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Cardinal Bergoglio Made Pope Francis I

TED JANNEY

Habemus Papam: we have a Pope, the cardinals announced via white smoke pouring from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel. The world's 1.2 billion Catholics, and the population of the world at large, waited expectantly for the new Roman Pontiff to appear on the balcony of St. Peter's.

Few observers in the days leading up to the Conclave were talking about Jorge Bergoglio. There were other, more popular candidates, including the cardinals from Nigeria, Brazil, the Philippines, the United States and, of course, Italy. The quiet, humble Argentinian archbishop was considered to have reached his zenith and begun to fade.

And yet there he stood on Wednesday, taking the name Francis I. This name was perhaps as surprising as the choice of Bergoglio, since no pope has ever taken the name Francis. The most famous Christian by the name was Francis of Assisi, and for various reasons no pope has wanted to be compared with Francis of Assisi until today.

Commentators are still wondering what this means for the direction of the Catholic Church. Bergoglio is famous in Argentina for riding public transportation instead of an episcopal limousine. He also decided to settle in a small apartment and cook his own meals, instead of living in the massive arch-episcopal palace and hiring staff.



GUARDIAN.CO.UK

Pope Francis I in St. Peter's square

When Francis was Provincial of the Jesuit Order in Argentina, he redirected Jesuit clergy away from liberation-theology-style political involvement and into parish work. Nevertheless, he is also widely lauded for his efforts in social justice and poverty relief. He is considered theologically conservative, es-

pecially on issues such as gay marriage and abortion.

Francis I is the first non-European pope since 741 and the first ever from the Western Hemisphere. He is the son of an Italian railway worker, making him of European descent but raised in Argentina. Approximately 40% of the world's

Catholics live in Latin America.

Francis takes over the Papacy at a time of deep uncertainty in the Catholic Church. The English-speaking Catholic world has been rocked by multiple child sex abuse scandals in Scotland, Ireland and the United States. The European Catholic Church is facing declining membership, while the church in the Global South is rapidly expanding.

There are also internal Vatican issues he will have to face as a relative outsider to the Roman Curia. In the past few years, the Papal Butler has been on trial for leaking Vatican secrets. A subsequent Vatican investigation uncovered an alleged blackmailing scheme involving possibly homosexual cardinals and factional infighting within the Vatican. Pope Benedict is also supposed to have decided to retire upon reading the report of this investigation.

Pope Benedict XVI, whose retirement prompted the conclave that elected Francis I, appointed Ernst von Freyberg to lead the Vatican Bank on the day of his retirement. The Vatican Bank has been under scrutiny by the EU since it uses the Euro but is habitually secretive. There have been allegations of financial impropriety and bribery under Benedict's leadership.

The new pope will be formerly installed in St. Peter's Basilica on March 19.

ENROLLMENT AT HOUGHTON

Admissions Department Strategies and Process

SARAH HUTCHINSON

Without a doubt, private colleges around the nation have been struggling to keep enrollment afloat in these economically uncertain times.

As high school seniors contemplate their higher education, many of them are turning to other options for their secondary schooling and choosing, for example, to attend public school while living at home, taking gap years, or learning vocational trades. A *Time* article published online last year reports that 41 percent of private institutions saw enrollment fall that year, and a third of that by declines of at least five percent.

Houghton has not remained untouched by the national enrollment issue and has also experienced a rather rocky few years regarding enrollment numbers. In an issue published last year, the *Star* reported that enrollment numbers have been at unpredictable levels for the past

two years especially. This upcoming series will look at enrollment at Houghton by examining the institutions that attract and admit new students, beginning with the Admissions Department.

Partly in response to enrollment issues, the Admissions Department has begun to focus on giving prospective students individual attention even before they apply. In previous years, Houghton has sent its admissions counselors all over the region and other states to high schools, college fairs, and other events to talk to prospectives. But the problem has been, according to Jeff Kirksey, Director of Admissions, "that we'd have counselors who would do a great job traveling but, because they were so busy traveling, it was really hard to follow up with students they were meeting."

To resolve this, Admissions hired two temporary admissions counselors last

See ENROLLMENT page 2

Houghton Fire Hall's Lack of Funding Leads to Ambulance Fees

THOMAS ECKERT

The Houghton Volunteer Fire Department has recently begun charging a fee for ambulance rides to the hospital.

The fee comes as a result of decreasing financial support from the community and increasing cost burden on the department.

Over the past several years, the executive board of the department has been looking for ways to mitigate the costs involved with keeping an ambulance service up and running. The President and Ambulance Captain of the department, Mae Stadelmaier, said, "In order to provide the community with the proper standard of care, some form of billing needed to be implemented in order to cover the costs of the ambulance." This is a move that reflects trends seen in other rural emergency service providers

throughout the country. The board views this step as the only realistic and viable option to keep the ambulance service running in Houghton.

Beyond community donations, the department supports itself by holding fundraisers. These include a community yard sale, biannually, on Memorial and Labor Day weekends where the department charges \$8 to vendors coming to sell their old things and hosts a community barbecue. It also holds an annual community dinner in the Houghton Wesleyan Church and sells Study Buddy Packs to Houghton students during finals week.

In spite of these fundraising efforts, there is still a deficit of income for the department. In the words of Captain Stadelmaier, "The costs of running an ambulance are a lot

See AMBULANCE FEE page 2

INTERNATIONAL / IRAN AND PAKISTAN INAUGURATE NATURAL GAS LINE



LUKE LAUER

STEPHEN HILL

On the 11th of March, Presidents Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran and Asif Ali Zardari of Pakistan inaugurated the construction of a pipeline to take natural gas from Iran to Pakistan. The move, which is part of an effort to alleviate the power shortages in Pakistan, has drawn sharp criticism from the United States due to the Iranian involvement.

The pipeline has been under construction for some time already. Iran has reported that it has finished construction on its side of the border—some 1,150 kilometers of pipeline which run from the gas fields of southern Iran. Pakistan will complete the project by laying the remaining 750 kilometers in its own territory.

Highest among most concerns regarding the project is the possibility that Pakistan will be unable to

afford the pipeline. Its main funding comes from two separate \$500 million loans from the governments of Iran and China. The remaining cost will ostensibly be met by user fees.

Another concern is security. The pipeline will cut through the Balochistan region of Pakistan, which has been a hotbed of terrorist attacks in recent years, and attacks have shown a tendency to favor pipelines.

The pipeline risks incurring international sanctions due to the Iranian involvement in the project. The Pakistani government has insisted that their need for power outweighs their fear of international repercussions, as there are places within Pakistan which go for multiple hours without power every day, and the problem has been getting worse over time. The United States has suggested several other strategies to the Pakistani government in the past few years. The most prominent of these has been a pipeline from Turkmenistan to Pakistan. However, the Pakistani government has insisted that production on such a pipeline would take too long, considering the extreme nature of their present power shortages.

