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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

# THE HOUGHTON STAR

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## Ondeng Speaks on Redefining Development

BY CHRISTOPHER WAY

"Africa can't help us; they've been a recipient of our help and need us." This is a common mindset in America and the West, rooted in a dehumanizing perspective from the past coupled with the effects of wealth and pride of our culture today. Pete Ondeng, however, recently reminded us: "It is true that we need to change Westerners' way of thinking about Africa, but most importantly, we need to change Africa's thinking about Africa."

Pete Ondeng's life, vision, and message challenges the traditional one-sided relationship between Africa and the West not with a new program, a new paradigm, or even a new MDG (millennium development goal), but rather with a call to remember that small acts of love as individuals hold the power to transform this world. This vision certainly came across in his address to the campus during Monday's chapel.

During the lunch hour, Ondeng responded to many big questions posed by students on issues related to development approaches, spiritual poverty, and the MDGs. One subject that seemed to pop up more than once was that of the MDGs' distance to the hearts of everyday change-agents. Elaborating on this last observation, Ondeng remarked

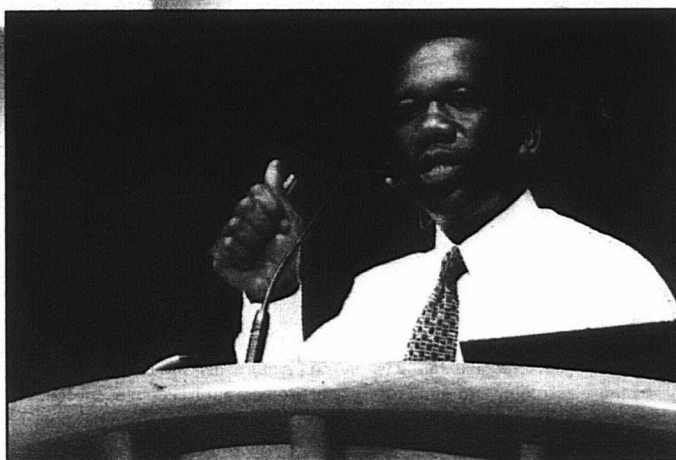


PHOTO BY ANDREA PACHECO

*Pete Ondeng called Houghton to remember that small acts of love hold the power to transform the world.*

in Chapel and again in the dining room that "a goal is something you pursue with conviction, something you believe." Though frustrated with how the MDGs were established—in conference rooms amidst lofty humanitarian chatter—more than a decade ago, he believes that they absolutely would work, but not apart from understanding what a true goal, mentioned previously, really consists of. In development, and in the case of the MDGs, is the political will even there? If it is, it has been lost in translation between the people in

need on the ground and the policy-makers at the top. Somewhere in the middle the connection is severed, and the goals become orphaned. "Who's goals are they?" he asked. Ondeng believes this is a result of losing sight of the small things each individual has the power to do, and supporting original, grassroots goals. His message is certainly one of empowerment.

When asked, "How can we

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## Public Demonstrations Changing Governments and Creating Tension in North Africa and the Middle East

BY KYLE JOHNSON

Over the past several weeks, a series of remarkable public demonstrations spreading throughout North Africa and the Middle East has forced leaders out of power and created general unrest.

These demonstrations began in Tunisia. Christopher Alexander of Foreign Policy reported that "the last two weeks of 2010 witnessed the most dramatic wave of social unrest in Tunisia since the 1980s," rooted in frustration over largely economic problems and "the government's heavy-handedness." The protests began in December with a public attempted suicide, and by Jan. 15, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had fled to Saudi Arabia.

In a Foreign Policy opinion piece, Tom Malinowski argued that WikiLeaks seems to have played at least some role in inspiring the

protests in Tunisia through State Department cable leaks revealing "the rottenness of the regime" and showing the Tunisians that the United States wouldn't necessarily "back Ben Ali to the bloody end."

The unrest quickly spread to Egypt.

Dan Murphy of the Christian Science Monitor reported that similar protests in Egypt were encouraged by "the riveting images beamed into millions of Egyptian homes of the Tunisian uprising."

According to NPR, "poor quality education, health care and high unemployment have left large numbers of Egyptians deprived of basic needs." Protestors expressed discontent with Hosni Mubarak, employing phrases like "Revolution until Victory!" or "Down with Hosni Mubarak."

These Egyptian protests were largely organized through online

social media, like Facebook.

According to Tom Finn at The Guardian Jan. 25, "tens of thousands of anti-government protesters...clashed with police in Cairo and other cities."

Hosni Mubarak finally caved to public pressure Feb. 11, when he left the country.

Hayley Peterson at the Washington Examiner described current Egypt as "a government-for-the taking" and reported that this fact "has some officials wondering whether the Muslim Brotherhood or al Qaeda could manage a takeover in Egypt."

Experts have given different interpretations of these events. Foreign policy expert Francis Fukuyama, in an essay written for the Wall Street Journal, contended

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Executive Director of  
Marketing and Communications

## Myers' Position Filled by Tooley

BY COLLEEN JENNINGS

Elaine Tooley was named Director of Marketing and Communications, on Tuesday, filling the vacant position that was once filled by Sharon Myers in the Advancement Department.

Myers, who had been the Executive Director of Marketing and Communications, left Houghton Dec. 10 and is now working at a private high school in Olean, New York. Since that time, Houghton has been searching for a replacement.

The department received multiple resumes and even re-interviewed a candidate they had previously looked at before hiring Sharon Myers. However, Bob Van Wicklin, Vice President for Advancement, said that it "didn't feel right."

It was during this time of transition that Elaine Tooley, who worked as a Communications and Marketing Specialist under Myers, "rose to the occasion." Tooley took the initiative and began to take over responsibilities that had belonged to Myers. Van Wicklin noted how important this was, saying that he "valued [initiative] more than anything" in an employee. It was this initiative that led to offering Tooley the position. According to Van Wicklin, it "made the most sense."

