermon than a name call to the way of life at Houghton College. It's a weak argument; supported only by passé youth group habits that no critically thinking Christian would take seriously and ending with a final call of "don't judge people"; it's borderline insulting and incongruous for the audience. You can delve deeper than that, Gardner; and so can we (re: kitschy Houghton students).

-Monica Sandreczki, Class of 2012

Dear Editor,

I've been reading the editorials on sex at Houghton with great interest. It's always interesting to see what students are saying these days. A few thoughts from an alum ('99) who loves this place enough that I moved back here with my family:

First, it is sad that the perception among students is that there is no frank conversation about sex. When you are responsible for setting the agenda for conversations at your churches, as you surely will soon be if you are not already, I hope you rectify that situation. You surely will have a better appreciation for why it is so difficult for your pastors and parents to deal with.

Interestingly, an angle that all three writers missed was premarital sex as a social justice issue. Severing sex from marriage does demonstrable harm to women. It unleashes the sad science of sexual economics: men as buyers, women as sellers. In such an economy, an ideal woman demonstrates restraint by having a low number (of sexual partners) but yet communicates that she is unable to keep her hands off this one guy. A woman who can't balance that properly loses: she either gives sex away too easily, which makes her undesirable, or she doesn't give herself

away easily enough and the guy loses interest and moves on to the next woman who will. On many heavily female campuses (hello, Houghton?), the "price" of sex is remarkably low—men can demand sex earlier and earlier in a relationship, sometimes detached from dating altogether, while the woman is left with the unthinkable burden of how to parcel herself out simply to have a social life. Imagine the life of a woman in such a culture. "Should I sleep with this guy? I'm attracted to him, I enjoy his company, and I see him as relationship material...but if I have sex with him too soon, I'll be that much less appealing to the next guy...I've only got so many times to do this before I get a reputation, and I'm not 100% sure this guy is worth it...but still, I like him." No Christian can be comfortable with half the population (and almost two-thirds of Houghton) struggling like that. It's simply not fair to women who, remember, are created in the image of God.

When sex is divorced from marriage, men win and women lose. It's that simple. When you bravely announce that premarital sex is not a black-and-white issue, you may think you're throwing off the repressive shackles of fundamentalism, but in reality you're taking on a whole new set of problems most 21-year-old evangelicals have scarcely even considered. It would be funny to me (if it weren't so sad) that there are students trying to ban Coca-Cola from campus on (as yet unproven) suspicion of various corporate sins, and yet think it progress to allow a behavior that would visibly harm nearly 2/3 of our campus.

Just my \$.02.

-Michael Jordan, Class of 1999

The Penultimate Word / The Logistics of Helping People



by ELISA SHEARER

I was sitting at a meeting reviewing cases of indicted abusers in Allegany County - I intern at a social services office in Belmont - and one case involved a man who had served a few months' probation for abuse and then, upon release, committed a horridly violent act against the same victim. "We failed this kid," an officer at the meeting said of the victim.

I like working in social services because it simultaneously disenchants and inspires me in regards to the mechanisms of helping people. I work in an office that gives legal and practical assistance to domestic violence victims, houses a women's shelter, and runs a food pantry.

Many of our clients tell us that they don't know what they would do without us, that we were their last chance, etc. After these clients, there is a sense that our tax dollars are being put to good use, as if we - that the social service is doing what a social service is supposed to do. But some clients aren't as easily rewarding. Some are demanding and abrasive; their accounts of incidences don't match police reports and they tell scattered and narcissistic stories, the verity of which crumble when anyone asks them to repeat a statement. We get people in our office who are clearly victims, but we also get the conniving, the liars, and people who file abuse complaints just to be vindictive. Our services are alternately treasured and taken advantage of. Whatever the makeup of social service is, it is definitely not black and white; working with the logistics of public service enforces the fact that there are no clear cut cases, and that every policy is going to, at some point, meet an exception of the rule. Sometimes these exceptions are people; sometimes they are failed by the system.

Social service is not wholly effective, but it isn't a complete socialist waste of taxes either, as some might criticize. Sometimes social service fails the people for whom it is made, and sometimes (oftentimes) people seek to suck as many resources out of

the public sphere as they are legally allotted. A general sense of entitlement pervades the population, which often means that public resources are given out at a competitive, first-come-first-serve basis.

But does the fact that the system is occasionally cheated discount the help it provides others? This is a question that must be asked in regards to every public service.

Charity is not so simple as shelling out money to the poor - though money helps, the uncomfortable truth is that anyone (of any class) who receives money will often not use it to their long term benefit or to that of society. The other danger of charity is the possibility of using monetary donation to excuse ourselves from any personal discomfort or investment. If we consider money the thing that solves the problem (and, believe me, it does help), we can ignore the ugly logistics of how and when and

why to distribute it.