Iran is beset by numerous international sanctions as a consequence of its pursuit of nuclear technology. Many governments have expressed concern that Iran is developing nuclear bombs. Ahmadinejad insists that the pipeline at least should not incur the sanctions, as it is not possible to build a nuclear bomb out of a gas pipeline.

The pipeline is a popular move in Pakistan as it provides an expedi-

ent solution to their incessant power shortages, and because it is in direct defiance of the United States to find an alternative. Although the United States provides millions of dollars of aid to Pakistan, its drone strikes and other efforts against al-Qaida and the Taliban in the region have left it highly unpopular among the Pakistani people.

Planning on the project started back in 1994, but it has faced numerous delays. The Pakistani and Iranian governments hope to have the pipeline complete by 2014, but as it has faced numerous setbacks in the past nine years and skepticism is high.

Although the pipeline itself has

been planned for a long time, the timing of Monday's ceremony was highly political. Pakistan's elections will be held next month, and so the ceremony was likely motivated by a desire to kindle support by the currently-dominant Pakistani People's Party (PPP). Its main rival is the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N), which has ties to the strongly anti-Iranian government of Saudi Arabia. Because of the pipeline's popularity, the PML-N will be put in the tight spot of appeasing its allies in Saudi Arabia or continuing the project and keeping its people happy. ★

Iran-Pakistan-India Natural Gas Pipeline Route



STATE OF PAKISTAN.ORG

The dotted line represents the route of the natural gas pipeline

ENROLLMENT from page 1

year to travel to fairs and events, leaving the other counselors with more time to follow up with students. As Kirksey explained, "The Houghton experience is an incredibly personal experience and prospective students should get a sense for that. The first time they experience that shouldn't be when they first receive their acceptance letter."

Indeed, the application process is highly personal. The philosophy of the Admissions Department, above all, looks for students who will be successful at Houghton College and the department treats each application based on its merits. "You'll notice what underlies everything is the desire for the student to have a successful four years at Houghton," said Admission Counselor Ryan Spear in an interview. What results is a highly personalized and nuanced application process that carefully looks at the application in regards not only to how the student will fit into the Houghton community, but also if Houghton will be able to prepare them for their future careers.

Contrary to many assumptions and misconceptions, Houghton does not have threshold admission requirements. There are no specific SAT or ACT scores or a specific GPA that incoming students must meet. Rather, counselors make sure they inform applicants the average scores of the incoming class and judge the applications that come in. As Spear explains, "Students who apply to colleges tend to be self-selective. So when they come to your door they already tend to meet certain criteria, have a certain sort

of academic profile because they know a bit about Houghton college and they know a bit about their chances of being admitted." At the same time, a student with less than average scores might still be admitted based on other factors of their application judged by the Admission Committee. "Certainly, we care about those things because we need to admit students that can handle the rigors of a Houghton education... but we also know that there's more to a student than SAT or ACT test scores," said Kirksey.

At the same time, Houghton has an acceptance rate of roughly 80 percent which, as Kirksey explained, is still selective compared to other similar schools which have acceptance rates around 90 to 95 percent.

There are many things that are positive about the future of enrollment at Houghton. Kirksey says that there are roughly 150 more applications in this year compared to last. "Over the next five years Admission's goal is to return to a student population of about 1200. And I think that's doable over the next five years. It's not doable overnight."

Kirksey credited the Houghton students and staff for assisting the admission process. "This community knows that enrollment is everybody's job and I love that as an admission professional. Every single person on campus helps shape prospective students ideas of what life at Houghton is like. And we always hear what a welcoming, and warm, and engaging campus this is... This is a community that is really supportive to the work of admission and I'm thankful to work in an environment like that." ★

AMBULANCE FEE from page 1

higher than many realize. The basic supplies needed to stock the ambulance are ridiculously expensive, not to mention the cost of the ambulance itself, as well as the maintenance, insurance, fuel, certifications, etc. The money we receive from donations and fundraisers has been decreasing over the years. We also don't receive money from the tax payers for the ambulance as the ambulance is self-supported."

The department worked to set the rates for the rides as low as they can be in order to lessen the impact on patients' health insurances. The average price for a ride depends on the type of call and the level of care provided. Each ride to the hospital requires at least 3 volunteers, a driver and two EMTs, and 2 to 3 hours of work. Ultimately, the fee charged to the patient would include the costs of gas, medical equipment, and various other costs the department deals with, such as vehicle maintenance, which amounts to at least a few hundred dollars.

What complicates matters is that the cost of a ride to the hospital cannot be billed to an insurance company directly by the department. The bill that was formerly sent to the patient, from the medic, now gets included in the department's bill. Then, the price that the patient pays is based on what their health insurance will cover.

There are also many costs that the department is preparing to pay for in

the near future. "We need to be looking at replacing our ambulance in the next year or so, which is around \$160,000 - \$200,000, and with new state mandates will be getting a cardiac monitor, which can be up to \$40,000. It is unlikely that donations and fundraisers alone will raise enough money to accomplish these tasks.", says Captain Stadelmaier.

As the department faces such economic troubles, it is important to remember that it is part of a great community effort that goes beyond fees and bills. In the words of Kelsey Hancock, a Senior EMT volunteer, "We, the Houghton Volunteer Ambulance Service, are your classmates, your neighbors and your friends. We can't do this alone; we need your support. We need more community members to join as EMTs to fill the gaps when students aren't in Houghton. We need your participation in the fundraisers like the Spaghetti Dinner coming up on April 4th. And we need your encouragement and prayers. Our work can be tense, thankless and disheartening."

Hancock concluded with gratitude toward the community of Houghton; she said "A simple word or note, or even praying when the siren sounds helps us to fight off exhaustion, discouragement and burn out. Thank you for caring about us and encouraging us. It makes a huge difference during our long hours of work." ★

SGA / SENATE SEEKS RELATABILITY WITH NEW AMENDMENT



ANDREA PACHECO

KATIE ADAMETZ

As Senate passed an amendment to reconstruct the different constituent groups which elect the senators, they made a change to their constitution which, if ratified by Houghton's students, would in theory spread representation to portions of the student body that have yet to realize the full potential of those who meet in CFA 145 on Tuesdays at 9:15.

Interestingly enough, this amendment did not come to pass

without debate and discussion between Senate members, at more than one session. And it is this debate and discussion that is perhaps the most understated, yet most important, part of Senate.

Though distributing money to clubs and other events seeking additional funding is a well-advertised task of Senate, their meetings span a much broader range of topics and issues than the proper place to send money. And their compositional changes are ultimately meant to make the topics of Senate debates the ones that matter most to the greatest range of students.

As each senator is required to participate in service projects and also to sit on committees, members of Houghton's SGA are in fact actively participating in the issues that matter to the student body as a whole. These are the people who have access to those that make decisions regarding anything and everything that affects Houghton College and its students: from dining hall choices to the placement of Chapel in the schedule.