"Sharon's departure did not mean that the work stopped," said Tooley.

Tooley is a Houghton College graduate; she even served as Commissioner of Communications of the SGA and earned her Master's degree in Marketing from St. Bonaventure University. She is well rounded and knows "the ins and outs of marketing and Houghton," according to Van Wicklin, making her the perfect candidate for the position.

Although Tooley is younger and does not have as much experience in the field as Myers did, Van Wicklin said that she has "potential to do great things" and added that they are "extremely happy to have her."

The Director of Marketing and Communications works with branding, Press Relations, web design, and anything that needs to be designed, such as posters, business

*Tooley cont'd on page 3*

## Engaging the World

## Freedom of Speech: Drawing the Line



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY KRISTEN PALMER

"Dresses like a streetwalker," "seems smarter than she actually is," "a complete and utter jerk in all ways; although academically OK, your child has no other redeeming qualities," "dunderhead," "rat-like," "nowhere near as good as her sibling; are you sure they're related?" and my personal favorite: "I hear the trash company is hiring." These comments, although offensive, are not the most insolent when tossed around among friends. They become downright egregious, though, when being used to describe a group of high schoolers...by their English teacher.

30-year-old Natalie Munroe is currently suspended—with pay—from teaching and fighting to keep her job at Central Bucks East High School, located outside of Philadelphia, after she wrote a blog called "Where are we going, and why are we in this handbasket?" Some of the blog was innocent, as Munroe, in her 84 posts, wrote about things like the Food Net-

work and her favorite movies. Intertwined, though, were posts demeaning to Central Bucks East High School administration, her co-workers, and her students.

"When I was first teaching, I put a lot of time and effort into the comments because I felt it was a great way to communicate the students' efforts," she wrote, referring to comments she would leave for the parents of her students. "Then it got to be a complete pain...Also, as the kids get worse and worse, I find that the canned comments don't accurately express my true sentiments about them." It was after this that she began listing some comments she believed more accurately expressed her feelings toward the teenagers.

Munroe started her blogging career in August 2009 and began her year-long rant about her students in the following month. The teacher wrote her most offensive piece, posted Jan. 21, 2010, in the classroom, and students stumbled across it over a year later. Parents called school administrators immediately and displayed "shock, outrage, disappointment, disgust, and anger," according to Principal Abram Lucabaugh. The blog was removed from the Internet, and Munroe from the school.

What's ironic is Munroe told her students over and over again to be cautious when posting on the Internet. Former students recalled Munroe warning them against posting information about drinking or other things

the students shouldn't be doing. "It could get to the wrong people," she said.

The outrage doesn't seem to faze Munroe, though, or if it does, she hides it well. Although she never wished to become an "educational icon," she said she hopes this incident will open a conversation of why the students of today are so unmotivated. She feels embarrassed but lacks a necessary remorse when something like this happens. I know the type of teacher she is; we all have had them—the teacher who teaches to make money and resents that she needs to work to do it.

High schoolers can be jerks, and sure, teachers are saints for doing what they do, but Munroe should have vented to a close friend and not to the World Wide Web. This is also a lesson about the harmfulness of the Internet.

As Americans, the First Amendment protects our freedom of speech. There are exceptions, though, like child pornography laws and the Miller test for obscenity, among others. Perhaps protecting the feelings of high school students, from their own teachers, should be another.

Administrators are still investigating the blog, and the decision to fire or keep Munroe is pending. Firing Munroe wouldn't be the worst thing in the world; she would only be without a job, which apparently, she isn't too fond of anyway. And I hear the trash company is hiring.

Ondeng cont'd from page 1

invest in Africa?" Ondeng said with simultaneous care and fervor: "To our Western Brothers and Sisters, get off the 'I'm gonna save Africa' trip!" At this, many of the students in the dining room chuckled, but at the same time groaned, perhaps identifying with this mentality, sadly too widespread in colleges and churches in the States. He went on to explain that "Africa needs support, respect, and to take responsibility for the issues many countries face. Africa needs collaboration and partnership at all levels, and they need to lead the way, taking ownership—not told what to do." First and foremost, outsiders need to learn how to help them reach these responsibilities and tackle them on their own. These disconcerting and liberating words spoken from an African man who loves his continent dearly should humble us. Still responding to the question of meeting Africa's needs, Ondeng said quietly, "Start with yourself. There are needs to be met outside Africa." As he commented in Chapel: "Even though we struggle with these issues that we know are so real, God is asking, 'Where is your heart?'" For Christians, we must remember that the Gospel is the utmost message of empowerment.

Ondeng's dedication to actively engage development practitioners and anyone concerned with methods of African development was evident during Monday's lecture focusing on the infant nation of South Sudan.

It was an "incredible privilege" that Ondeng could make it to Houghton, said President Mullen after the lecture. "The way he's thinking—bringing new creativity to age old problems—is the essence of what Christian Liberal Arts is today."

This creativity, alongside collaboration, represents just two things Ondeng stressed were necessary to keep in mind as South Sudan enters the development process. Taking in jaw-dropping specs on this country's arduous past right up to the current adversity South Sudan faces, those who attended the lecture walked away with a sense of Ondeng's firm philosophy of development as discussed above.

"He emphasized that we need to influence the leaders [of the country]," said 13-year-old Jonathan Meilaender.

"It's important to remember that small successes are still successes," added his father, Professor Peter Meilaender, political science.