Policy change is what is really effective. The problem is that there is no one policy change that will fix everything; social programs need to

Policy changes are less flashy and more complicated than large donations or huge influxes of funding, and so they receive less public and political attention than they should.

be constantly restructured to adapt to a changing society. This makes policy changes less flashy and more complicated than large donations or huge influxes of funding, and so they receive less public and political attention than they should. The logistics of helping people can be terribly

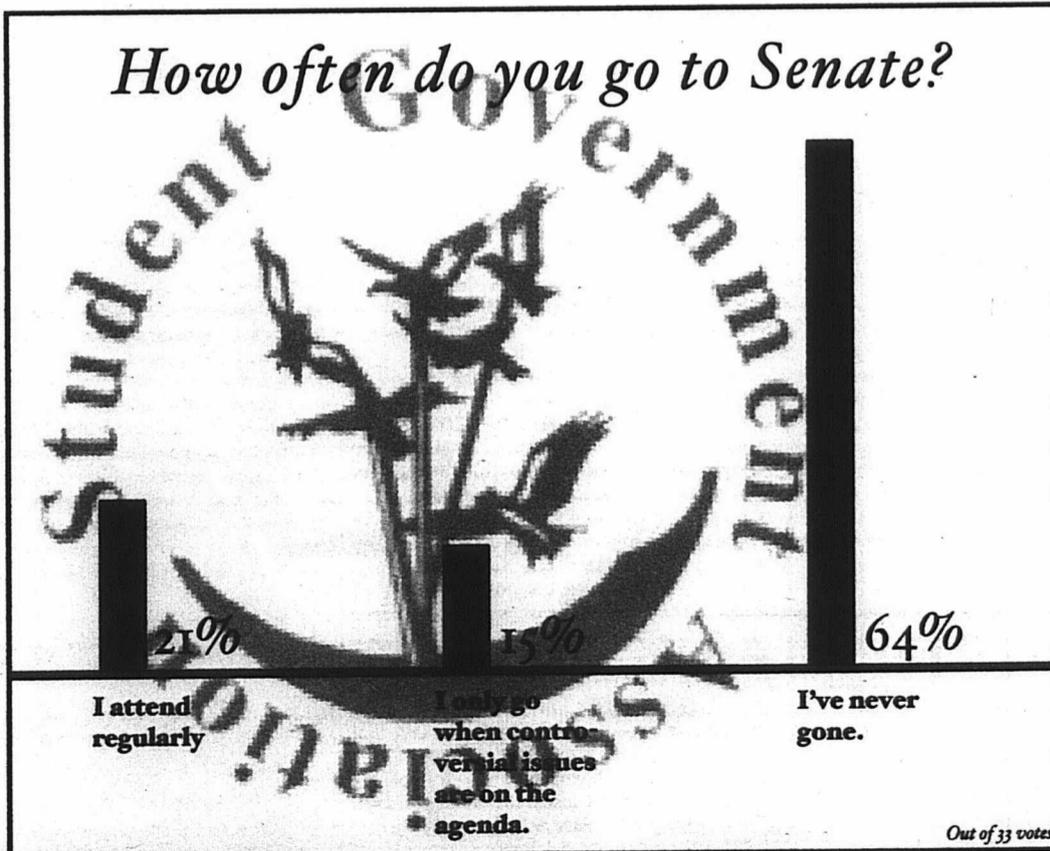
complicated, and a perfect policy will never be implemented, but public assistance is still a noble, if not a glamorous, necessity for society.

Elisa is a senior English and psychology major

Which Presidential Candidate is the Most Attractive?

vote in this week's poll at www.houghtonstar.com

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ARTIST OF THE WEEK



ANDREA PACHECO

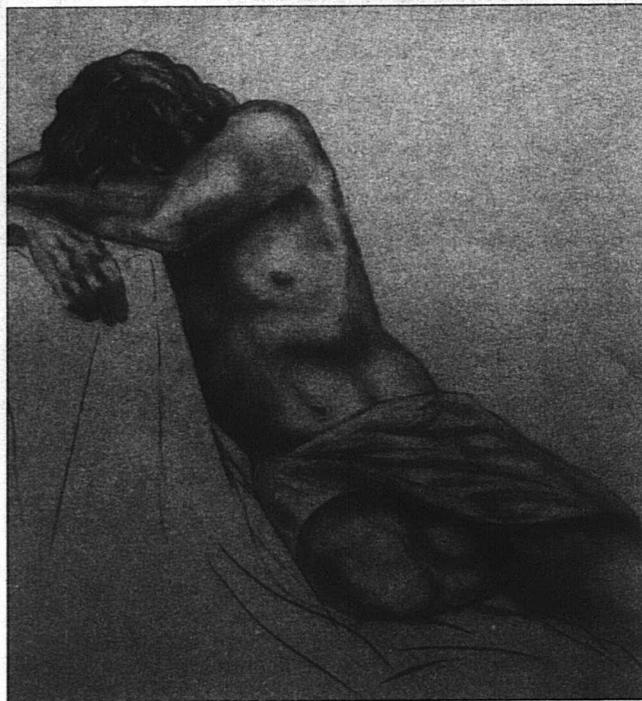
RACHEL BACKUS

Art is a lot like philosophy to me. Philosophy always seems to raise more questions than it answers, and leaves you to figure the rest out for yourself. Art is the same way. I don't think I'll ever be done finding new questions to try to answer with my work—where would the fun be, otherwise?

Rachel is a senior English and art double major, with concentrations in drawing and painting.

Top: Dying Gaul, vine charcoal

Bottom: The Pink Lady (in progress), oil; Amazon, vine charcoal



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SUDOKU

To win a free Java drink, bring your finished puzzle, clearly marked with your full name and CPO, to the Star office in the basement of the Campus Center (deadline: WED 11/30 by 6PM)

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Last week's sudoku winner was ELLEN MUSULINI! Your Java card will be sent to you through campus mail.