Recently, Senator R.D. Marek updated the rest of Senate with the recent actions of the Creation Care Committee. This committee has

passed on a recommendation to Student Life to impose a "refrigerator tax" on any student who wishes to bring a mini-fridge to college. The tax is not meant to be simply another line item on one's e-Bill; instead, it is to function as an awareness-increasing requirement. Houghton, as a whole, is moving toward a greener way of functioning, and by requiring a \$15.00 fee for a mini-fridge, the college can encourage participation in lowering our collective carbon footprint and also cover the additional costs that personal refrigerators incur.

With the committee having estimated that there are 291 mini-fridges on campus currently, the projected income reaches over \$4,300.00. This amount would easily cover the additional energy costs to the college, and so the plans for the extra money range from adding more recycling containers to the dorms to working in other countries to educate on carbon neutrality and help move the world toward a less carbon dependent state.

This is only one example of the ways in which senators affect the student body, whether for the good or ill of all involved.

It is in regard to issues such as a refrigerator tax that Senate has

chosen to see through the recent reconstruction. With those from the student body who chose to vote ratifying the amendment by majority, the reconstruction will take place, and in time for the next group of senators to be elected. Class elections are also coming up, and SGA would have all of campus know that they care, and deeply, about representing all members of the student body. But as with any democratic system, the power ultimately lies not with those in office, but with those who have put them there.

Not many decisions are made without debate or educational discussion within Senate, even if the most pivotal decision they make in one night is to award the Townhouse EPC with \$500.00 to help fund Houghton Palooza.

Perhaps everyone has heard enough about the reconstruction of SGA, and perhaps some have not heard anything at all. But now that it has come to pass, what is most important is that the reconstruction becomes what is best for the relationship between students and Senate. ★

WORD ON THE STREET

Q: Who should Houghton's prospective students be?

A: I think that Houghton should consider admission to the college as not a matter of meeting standards, but rather as a matter of prospective students' understanding the workload once they get here. The drive to complete a Houghton education, because of how rigorous it is, is very important. That is what should be gauged in the admission process, not necessarily former academic achievements.

-- Rob Martin, senior



ANDREA PACHECO



ANDREA PACHECO

A: I think most of Houghton's prospective students should come from Christian schools, or at least have some sort of Christian background. I would just expect them to have that, and it would make sense in regard to preserving the ethos of Houghton College. Students who aren't Christians probably wouldn't be as interested anyway once they see chapel requirements and such. I think that youth groups and churches are a good place to start looking, but more could be done to reach a greater international group.

-- Graeme Little, senior

A: I think the prospective students should be students who are primarily Christians who want to add to a community of fellow Christians. But we should also be open to other students, so that we have the opportunity to help those who might be seeking. On an academic level, they should be fairly good at the previous academics; we seem to have pretty high standards in that area. I would also expect them to be pretty involved in extra-curriculars, especially service-related ones.

-- Toni Bliemeister, junior



ANDREA PACHECO

A: I think that students that have a willingness to learn and will be able to become a good part of the school, or benefit the school through their abilities and talents are the best options for prospective students. I also think that students who have clear goals and can create awareness for different causes and provide diverse worldviews are important to have at Houghton.

-- Valerie Boudrias, senior

THE WALKING DEAD REVIEW



SCIFINOW.CO.UK

Promotional picture for season three

BECCA DYGERT

As one of the biggest pop culture phenomena of the decade, it is hard to argue with the statement that zombies are everywhere. From cult classics like 28 Days Later and Dawn of the Dead, to comedic satires like Shaun of the Dead, and the recently released Warm Bodies, it would only stand to reason that the small screen would soon adapt the genre to an ongoing dramatic series. The Walking Dead, based on the graphic novel series of the same name, is Hollywood’s attempt at feeding our culture’s insatiable hunger for all things gruesome, twisted, and undead.

When the series began two and a half years ago, the story had observable momentum and strength. The first episode was almost seductively powerful as it followed the hero, Rick Grimes, who woke up from a coma to a post-apocalyptic Georgia after “the outbreak.” The audience is just as mystified as Rick as they watch him exit the abandoned hospital he has found himself in and walk through rows of bodies laid out across the ground. As the camera pans out, viewers soon realizes the true enormity of the situation when the rows of bodies become fields upon fields of them, covered in white sheets and completely covering the town he once called home.

As he tries to make sense of these shocking surroundings, he happens across his first zombie, or “walker,” as they are later coined. This female zombie is missing everything below her belly button, and thus can only snarl at Rick as he passes, reaching out with graying and rotting hands toward sustenance.

The episode continues with a bewildered Rick finding his home

See ZOMBIES on page 5

FIRST LACROSS SEASON UNDERWAY

LAUREL WROBLICKY

As members of brand new programs at Houghton College, players on the men’s and women’s lacrosse teams are not only navigating a new conference, many of them are also learning a new sport.

The men’s team is 1-2 as of the game against Hiram this past weekend. Both Hiram and Baldwin-Wallace College have new lacrosse programs as well. The men’s next game is away against Cazenovia this Saturday.

“It’s not even teaching them the techniques; it is teaching them the rules and everything. They are learning so much in the game,” said men’s coach Josiah Snelgrove. “We are definitely going to be the most improved team.”

J. Snelgrove highlighted the play and leadership of seniors Tyler Kempney and Mike Ball. Kempney led the team with 15 goals, followed by Ball with five goals. Kempney was honored as player of the week ending March 10 by the Empire 8 Conference.

“We’ve got some great leadership from both the coaches and players,” said senior Matt Vogan. “We are



ANDREA PACHECO

Tyler Reese takes a shot on goal

hoping to set a good foundation for the lacrosse program that represents Houghton.”

The women are 0-1 so far this season. Although they scrimmaged at home this Saturday against Wells, the game was postponed due to the lack of referees to officiate.

“The team is working very hard and is constantly improving in all areas of the game! Our practices look ten times more positive and effective than what we were doing in fall ball,” said women’s coach Rachael Snelgrove. “Each individual member of the team is working hard to become the best

See LACROSSE on page 5

Distinguished Artist Review

ISABEL SANDERS

I admit I had my reservations about Friday night’s VOCES8 concert. Within my first two years at Houghton, I heard the famed Chanticleer sing sweet melodies from the Wesley Chapel stage and they set a high standard. So when I saw that a group called VOCES8 was coming to campus, I immediately and rudely thought, “What, so we couldn’t get Chanticleer?”

Trying to keep an open mind, I saw that they were from Britain. That is a redeeming quality; I like the Brits. I would spend another semester in London in a heartbeat. I like their characteristically dry

sense of humor. I like their museums, their fish and chips, their countryside. They have a lot going for them—James Bond, Mr. Bean, corgis.