"There needs to be accountability, not charity," said Ondeng. For South Sudan and the powers influencing its development process, Ondeng has sound advice. But for the students at lunch, he reminded them of the example of Jesus Christ, who stopped each step of the way in His ministry to listen, heal, and meet others in their need. And step-by-step, He can lead us, empowering us to do the same. ★

## The World OUT There

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

## Wisconsin Becomes Engulfed in Conflict and Protest

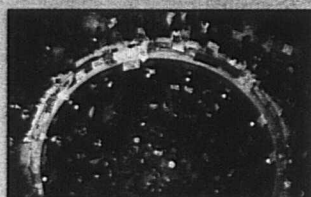
Following the example of Tunisia and Egypt, the state of Wisconsin has become engulfed in conflict and protest. After newly elected Republican Governor Scott Walker announced his plan to fight the budget shortfall, which included cuts to salaries and benefits of public sector unions, the state house in Madison was overrun by tens of thousands of teachers armed with picket signs. Walker has also proposed altering the system of collective bargaining to exclude retirement and health care benefits. Wisconsin teachers, who average a salary of \$59,000 per year, pay nothing toward their retirement, and contribute only 5% of their health care costs, view this action as an affront to their rights and to Democracy as a whole.

## Christchurch, New Zealand, Declares State of Emergency

The government of Christchurch, New Zealand, has declared a state of emergency after a 6.3 magnitude earthquake hit Tuesday afternoon. This quake was followed by a series of aftershocks, further exacerbating the structural damage to many of the buildings in the city. As of Wednesday, 75 people had died and over 300 were still reported missing. New Zealand Prime Minister John Key said this may be New Zealand's darkest hour. "One piece of good luck, however, was that a U.S. emergency official was in Christchurch at the time, helping the local government with its process for disaster response. Tim Manning, the deputy administrator for FEMA has remained on the ground in Christchurch to help organize the search and rescue efforts.

## U.S. Citizens Killed by Pirates

Four U.S. Citizens onboard a 38-foot private yacht were shot and killed yesterday off the coast of Oman. The two American couples were on a sailing trip around the world when their ship was taken by pirates last week in the Arabian Sea. Officials from the U.S. Navy and FBI had been calling the ship since its hijacking and were in negotiations for the American hostages. Until Tuesday when a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at a Navy ship and gunfire was heard on board the yacht, American forces immediately responded but found that the four American hostages had been shot and killed. Two of the pirates were killed when U.S. forces boarded the yacht and 13 others were captured and taken into custody.



photos courtesy of www.cnn.com, www.abovetopsecret.com, and www.kjonline.com

## Change in Food Service Prompts Additional Meal Changes

BY EMILY RINEHART

This past summer, Houghton made a major adjustment when it changed its food service provider from Pioneer Foods to Sodexo. Since then, there have been additional changes in the cafeteria's appearance, set up, and products, as well as changes in the service and selection at Big Al's. In the coming fall semester, Sodexo will be implementing further changes to the way Houghton students are served their meals. According to James Ruoff, general manager of Sodexo at Houghton, the upcoming changes are "driven by desire for flexibility."

Transfer meals will be removed as an option and instead, each student will receive \$100 credit on their student account, spendable at Big Al's. Ruoff mentioned that in recent years most schools have been moving away from transfer-type meals due to the many restrictions involved. The flex money would allow a student to spend as much as they wanted from that amount, when they wanted, on any item on the menu instead of a specific list of options. A few students met with Ruoff to discuss their concern that they would lose money and while working out the numbers, the group found that \$100 flex would allow students to make the most of

their meal plan.

Ruoff further expressed Sodexo's desire to make Big Al's less of a cafeteria setting and more of a "retail-oriented space." Sodexo hopes to explore different brand options, but to still retain a large flexibility for the students. The menu at Big Al's would undergo some changes; however, Ruoff clarified that "things that work [are] not going to change." He cited wings and pizza night as two examples of positive parts of the current menu. A student focus group put together to offer suggestions with these changes will, according to Ruoff, help to discover "what we don't have that we want."

Future renovations of the campus center basement will change the "face" of Big Al's; however, the inner workings will not change. In a further effort to create flexibility, Ruoff said that hours will need to be addressed. He remarked on the late hours many students have each night and the limited eating options in Houghton. Ruoff also mentioned his experience at other schools, where the smaller retail space revealed 1 a.m. to 2 a.m. as the busiest hour of the day. In light of these things, Sodexo hopes to open Big Al's next semester with hours that will better reflect student needs.

Another significant change



PHOTO BY ANDREA PACHECO

Last summer, Houghton changed food service provider from Pioneer Foods to Sodexo.

regards what is typically a freshman meal plan, the 21 meal/200/30 block plan. Ruoff reported that this meal plan will be carte blanche—no limitations. A student with this meal plan is welcome to come as often as they like. Though changes were also proposed for the other meal plans, they were not as well received and

will not be made.

Ruoff said that Sodexo at Houghton simply hopes to give students flexibility in an atmosphere they are comfortable with and enjoy eating in and to see more students in the cafeteria with their laptops, just like they might at "their own kitchen table." ★

## Spring Semester: Longer Breaks, Later Commencement

BY HANNAH JENNINGS

Much to the relief of students, February Break is right around the corner—an entire week free of classes and the monotony of the winter months. Upon resumption of classes in March, the countdown to Spring Break in April begins. But how is it that two full weeks of break fit into this semester's calendar?

Marge Avery, chair of the Calendar Committee and member for 19 years, attributes this good fortune to the way Easter falls in the 2011 calendar. Since the date of Easter varies—it can be as early as Mar. 22 or as late as Apr.

25—the Calendar committee has to work around the holiday in order to appropriately break up the semester each year.

"We try to have a week off at Easter if we can, depending on when it is," said Avery. "We also try to give students and faculty two weeks if we can," referencing the harshness of the winter months and the benefits of taking a break earlier in the semester to allow for appropriate rest and recovery. Last spring semester had a shortened February break and a week of Easter break.

In addition to meeting the needs of the institution, the calendar is

determined by New York State regulations as to how many classes are scheduled. Factors, such as starting classes on a Monday instead of a Tuesday, as historically done, impact the calendar as well. Originally, had the Committee followed a typical semester schedule there wouldn't have been a week of classes between Spring Break and exam week in May. Because this wasn't ideal, the Committee asked to add a week of classes between break and exams and consequently push the date of Commencement back one week. This required the approval of President Mullen, the Board of Trustees, and the notification of the

Class of 2011, all of which took place over two years prior to the fact.