Arriving last Friday night at the chapel, I hoped VOCES8 would play up their “Britishness.” They did not disappoint on any level. The octet of singers, six men and two women, sang a program entitled, “British Invasion Mixed.” They had not even sung any notes yet, and I was already halfway to being won over by their program title. Looking across the page at the list of singers, I saw British last names like Dickens, Wardle, and Dressel and first names like Barnaby and, yes, Dingle.

But all British love aside, these eight people knew how to sing. And sing practically anything. This program was the most diverse I had heard in a long time. Their repertoire spanned a timeline of roughly five hundred years. They sang Renaissance pieces by Byrd and Praetorius, jazz songs by Nat ‘King’ Cole, a gospel piece, “Go Down Moses,” and a wide assortment of popular music, including songs by Mumford & Sons, Simon and Garfunkel, and The Beatles. And the genres were not all clumped together, either. One minute I was listening to Renaissance and the next, jazz.

Instead of creating a jarring affect, the switching back and forth between styles kept the overall tone of the performance fun and light. Of their varied format, Sally Murphy said she “was pleasantly surprised by their playful willingness to branch out into different genres.” They were not afraid to spice things up a little either with some funny choreography, like in the James Bond tribute, “Nobody Does it Better,” or the ending number, “Slap that Bass.”

See VOCES8 on page 5

Things to Eat



COURTESY OF GABE JACOBSEN

Gabe eating a burrito

GABE JACOBSEN

For those who know me well, it is no secret that I love Mexican food. I was raised in Southern California, where you could usually find one or more small taco shops on every commercial block.

I also grew up with my grandfather, who was born in Baja California and spent all of his life between Ensenada, San Diego, and Los Angeles. He was famous for his taco parties and we usually had some sort of Mexican fare when we gathered for holidays as a family.

While it is almost impossible to tell that I am of Mexican descent from looking at me (the other three-quarters of my lineage is Norwegian and a mix of Western European roots), the food that I ate growing up has become a strong part of the way that I connect to my sense of home and family while living so far from my birthplace. I have a penchant for acquiring Mexican and Latin cookbooks (we have over 40 at home at the moment!) and have invested a lot of time in my kitchen in pursuit of learning how to make some of my favorite dishes.

One of my favorite aspects of Mexican cooking is making salsas. There are endless varieties. They can be simple or highly involved in preparation, can range from mild to devastatingly hot, and serve to give anything routine from beans and rice to more substantial fare like tamales or chilaquiles (one of my favorite ways to use

leftover tortillas) an extra level of nuance, contrast and complexity. Changing the type of salsa you add to a dish can vastly change its flavor and gives the cook a limitless variety of options in changing the flavor profile of your food.

Below is one of my favorite salsas that I make on a regular basis at home. It also happens to be one of the easiest. If you would like to try the salsa before making it, samples will be available while supplies last in the Student Life office on Monday. Do remember that the quality of your ingredients will always directly affect the way your salsa turns out. Make sure everything is fresh, if you can help it!

Ingredients:

- 8 oz. (1/2 pound) fresh tomatillos, quartered. They look like green tomatoes, have a papery husk around them, and can be found in many grocery stores (Wegmans, the Cuba Giant, Tops are all local options—even the Co-op had them over the summer).
- 2 tbs white onion
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 ½ tsp course kosher salt or ¾ teaspoons table salt
- Pinch of fresh ground pepper (pre-ground, if you must)
- ½ cup fresh cilantro
- ¼ to 1 whole habanero pepper, depending on your tolerance for heat. Jalapenos are easier to find and can be substituted, but do change the flavor of the final salsa quite a bit.
- Juice from ¼ of a lime (optional)
- 2 whole allspice berries

Directions:

Put all ingredients in a blender (tomatillos should be placed at the bottom) and blend until smooth. The tomatillos may take a moment or two to catch in the blades, but don’t add water! Just wait until everything is blended together. Pour into a bowl and enjoy with chips or on some good Mexican food!

CALENDAR

3/15

- Symphonic Winds Concert

3/16

- T & F @ Lynchburg Invitational

- BB vs Bard College

- SB @ RIT

- MLAX @ Cazenovia

- WLAX @ Hiram

- 24th Annual Student Juried Exhibition Opening Reception

3/18

- Chamber Ensembles

- Student Recital: Emily Dunn, violin

3/19

- BB vs Hilbert Collge

- SB @ Hilbert

- St. Patrick's Day Coffeehouse

3/20

- Student Recital: Elizabeth Welling, flute with Sharon Johnson, piano, featuring Flute Choir

- Chamber Ensembles

All information from

http://athletics.houghton.edu

ZOMBIES from Page 4

deserted and in shambles, his wife and son nowhere to be found. A man and his son then take him in while he recuperates, and this is where more of the situation is explained to him. The man points out his wife who “turned” as she aimlessly walks the streets with the rest of the undead, and explains that he cannot bring himself to kill her.

After acquiring guns and ammo, he decides to head to Atlanta in search of his family. Before the episode ends, we see him find that first zombie woman, look her square in the face as she snarls and thrashes at him, and puts her out of her undead misery with a bullet in the brain. These incredible and haunting sequences formulated an immediately dark and powerful tone for the show, and were an undeniable factor in its success.

With only six episodes, the first season was short but powerful. In fact, I would argue that the one and a half seasons to follow still have not lived up to brilliance of the first. The second season was stagnant, with story arcs that lasted for six or seven episodes that could have been better told in just one or two. The characters were so underdeveloped and their motives so unclear that I often found myself annoyed with them. With a few exceptions, particularly the mid-season and season finales, the second season as a

whole was underwhelming.

The third season, while still problematic in some areas (particularly in regards to character development), has finally begun to rectify many of its second season faults. With the introduction of a new villain, the Governor, and a few other new characters like the ninja-sword-wielding-and-pet-zombie-toting Michonne (you would need to see it to really understand just who, or rather what, she is), and with only a few dry plotlines, the forecast of the series as a whole is finally looking bright.

Despite its faults, this show manages to harness a genre that, more often than not, has been difficult to take seriously. Somehow it manages to deliver a convincing and terrifying apocalypse as a result of a completely unrealistic situation. While doing this, it still manages to explore deep ideas and problems, like the complexities of the human condition, the struggle to hold onto hope in a hopeless world, the inherent value of life and how the destruction of the social institution as we know it can change that, and the simple question of the importance of interactive human relationships. The formal artistic attention to cinematography, the very serious subtext, and the mere excitement of a horror series are all reasons to look past the show’s definite shortcomings and to tune in every Sunday evening at nine on AMC.

VOCES8 from Page 4

Most of the members of VOCES8 would periodically come to the mic and say a few words about the next selection. One such member included the aforementioned Dingle. I think if I ask people who went to the concert in several months’ time what they remembered most about the program, they would mention Dingle, and not just because of his unusual name.