The Academic Calendar is determined two and a half to three years in advance by the Calendar Committee of the Academic Council. The Committee is comprised of a representative from Events, the Director of Retention, a faculty member elected at large, a faculty member from the Academic Council, a student representative from the Academic Council, the Director of Academic Records, the Director of Athletics, a representative from the Conference Office, and a representative from Student Life. ★

*Tooley cont'd from page 1*

cards, or pamphlets that are sent out to students. According to Van Wicklin the department involves multiple "moving parts," and it is imperative that there is a "key leader" who can run everything smoothly.

"I am excited for this opportunity," said Tooley. "I eagerly anticipate coming to work each day, ready to conquer whatever opportunity arises; this position will challenge me and demand outside-of-the-box thinking to meet needs and solve problems."

This hiring allows the Advancement Department to continue its work with neither a large-scale shift in personnel nor the need to familiarize an outsider with the knowledge base necessary to perform the duties of the position. ★

*Middle East cont'd from page 1*

that the protests in Egypt represent "the broad desire for freedom around the world." Fukuyama also, however, admonished that freedom doesn't come automatically and that those "who want a free and democratic future had better get busy."

Conversely, in an International Business Times interview with Dr. Paul Beran of Harvard University, Beran explained, again in reference to Egypt, "that the protests we have witnessed so far have not really been 'revolutions,' because we are not seeing 'a complete overhaul' of the country. Beran also said that these demonstrations are intended 'specifically to remove the executive authority' and are

not to pursue what the interviewer described as a "Western-style democratic government."

Other area states have since experienced similar demonstrations. In Libya there have been reports of protests against Muammar al-Gaddafi. These protests have been notably violent.

The New York Times reported that "Human Rights Watch has confirmed roughly 300 deaths in the week long uprising," while Franco Frattini, Italian foreign minister, announced Wednesday that it seems likely that there are over 1000 civilian deaths.

Furthermore, Donald Macintyre of The Independent reported Sunday that over the weekend, "security forces ceded control" to protesters in the Pearl Square in Manama, in Bahraini. In Yemen's capital city of

Sana'a, demonstrations have taken place that "appear to have stemmed... from anger over corruption..." and economic issues.

Protestors demonstrating for political change took to the streets over the weekend in Morocco. There are also reports of protests in Iran, where thousands of protestors were met with police and militia, as well as in Algeria.

This wave of unrest seems to have even spread beyond the Middle East, into China. An online call for popular uprising led to arrests and increased police in order to crack down on any potential protests.

Developments in each of these situations are occurring rapidly, and the world continues to watch with interest to see what will happen next. ★

## "Doubt" Will Raise Important Questions

BY EVAN YEONG

"A return to serious theatre." Those are the words senior Katrina Kochler used to describe the decision to put on John Patrick Shanley's play "Doubt." In light of the themes and actions presented in the play, her choice of words seems strikingly appropriate. Set in the Bronx during the 1960's, "Doubt" revolves around a singular action, the accusation of Father Flynn, played by Eric Carey, by Sister Aloysius, played by Elizabeth Engelberth, that he has molested a young boy who attends the Catholic school at which they teach.

Joining Kochler as director is Megan Little, senior, with sophomore Andrew Evans as assistant director. With both directors fast approaching the end of their final year at Houghton, the selection of which play to do became pivotal.

Kochler knew that she "didn't want to do just another show," and Little knew that they "wanted to end with something that would challenge [them] and the Houghton community," so when this play was suggested to them by Engelberth they knew the right one had come along.

Their production of "Doubt" is more than just another play, however. When Kochler had heard the news early in the fall semester that alternative chapel credits could be offered, she leapt at the opportunity. With the play already in mind she submitted a request form to the Dean of the Chapel's office and found out what needed to be done to be considered for chapel credit. Upon finding out that a discussion after the play would be required, Kochler happily complied – discussion is what she had wanted all along.

"Doubt" features a great deal of

ambiguity surrounding the conflict between Father Flynn and Sister Aloysius which is sure to stir up the titular feeling in its audience. Directors Kochler and Little both acknowledge the challenge of putting together a show in such a short period of time, but equally acknowledge the difficulty of the topics brought up, described by Kochler as "deep questions of faith." Junior Lindsey Houghton, who plays the naïve, young nun, Sister James, loves the themes of "forgiveness... doubt... questioning and uncertainty." All have stated the relevance of presenting the play at a Christian college, the importance of having the college as a Christian community acknowledge and discuss the concept of doubt itself, and the place it does and should hold.

With the play being presented late next month, both directors found themselves running short on time. Closed auditions were held and the casting set, but they found that the constraints of rehearsing while classes were in session to be impossible. Their solution was this: to stay during February Break and follow a strict rehearsing schedule, eight or more hours a day. Although all agreed to this, the sacrifice isn't taken lightly. Houghton said that she "would really like to go home. I miss my family, and seeing them." She added, however, that she loves the play, and that "it's an opportunity that I won't be able to have once I leave here. It's not something I want to pass up."

On top of giving up their February Break, the cast also faces other technical complications. Joining Father Flynn, Sister Aloysius, and Sister James is a fourth and final character, Miss Muller, the mother of the child in question. Miss Muller will also be played by Engelberth,

who already has the largest number of lines as Sister Aloysius. The solution to handle the impossibility of dialoguing with herself is to record her as Miss Muller beforehand, and to project the recording during the play itself. While unsure of its technical aspects, Engelberth believes that the language of the two women differentiates them greatly, and that hopefully the audience will see how distinct her performances are from one another. Kochler cites their unorthodox usage of technology as one way they are steering away from the traditional realistic production normally taken with "Doubt." This production will definitely "verge into surrealism."

Accessibility is an aspect of their play that is being pushed as much as possible. With so much stress being placed on the importance of the themes within "Doubt", the directors hope to attract an extremely large audience. Students from Houghton Academy are being invited to the show, and they are attempting to advertise it in Fillmore as well. Kochler hopes that the flipside of receiving chapel credit as opposed to paying for the show will draw in many college students. By addressing Houghton as an entire community Little hopes that the play "can help us to fight the 'bubble' theory and recognize that there are real, complex, struggling people rubbing shoulders with us everyday."

"Doubt" will be playing in the Wesley Chapel at 7:00 pm, Mar. 25. As a whole the play and the discussion following will end at nine; chapel credit will be received if attending and staying for both. It promises to be a show which will address a feeling all Christians face from time to time: How do we know what we believe to be true? ★

## Album Review: Radiohead

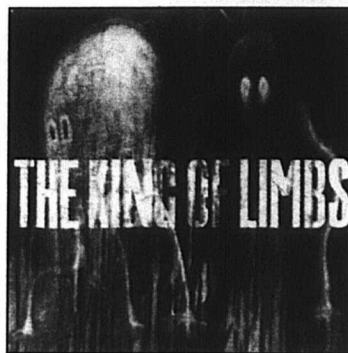


Photo courtesy of www.wired.com

BY RYAN CLARK

If with "In Rainbows" Radiohead was rediscovering and redefining its alternative roots, then their eighth studio album, "King of Limbs", reintroduces many of the themes and concepts introduced in their older albums. Upon listening to the newly released album, one feels grounded in familiar territory; frontman Thom Yorke's elusively nihilistic lyrics float and loop in and out of the music. But it is the music itself that provokes a different response, being so varied from any of their previous studio albums.

Despite possessing such track titles as "Lotus Flower", "Bloom", and "Morning Mr. Magpie", and having odd recordings of bird chirping featured in one song, "King of Limbs" feels completely mechanic and synthetic. The opening track, "Bloom", is driven by a stammering drum beat so erratic, it can at times feel static. Some tracks, such as the instrumental "Feral", glow with precision and a kind of robotic, churning feeling. The orchestration can be so thick and the sounds so varied, it may be hard to believe you're listening to the same band.

However, the lyrics of many of the songs tie back to concepts heard in previous albums. The track "Little By Little" presents the plight of a modern citizen, and a theme that was more deeply fleshed out in "OK Computer": that the modern, mechanized world we live in can infect and destroy us. And, of course, it isn't out of line to recall with this album Radiohead's older style. The gorgeous track "Codex" is a dreamy piano ballade similar to their earlier "Pyramid Song".

"King of Limbs", like their previous album, was released digitally first from their website, but it will later be released on CD, vinyl, or as a "newspaper" album featuring various extras.

Overall, I think this is a brave but not unexpected venture for the band. I am always fascinated with their trips into avant-garde electronic music, and it is exciting to see them spend another entire album, even though it is only 37 minutes long, dabbling into what eventually becomes a rewarding experience with creativity.

In a 2009 *NME* interview, Yorke suggested that the band would turn away from releasing full-length albums and release more EPs, including a possible EP of orchestral music. With "King of Limbs", it's exciting to see a talented band take another drastically different musical look at old themes. But as their concepts change, it will be interesting to see how their musical style molds into those changes. ★

## Basketball Season Draws to a Close

BY NICHOLE MOBACH

This past weekend, the men's and women's basketball teams played their final games of the season. Both teams played tough schedules but managed to win a number of games.

The men's team ended with a 6-21 record for the season. Head coach Drew Hannan said that it "wasn't what we expected to accomplish," but that "a lot of progress was made in other areas." They will continue to meet after a short break and will work on improving their skill sets and playing together as a team.

The team will lose four seniors after this year – Devin Paige, Ryan Shay, David Dix, and Andrew Ratchford – who all contributed greatly to this year's team. Coach Hannan said that "[he] enjoyed coaching [the team], but the goal is to get better to become a part of [the post season] next year."

The women's team ended with a 10-16 record for the season. Before their final two games, they were unsure as to whether they would play in the post season, but in the end they did not qualify. Assistant Coach Amie Stuitje said, "It is disappointing to have been so close and not make it into post season play, but the team can be proud

of the fact that we have played one of the most challenging schedules Houghton Women's Basketball has ever played."

The women's team will lose five seniors after this year – Carrie Adams, Ashley Dupler, Shannon Daugherty, Stephanie Hudson and Kara Schrader. Head coach Harold Lord said, "I was proud of the effort and leadership

demonstrated by our seniors. They are an amazing group of athletes and will be deeply missed."

Although neither team will play into the post season, ending on a somewhat disappointing note, each gave a valiant effort. The teams will take a short break and then begin preparing for next season. ★

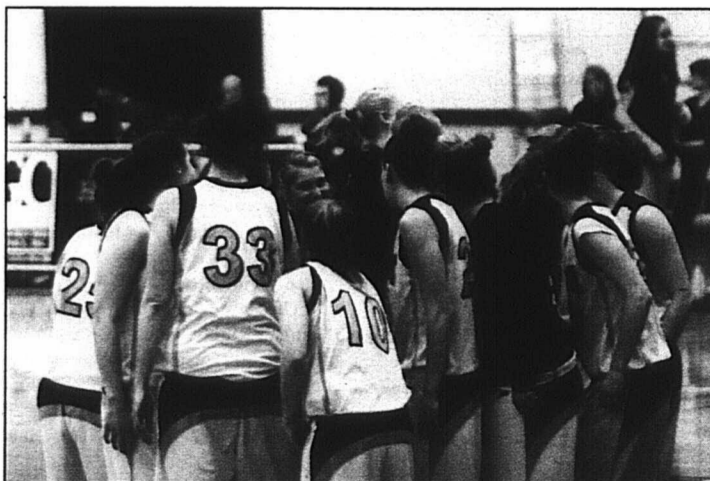


PHOTO BY ANDREA PACHECO

The women's basketball team ended the season with a 10-16 record, while the men concluded with 6-21.