As the tallest member of the group, with dark-rimmed glasses and well-poofed hair, Dingle immediately captured the audience’s attention. His string bass impersonations kept the jazz pieces alive, while his fragmented, witty speeches into the mic kept the audience chuckling. Not to mention how everyone swooned at his beautifully resonant solo during the opera medley encore. Oh, and do not forget his drunk play acting during said encore as well.

But not only Dingle enchanted me. All the singers kept me invested in their performance with the overall atmosphere they created. This concert was about enjoying and appreciating a wide range of music, all the while having a fun and relaxing evening.

While there are not any more Distinguished Artist concerts this year, there will be some next year, and I encourage all Houghton students to attend. They are free! Non-students have to pay fifteen dollars. But the free part is just a bonus. These concerts provide students with a professional-level performance right here on campus. It is fun to get a little dressed up and hear some good music. And if there is another “British Invasion” at some point, you would not want to miss it.

LACROSSE from Page 4

player she can be to help better the team...and they are doing a great job at making this happen!”

R. Snelgrove emphasized the contributions made by juniors Amanda Zacchigna and Maesa Phongsamouth and sophomores Nicole Mason and Tyler Reese. These women have all played lacrosse before, bringing experience to such a new team. The team captains are Zacchigna, Phongsamouth and senior Rachel Stefanski.

“Rachel has never played before; however, she has very quickly picked up the fundamentals of the game and has really proven to be one of our top players on the field,” said R. Snelgrove.

“One of our goals that we made as a team is to make every single game an improvement from the last,” said Stefanski. “Not only an improvement in our skill, but also our attitudes and our display of Christ.”

Both teams have devotions and prayer partners to foster spiritual growth. They have participated in different service opportunities as well, such as visiting the Houghton Nursing Home.

“Every Friday we have a different guy share a thought for the day or a testimony,” said J. Snelgrove. “Especially since there are 22 guys who [didn’t] know each other before now, getting to know everyone and where they come from is important.”

Both coaches expressed their positive hopes and assessments of their respective teams. “I am so excited about this season with this group of young ladies; they are passionate and have an excellent work ethic,” said R. Snelgrove. “I have very high hopes for their success this season.”

“We are thankful for the support and obviously it is going to take a while for everyone to understand how it works,” said J. Snelgrove. “Hopefully we play an exciting brand of lacrosse for the school.”

Athlete Profile



Mary Strand

AMANDA IRWIN

Mary Strand was recently honored with the title of NCCAA Female Track and Field Athlete of the Week. Each week the NCCAA decides on one student athlete from a number of recognized schools to represent the accomplishments within that particular sport. The recipient of the title exemplifies quality performances as well as Christian ideals.

Strand set the new school record for the 200 meters, 4x200 meter relay, and qualified for NCCAA Nationals in the 400 meter during a competition at Brockport State Invitational. At Nationals, held at Indiana Wesleyan University, Strand helped the relay team beat the school record again and placed individually with her best time of the season.

Strand, a sophomore, has been participating in track and field since seventh grade. Although she is mostly a sprinter, she has also trained in other areas and was even part of last year’s JV

soccer team.

While Strand is appreciative of this award, she said she will continue to stay focused. Strand said that while running, “you push yourself as far as you can go and then you push yourself further.”

Strand attributes her success to the support of her coach and team. Her captain, Sarah Munkittrick, said there is a lot to learn from Strand, describing her as a hard worker and a perfectionist who still remains humble. Munkittrick also said that Strand “not only pushes the team to work harder but also brings them together.”

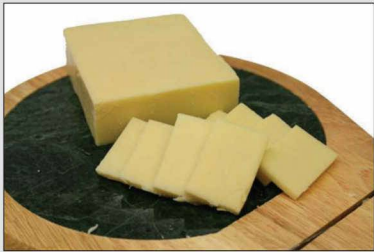
Track and field coach, Matthew Dougherty, said those honored with the title of Athlete of the Week are great performers, tremendous athletes and talented individuals, with Mary Strand possessing all of these qualities. Dougherty defined Strand as someone who has strong motivation paired with a ferocity most would not expect, allowing her to achieve anything she sets her mind to.

Strand plans on practicing just as hard in order to continually get better and achieve more later on in meets both as an individual and as a team. Dougherty said that Strand’s position on the team is “integral in terms of chemistry,” helping to inspire others through her talent and fun attitude.

Strand is excited to begin the outdoor track and field season, having used these recent experiences as a preparation phase. She expects to practice and compete with the same determination, progressively challenging herself. Dougherty said that Strand’s disposition is one of a “driven and focused individual who is strong spiritually, academically, and athletically.”



VOCES8 performers



Cuba Reserve 5 Year Aged Cheddar

KATHERINE BAKER

I don’t know about you, but I love my cheese. Especially my Cuba cheese. I had been purchasing it from the Jube for years, but recently I made the trip to the Cuba Cheese Shoppe and it was quite lovely.

Not only does the Cuba Cheese Shoppe carry its own private-label cheese that is sold in nearby grocery stores, it also sells many different varieties of cheese and dairy products that are produced in western New York and all over the world.

Things to Do

My favorite part of the visit by far was the free cheese samples. I was able to try many new and different cheese varieties, and I even made a few purchases based on the samples I had.

According to Jared Paventi for USA Today, “during the early 1900s, Cuba was known as the ‘cheese capital of the world.’ ” The Cuba Cheese Museum “tells the story of the local cheese industry and its impact on the economy and society,” Paventi wrote.

A trip to Cuba may also warrant a stop at the scenic Cuba Lake for some fishing or the South Street Historic District, which has “more than 35 historic homes and three churches dating to the turn of the 20th century,” according to Paventi. In addition, “the Cuba Historical Society on Genesee Street houses documents and photos, preserving the heritage of Cuba,” Paventi wrote.

Cuba is worth a trip for the cheese shop alone, but it definitely has some other attractions to offer visitors.

Theotokos: Bound to Christ Through Birth and Death



ED LINNECKE

Approaching a text without some sort of cultural, intellectual, or interested bias is most likely an impossibility. However, I mean for this article’s presuppositions to be, for the most part, minimal. Being a Christian, and writing for a Christian audience, I will be making assumptions about Jesus Christ, namely that he is in fact the son of God, and that he does in fact embody the fullness of divinity. But beyond the hypothesis that the Gospels are true, my hope is to read the stories and make commonsensical determinations based upon what they say. Perhaps another way of putting the point is that I intend for this article to be primarily “Biblical.”

Following this simple text-centered methodology, I wish to explore an often overlooked character in the Gospel stories. Or if not overlooked, a character who does not receive the

attention that I believe she so rightly deserves. The character I am referring to is Mary, the mother of God herself. When I set aside what I would consider my “philosophical truths,” and read the gospels as a true account of God’s most intimate contact with the creation, I am struck with the feeling that Protestantism’s lack of attentiveness to the importance of Mary is something of a theological tragedy. The remainder of this article will be comprised of a few considerations that I find plausible, followed by what I take to be a couple of the necessitated conclusions of said considerations.

First, a few words about what we as Christians believe about the cosmic importance of Jesus Christ. Christianity’s distinctiveness is built upon the belief that Christ is the son of God. Jesus, though being fully human, is also fully divine. The extent to which God is the eternally transcendent creator, our “ground of being,” is contained with Jesus Christ completely and absolutely. Jesus is God.

But as we also believe, Christ, though fully divine, is inextricably bound to his humanity. And as the Gospels tell us, Jesus, or God, has one biological parent—Mary. Although I am a 22 year old male, about as far from being a mother as one can be, I would like to raise some reflections about what it means to be a mother. First, if Mary is the mother of Jesus, and

I simply cannot believe that Mary isn’t in some way closer to God than any other human.

Jesus is God, that means that God Himself (Him insofar as He manifested as a male) grew within the womb of Mary, was fed at the breast of Mary, and was coddled and cared for in all of the ways that a loving mother relates to her child. God was dependent upon Mary. Another fact is that if you ask most any mother, and I am sure some biologists and psychologists, they will tell you that the intimacy found within the relationship of mother and child is most likely the most intense intimacy found in human relations. If Mary is the mother of God, as is claimed in the Gospel narratives, than we are ascribed to the belief that Mary shared an intimate contact with the divine beyond that of any other. She is as spiritually connected to God as a mother is to the child of her womb.

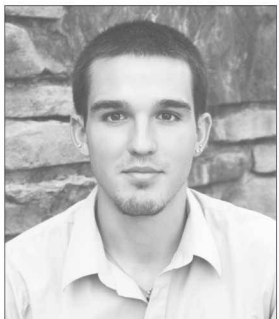
Now let’s move to the Crucifixion, the event in which Jesus atoned for the sins of mankind. Jesus, through suffering on the Cross, carried out the single most historically significant event. Now let’s once again turn our attention to Mary. If you ask any truly loving parent they would tell you that they themselves would rather undergo a crucifixion than see their beloved child be crucified. I am not claiming that Mary suffered more than Jesus, because Jesus is God things are irregular, but one cannot ignore the immense suffering of Mary as Jesus was crucified. And because of her intimacy

with the divine, being the divine’s mother, I simply cannot believe that her sufferings find no place within the eternal significance of the event of the crucifixion, as if they were some accidental byproduct. Mary was bound to Christ through his birth, and remained bound to his sufferings as he hung on the cross.

So taking into consideration what I have stated above, which as I have said, I find to be quite basic truths of the Gospel story, what does this mean about Mary? Well, I believe that first and foremost that we cannot treat Mary as if she relates to God and eternity as just another human being, such as Paul or Peter. Mary is the mother of God; she is intimately connected to Christ in a categorically different way, I mean just go ask a mom about it. After thinking about God having a loving mother, and what that really would mean for Mary, I cannot comprehend why consideration for Mary would rarely arise. I simply cannot believe that Mary isn’t in some way closer to God than any other human who has existed, she is God’s Mother! The fact that many theologians would deem Mariology as “unbiblical” is, to me, commonsensically wrong. Think about what it means to be a Mother, what it would mean to be God’s mother, and what that would mean for Mary’s place in the big picture. ☺

Ed Linnecke is a philosophy major

Ex Mea Sententia / Pros and Cons of Cultural Identity: Part 1 of 3



ANDRE NELSON

Cultural diversity is a concept that is valued by most progressives, and even the non-progressive and monocultural, though they may not value others’ cultural identities, would die before they allowed someone to strip them of their heritage. But is praising cultural diversity a healthy practice? Though I would like to think so, I wonder if it really is beneficial, especially if we wish to decrease the high levels of violence and hate in our societies.

I was born in Southern California, but set foot on three different continents before my first birthday. I have lived in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, France, and Texas. I have traveled to approximately 15 different countries. I am the descendant of a survivor of one of the worst and most neglected genocides in history—that of the Armenians. Needless to say, when it comes to cultural di-

versity, I lack no experience. Yet through all this, I have not come out with a particularly passionate view of the plethora of cultures that inhabit our world, rather I have come to view them as a significant source of violence and hatred. Could it be that mankind would be more productive and peaceful were it not for all this diversity?

Fukuyama, a political and economic scientist, wrote a book titled *The End of History* in which he discusses the development of liberal democracy as being the “end point of mankind’s ideological evolution.” However, Fukuyama limits his idea to state ideology and claims that the shift into liberal democracy will only eliminate conflict between “post-historical” states. Could we then extend this concept to include secular globalism? After all, religion and cultural identities (which are really synonymous in the majority of the world) appear to supersede, in most cases, that of national identity.

Fukuyama bases his theory on observable historical trends. He is deeply influenced by Hegelian thought, stating, “Hegel was the first philosopher to speak the language of modern social science, insofar as man for him was the product of his concrete historical and social environment.” Much like Hegel, Fukuyama

The societies in which mass cultural violence has been near eradicated are secular and globalized societies.

sees historical trends suggesting a progression in humankind, not necessarily towards a utopian-style society as perhaps Marx would, but rather, “a moment in which a final, rational form of society and state became victorious.” This is to say that despite there still being violent acts perpetrated by individuals, there will be no more large-scale cultural or ideological inspired acts of violence.

Similar to both of these thinkers, I would like to take a look at the historical development of cultures from around the world. The Armenians and the Turks are an obvious choice for me, given my heritage. My ancestors were slaughtered in the early 20th century, and to this day many Turks still deny that this genocide ever happened. Violence against the Armenians still residing in Turkey continues today, not to any genocidal proportions, but the hatred remains deeply rooted in the culture. The simple explanation is the same one that explains the never ending slaughters in the Balkans, and the incessant retributive attacks between the Palestinians and the Israelis—it is due to cultural and religious diversity.

On an individual level, a Catholic and a Muslim, for example, can have a peaceful and loving relationship. But, on a larger scale, if we wish to maintain our

separate cultural identities, it seems unlikely that we can live in divided communities without developing hatred and violence. For thousands of years the Croats, Serbs, and Bosniaks have been slaughtering each other, for thousands of years the Jews and Arabs have despised each other, and for thousands of years the Turks and the Armenians have been at each other’s throats.

Where peace has begun to develop is within secularized, postmodern, Western societies. Could it be that as secularization settles in, as cultural identities are abandoned, and as we enter into not only a liberal democratic world but a secular and globalized world, that we will see peace, innovation and prosperity? It is in this environment that humankind seems to thrive together.