## Academy Award Coverage: Which Best Pic Nominee Will Take the Gold?

BY ERIK BEALS

Since 1944, there have always been five films nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture each year. Beginning last year, that number was increased to ten. This year, the nominees are "127 Hours" (dir. Danny Boyle), "Black Swan" (dir. Darren Aronofsky), "The Fighter" (dir. David O. Russell), "Inception" (dir. Christopher Nolan), "The Kids Are All Right" (dir. Lisa Cholodenko), "The King's Speech" (dir. Tom Hooper), "The Social Network" (dir. David Fincher), "Toy Story 3" (dir. Lee Unkrich), "True Grit" (dir. Joel & Ethan Coen), and "Winter's Bone" (dir. Debra Granik).

Many of these films, as often is the case, are rather unknown to the general audience. The user polls on imdb.com predict "Inception" to win with an overwhelming 38.7% of the votes, despite the fact that very few critics are predicting a victory for this blockbuster. On the other end of the spectrum, "Winter's Bone" has received just 1% of the votes, even though it won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance last year while "The Kids Are All Right" has received only 0.6% of the votes, even though it walked away with the award for Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy at the Golden Globes.

None of the films are bad films by any means, but there are some clear front-runners in terms of quality. Ballet-themed psychological thriller "Black Swan" is probably the best film on the list, but its dark tone and horror themes limit its appeal, and lowering its chance of victory (a similar fate suffered by Quentin Tarantino's "Inglourious Basterds" last year). "127 Hours", "The Fighter", and "The Kids Are All Right" are probably not Best Picture worthy, but they'll probably pick up some of the acting awards. No animated film has ever won the award in

its 83-year history, and "Toy Story 3" does not look like it's going to change that. "Inception" and "True Grit" are fine films, but they don't seem to be real contenders for the award.

That leaves just "The King's Speech", "The Social Network", and "Winter's Bone". While "Winter's Bone" has a fighting chance of taking it, it would be a dark horse victory that few are predicting. Which one of the remaining two will win boils down to the personal tastes of the voters. They may choose to go with the British historical drama of "The King's Speech", finding the Facebook-related subject matter of "The Social Network" more trivial in comparison. They may want to try to seem more "hip" and appealing to the younger generation by shying away from the perceived stateliness of "The King's Speech". "The Social Network" won the Award for Best Motion Picture



Photo courtesy of awesomebmovies.com

Colin Firth, Helena Bonham Carter and Geoffrey Rush, all individually nominated for acting awards, in "The King's Speech"

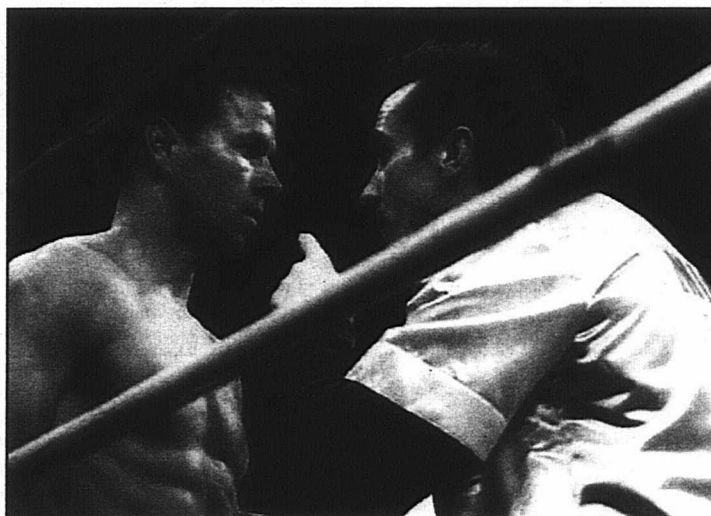


Photo courtesy of www.srh.com

Mark Wahlberg and Christian Bale (nominated for Best Supporting Actor) in "The Fighter"

Drama at the Golden Globes this year. In the past two years, the winner of that award both won ("Slumdog Millionaire") and lost ("Avatar") the award for Best Picture, so we'll have to see who takes it home this Sunday. ★



Photo courtesy of www.deep-focus.com

Jennifer Lawrence, nominee for Best Actress, in "Winter's Bone"

### A New Frame of Mind:

## Recognition for Indie Artists Bodes Well for Music Industry



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY ERIN CARR

Typically I am not an avid fan of award shows; in the past I've let the Grammy, Emmy, Academy, People's Choice (and Teen's and Kid's Choice – thank you MTV and Nickelodeon) Awards pass me by without a second thought. If it helps to illustrate my lack of awareness, I only recently learned – more recently than I'd like to admit – that the Oscars and Academy Awards were one and the same. As someone who isn't especially informed of the films, TV programs, or music featured

on these nights, subjecting myself to all the banal filler that enshrouds the events usually seems like a waste of time.

This year, however, proved to be an exception. It was my brother who told me that Mumford & Sons, The Avett Brothers, Bob Dylan, Arcade Fire, oh and... Justin Bieber... would be playing at the Grammys. I still didn't watch it. But, I did take the time to catch up on my facts and investigate this strange overflow of talent. How and why did the music industry suddenly become so aware of such good-quality music (and the acoustic, folksy genre that majorly defines Mumford and the Avetts, at that)? Arcade Fire and The Avett Brothers have both been making music for the greater part of a decade, and just now the former wins Best Album of the Year (the first indie act to do so) and the latter gets the chance to play with Bob Dylan and Best New Artist nominee Mumford & Sons. Just a reminder, but Best Album winner last year was Taylor Swift (and even Kanye disagreed with that decision). Why the sudden advent in artistic awareness?