While I cringe at the thought of abandoning cultural diversity, as I do see beauty that has come out of various cultures, I would like to see peace develop in this world on a large scale. It seems as though the societies in which mass cultural violence has been near eradicated are secular and globalized societies, where cultural heritage is but a vague memory and faith is personal and disconnected from society as a whole. Is there any way we can practically achieve worldwide peace while maintaining cultural diversity? ☺

Andre is a senior communication major

FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF / The Sequester: An Irresponsible Way to Govern

This year the American political system has been bludgeoned with budgetary crises manufactured by Washington. Indeed, the year began with the fiscal cliff deadline on January 1. The most recent crisis, of course, was the sequester-- a group of across the board spending cuts that took effect on March 1. Originally, the sequester began as an incentive for Congress (with cooperation from the White House) to reach a deal on a budget that would cut \$1.2 trillion from the federal budget in the next ten years. Needless to say, Congress failed to reach that agreement by the due date.

It is our opinion that while the federal budget is indeed a complicated issue that deserves its proper space for debate, Congress and the White House cannot continue to create crises such as the fiscal cliff and the sequester in order to govern. It is

irresponsible behavior. The absurdity of the situation is that no one in Congress thought that the sequester would happen at all. As policy, it was designed to be so unthinkable that lawmakers on both sides of the aisle would be forced to band together to develop a solution to the budget debate. By manufacturing a crisis with a deadline, politicians felt that they would be able to stamp out unnecessary political posturing and at least encourage some members of Congress to relinquish strong political stances within a reasonable amount of time. Low and behold, much like an end of the semester research paper, a fixed deadline was not nearly enough of an incentive for lawmakers to cease bad habits and get to work.

Though the severity of the effects of the sequester are debated, it is not a good situation. No one approves of indiscriminate budget cuts being hacked out of important agencies. Most legis-

lators agree that if overspending in the government budget is to be addressed, it deserves a little more thought and oversight. As it is, it appears that the military and health care discretionary costs will be particularly affected as a result of the sequester. It will not put some of these agencies not at risk, but it will reduce their scale and scope. Unemployment and significant pay cuts for civilian federal employees will also reverberate throughout the economy. However, despite the damage that the sequester might possibly do to the national economy, the fact that the sequester was able to pass when no side wanted it reveals the toxic environment in the Capitol and that is enough to make one concerned.

Indeed, the sequester has very much to do with the current state of political posturing in Washington. There little no doubt that the weeks leading up to the sequester involved more politics than actual policy discussion. Democrats declared cuts

to entitlements off the table. Republicans did the same with tax revenue. Both sides of the aisle refused to budge their positions when they had time to lay out an agreement and, when the sequester neared, began to point fingers at one another for the failure to come up with a solution.

Yes, politics is messy. There is no denying that. But these crises have demonstrated the irresponsibility of Congress and the Obama administration. The public welfare simply cannot gamble on uncertain results from these artificial deadlines. Commu-

nication, goodwill, and at least some amount of cooperation amongst lawmakers on Capitol Hill must be improved, and quickly, without resorting to these drastic measures. There is just too much at stake for sequester-like situations to become a trend. In the upcoming debates over the debt ceiling, Washington must find a better way to govern. ★

These crises have demonstrated the irresponsibility of Congress and the Obama administration.

Want
to
Write?

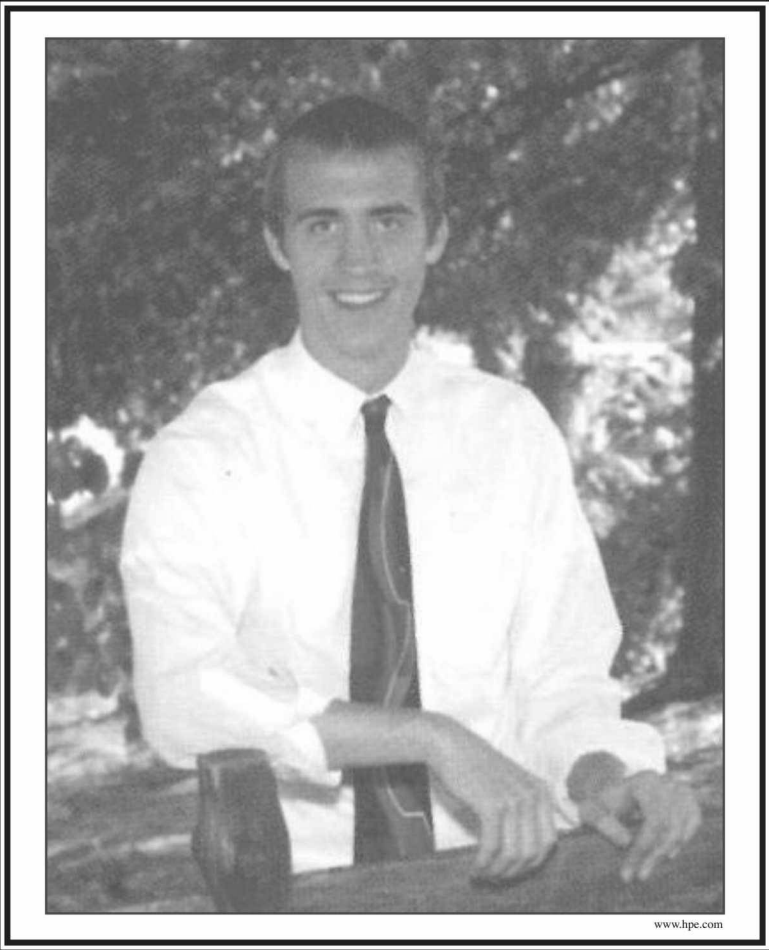
email us
editor@houghtonstar.com



Submit letters
to the editor:

editor@houghtonstar.com

Letters to the editor
should be 350 words
or less



We at the Houghton Star would like to express our own grief and deepest sympathies with those mourning the loss of Greg Young. In his memory, we would like to encourage his friends, classmates, professors and those that knew him to submit remembrances and reflections to be published in the March 22nd issue of the Star. Tributes should be up to 400 words long and are due by noon on Tuesday March 19.

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ANDREA PACHECO

MARCIA
MASON

I love how art has trained my eyes to see beauty in the little things—the lovely curve of the human spine, the exciting patterns of dark and light made by trees casting shadows in the snow, or the dancing reflections in a glass of water. Lately I’ve been fascinated by the beauty of the microscopic structures in our bodies that we are still learning more about—and how the uniqueness of these structures gives us life every moment. God didn’t have to make a tiny cell we can’t even see on our own aesthetically wonderful, but He did. I think it’s because He can’t help it; He embodies all Goodness and Beauty. And it’s reflected everywhere in His Creation, down to the very atoms we’re composed of. I do art out of my love and fascination of our Creator and His handiwork.

Marcia is an art and pre-med major with a minor in Spanish.