What I am implying with this wonderment is the idea that musicians

who tend to receive the most attention, such as Swift, Bieber, or Lady Gaga, have less artistic merit than those who don't get recognized on VH1's "Top 20 Video Countdown". In general – judging from the way I find new music and make the conscious decision *not* to draw from the billboard charts – I hold this to be true, whether or not I relish the term "elitist". It's not that Taylor Swift doesn't have a pretty voice or write catchy songs ("Love Story" may hijack Shakespeare's most popular romance, but how can I resist when that lovely, monotonous banjo introduction sucks me in?); it's not that Lady Gaga isn't a provocative dancer or an innovative performing artist, or even that her music is shallow. And Justin Bieber certainly has become the voice of a generation, hasn't he? (No... not like Bob Dylan.) Simply put, I am making a distinction between talent and artistry. And all of the traits just mentioned are attributable to an artist; however, there is a line somewhere between musicians who make art and musicians who simply sing, play instruments, and perform. I believe it has something to do with creative innovation, thoughtfulness, and

originality in addition to craft or skill.

Now, to say that line directly corresponds only to popularity is to be an elitist (provided you are the one with the good taste and "they" are the ones content with whatever "mainstream" nonsense the radio is feeding America). The current word for this breed of music snob is "hipster", described by *Time*'s Dan Fletcher as "the friends who sneer when you cop to liking Coldplay."

The thing is, I like Coldplay. And I love Mumford & Sons, Arcade Fire and The Avett Brothers, and regard them as artists whether or not they are featured on the Grammys. Undoubtedly, popular music is not antithetical to music of true artistic value.

That said, fans should never inhibit a musician from due popularity, hoarding the artist in hopes of boosting their own social statuses. I view the music industry's featuring of underappreciated bands who put out quality stuff like those mentioned a positive step in enriching popular culture – and can only hope to see similar things for the future.

## Lessons Learned from the Global Church



BY MEGAN SONNEKALB

The Bible talks a lot about unity among the people of God. 1 Corinthians 12 describes a familiar section about the body of Christ, made up of many different and uniquely important parts. Considering the world, and the vast array of cultures and lifestyles, how do we define the global church as a whole? We are called to spiritual wisdom and discernment, to beware of false teachers and pseudo-Christian doctrines that distort scripture, but who exactly are we to call brother or sister? Is it all those who claim the name of Christ for salvation? What about those that practice beliefs one might be skeptical about like ancestor veneration, body disfigurement, healing services, casting out demons or

prophesying?

Perhaps there are some things we can't know for sure about Christianity, but we have our opinions none the less. I wonder when we think about those "other" denominations if we don't all have that little voice inside our head saying, "Sure, maybe they're Christians too, but I have the right theology." As we make assumptions about the caliber of a person's faith we distance ourselves from the way God designed us to be, many different parts making up one united body. After all, the eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you."

As the center of the Church moves away from the traditional West and into Africa there is an interesting transition occurring. The Church is growing in places that don't share our exact theology and that have different cultures and world views than we do. Missionaries are still called

and sent from the U.S., but many more are also coming from places like China, South Korea, Ethiopia and Kenya. Non-traditional missionaries such as refugees,

international workers and tentmakers also have a huge impact: moving into places all around the world they carry their faith and their culture with them. This change challenges Western Christianity's often ethnocentric ways. Are we ready to interact with our brothers and sisters from other cultures or are we limited by our preconceptions?

We have a lot we can learn from other perspectives of Christianity. I've heard it said that faith is like a flashlight that shines a small light on the grand tapestry that is God. From my perspective, my worldview and my faith, I can see and learn many wonderful things about God. My brother in Pakistan holds a different flashlight that illuminates a sepa-

rate section of that tapestry. We see some of the same things, but maybe he sees something about God that I have yet to learn. How wonderful it is to be in fellowship with Christian brothers and sisters and learn new things about God through their faith experience. But do we ever make the effort to talk earnestly about our faith with someone from a different background?

Houghton is a Wesleyan school, but most of the students I see around campus aren't Wesleyan. I think for the most part we do a pretty good job at being one body not separated by denominational boundaries. But maybe it's just that those who come from a more unique background know how to blend in, know what subjects not to bring up in Bible study and know how not to worship in chapel. Maybe that's why we still hear those jokes about Catholics and the Saints or about Pentecostals and speaking in tongues here at Houghton.

Perhaps it's time for all of us to make an effort to challenge our assumptions and have a conversation.

*Megan is a junior Intercultural studies major.*

**Do we ever make the effort to talk earnestly about our faith with someone from a different background?**

### The Penultimate Word

## The Need to Re-evaluate the Tenure System



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY ELISA SHEARER

The efficacy of tenure systems is being debated in schools and governments anywhere a typical educational institution is found. Many schools across Europe and in Australia and New Zealand no longer work under a tenure system, and some institutions in the U.S. are following suit. As 14 Houghton professors are currently going through different stages of tenure approval this year, I think it necessary and beneficial to consider the potential affects of our current tenure system on our institution.

Many academics and administrators hold that the advantages of a tenure system outweigh possible drawbacks. It is argued that tenure gives professors the freedom to express possibly unpopular opinions or academic positions that they would otherwise avoid. Some argue that a tenure system allows professors to be driven by their passion for teaching, not their fear of termination; professors who are protected do not have to be overly cautious for fear of upsetting the administration, alumni, and students' parents. Tenure, some say, takes the politics out of a professor's position.

And I think that it's very healthy to make a professor's position a less political one, and to remove influence from outside the college. But the tenure system as it is now does not seem to remove the politics from a professor's

position - it just pushes all of the politics and stress into the first seven years of a professor's employment, when they are going through the many stages (in Houghton's case, four) of tenure application.

For professors, students, and anyone who has ever been or known a teacher in an institution that has a tenure system, tenure can be a sore subject - something seen not as a beneficial protection of faculty, but a cause of discontent and unfair treatment. Some remember professors who were quickly and suddenly terminated because the process of terminating an untenured professor requires so little justification. Some think of those in teaching positions who, with complete job security (short of committing a crime, it seems) settle into complacency and lose their passion.