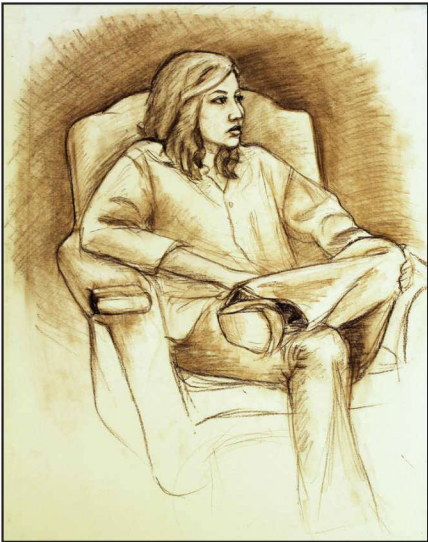
ARTIST OF THE WEEK



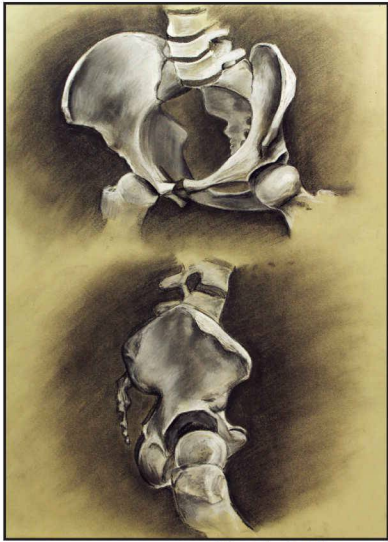
The Fount, ink toner wash and oil pastel



Discoveries, Oil paint



Repose, Conte crayon



Untitled, Charcoal

CROSSWORD: SPRING IN THE AIR

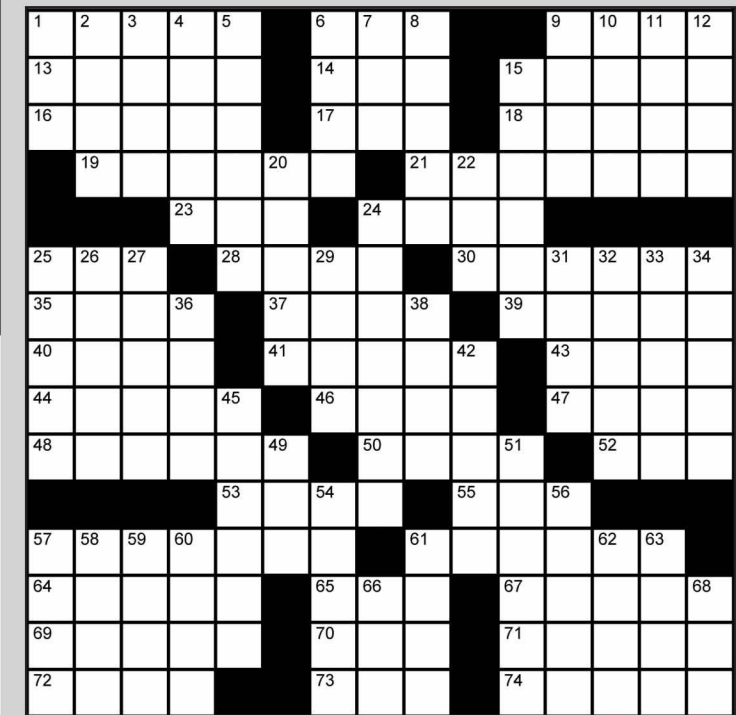
ACROSS

- 1. FATHER OF HECTOR, PARIS AND CASSANDRA
- 6. YOUNG NEWT
- 9. PERCHING PLACE
- 13. FUNGAL SKIN INFECTION
- 14. TAP ORDER
- 15. LESS THAN RIGHT ANGLE
- 16. ON PINS AND NEEDLES
- 17. BOTTOM LINE
- 18. ISABEL ALLENDE’S “PORTRAIT IN _____”
- 19. *SAY _____ TO WINTER AND HELLO TO SPRING
- 21. *CELEBRATED SAINT
- 23. ONE OF PEEPS
- 24. COBBLER’S CONCERN
- 25. MUDBATH SITE
- 28. CELLIST GREAT
- 30. *THE _____ SPRING, LED BY ALEXANDER DUBCEK
- 35. SNAKY SWIMMERS
- 37. *DAFFODIL OR TULIP, ORIGINALLY
- 39. YULETIDES
- 40. COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE
- 41. SKEDADDLE
- 43. PROFIT
- 44. REM PICTURE
- 46. FUZZY FRUIT
- 47. SECOND-MOST TRADED CURRENCY IN WORLD
- 48. KINDA
- 50. ONE WHO SPEAKS A SLAVIC LANGUAGE
- 52. OB-GYN TEST
- 53. BOOR
- 55. *THESE SOX TRAIN IN SPRING

- 57. *PRECEDES MAY FLOWERS
- 61. OKINAWA MARTIAL ARTS
- 64. GREAT REVIEWS
- 65. LAWYER GROUP
- 67. SHE TURNED TO STONE
- 69. AMBER _____
- 70. “FAMILY _____”
- 71. AR, ATOMIC NUMBER 18
- 72. HOMEWORK TO A STUDENT
- 73. A.K.A. TOKYO
- 74. CITY ON RHONE RIVER

DOWN

- 1. “HARPER VALLEY _____”
- 2. SIGN OF ENGAGEMENT
- 3. A FAN OF
- 4. FAMOUS FOR HIS FABLES
- 5. *DANCE-AROUND-THE-POLE HOLIDAY
- 6. _____ BUTTON FROM STAPLES
- 7. 1918 PANDEMIC, E.G.
- 8. DANCER’S BEAT
- 9. MAPLE, TO A BOTANIST
- 10. BRAZILIAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
- 11. RELATING TO THE EAR
- 12. REACH A HIGH
- 15. REARWARD



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- 20. SLOTTCHES
- 22. EUROPEAN PEAK
- 24. LONELY MUSICIAN?
- 25. *GARDEN’S BEGINNINGS
- 26. PETER IN SPAIN
- 27. TATTERED TOM’S CREATOR
- 29. EXCLAMATION OF DISGUST
- 31. FIRST RATE
- 32. “FASTER!” TO A HORSE
- 33. U IN UV
- 34. TO IMPEDE
- 36. THE VATICAN TO CATHOLICS, E.G.
- 38. B IN BCS
- 42. MISS AMERICA’S TOPPER
- 45. HARASS
- 49. EITHER _____ OR AGAINST
- 51. *OCCURRING NOW
- 54. UTILIZATION OR EMPLOYMENT
- 56. FARM TYPE
- 57. 32-CARD GAME
- 58. MAUI DANCE
- 59. LYRIC POEM, PL.
- 60. W IN W=FD
- 61. BOXER’S LAST BLOW
- 62. NOT FOR HERE
- 63. JET BLACK