Houghton does have seven-year post-tenure reviews, but according to a recent article on the topic, faculty cannot be fired as a result of negative post-tenure reviews. Tenure is very close to a lifetime guarantee, with little to no possibility for the discipline of inadequate or careless teaching. Firing a tenured faculty member becomes almost impossible. On the other hand, it seems that not getting tenure has turned into a sort of death sentence, allowing the administration to fire unprotected faculty relatively easily and quickly.

Instead of an environment where professors are both driven by their accountability and inspired by their passions for teaching, the risk is that untenured or pre-tenured professors will be restricted by the fear of not being granted tenure, not driven by the accountability it provides, and tenured professors have almost no reason to fear discipline at all. The levels of liability are extremely unequal.

So I don't know what the solution

would be. Perhaps the flaws in the tenure system are inevitable, as so many flaws in bureaucratic systems seem to be; maybe the system can be made no better; maybe the weaknesses in the system are worth ignoring for the sake of the advantages, or the stability, or whatever. Simply eliminating the concept of a tenure system or going in the exact opposite direction would most likely be unhelpful - blind reaction hardly ever is. A popular alternative to the tenure system, performance-based hiring, has its own record of being ineffective, especially in jobs that center around cognitive performance and especially in teaching.

But the tenure system is most defi-

nately flawed. It causes discord in the life of a professor, I think, and in potentially crippling ways - before tenure, the stress of application and the franticness of having no job security may be damaging to otherwise passionate teachers; after tenure, absolute job security can allow long-term faculty members to lose their drive and their accountability. Are these flaws something that an educational institution can afford to ignore?

*Elisa is a junior Psychology and English major.*

IN LIGHT OF THE NCAA DISCUSSION,  
WHAT DO YOU THINK  
ABOUT THE SUNDAY  
OBSERVANCE POLICY?

17%

The benefits of NCAA membership justify altering the Sunday Observance Policy.

33%

The Sunday Observance Policy is outdated and should be reexamined either way.

50%

We shouldn't change the Sunday Observance Policy in response to athletic considerations.

*Out of 30 votes*

Check out the new poll at [www.houghtonstar.com](http://www.houghtonstar.com)

## From the Editor's Desk

## "Substance is Enduring, Form is Ephemeral"



PHOTO BY DANIEL PEIXOTO

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

I recently came across this quoted title by businessman Dee Hock and began thinking about the sentiment as it relates to our culture. In politics, we are drawn to candidates who arouse an emotional response with soaring rhetorical flourishes and a strong sense of likeability. In music, we try to find the song with the sickest beat or the artist with the most outlandish dance moves, outfits, or hair (I recently saw a commercial for "Showbiz Tonight" on CNN which previewed that night's show saying it would contain "coast to coast coverage of Justin Bieber's new haircut").

On a daily basis, we probably spend more time thinking about what we're going to wear than we do about any serious issue that will come our way. In general, our culture places a much greater emphasis on style than substance, a fact that does not bode well for our future. But I always thought this was a Hollywood thing, or a Washington, DC thing, or a New York City thing. I always thought real, down-to-earth people, and obviously Christian organizations, place a much higher emphasis on substance than style.

No Christian organization needs to hire a marketing firm; its mission speaks for itself, right? No Christian organization needs to re-brand itself; it should be proud of being what it is, right? No Christian organization needs to alter its routine when there are visitors; the regular routine should be advertisement enough, right? This is starting to sound familiar.

Last Friday, I walked into Chapel expecting to hear the faint hum of the organ playing a hymn which I assume was a favorite of John Wesley. But to my surprise, what I actually heard was a band complete with guitars, drums, and some sort of amplification device. And then I realized that it was an Honors Weekend

and it all made sense. What other reason would there be for Houghton to seem contemporary and current than to make a good impression for prospective students?

It reminded me of a chapel last semester that also took place on a visit day. A similar band was playing, and President Mullen was speaking. When she was introduced, the student gave her full bio; listing degrees earned, positions held and various other accomplishments. In fairly unequivocal terms, it was made clear that this chapel was not meant for us; it was not meant for current students but rather for prospective students who need to be made aware of the illustrious caliber of our president. In these instances, I have seen an institution that places greater emphasis on style than it does on substance; and in a way, this gets at the heart of what it means to have integrity.

Francis Bacon said that "it's not what we eat but what we digest that makes us strong; not what we gain but what we save that makes us rich; not what we read but what we remember that makes us learned; and not what we profess but what we practice that gives us integrity." The measure of an institution's integrity is what happens when people aren't looking.

Houghton professes to be a Christian Liberal Arts College, but almost in secret decides to downplay that fact in practice. Houghton professes to embrace some of the styles and rituals of the Wesleyan Church but when prospective students visit, a contemporary chapel magically appears on the schedule. Houghton professes to hold the Sabbath day sacred as the Bible commands, but considers altering the Sunday Observance Policy when there are athletic considerations. Is this integrity?

As one writer points out, "integrity is what we do, what we say, and what we say we do." There has been a disconnect in this department recently at Houghton. But focusing more time on substance and less on style would be a good step towards restoring the integrity on which this institution was built.

*Chris is a junior History and Political Science major*

## Letters to the Editor

Send to

houghtonstar@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in response the Star's last few weeks of coverage on Houghton's considered shift to the NCAA and the recent survey sent out on the same topic. I want to begin by posing a scenario. What if, once a month, as students and faculty of Houghton, we had the opportunity to drink and smoke at a local bar or pub? One could then make an argument, in one form or another, of why this would be permissible and proper for Houghton to participate in.

I raise this situation, not to argue its own validity, but to compare it with arguments made when discussing the shift to NCAA and Sunday games. Do I have a problem with playing sports on Sunday? Not especially. Do I think one could be a Christian witness in such situations? Certainly. But my concern lies elsewhere.

Houghton has argued in the past that the rules restricting Sunday activities (as well as smoking and drinking) exist to create a certain character and atmosphere in the people and the college that we share. The School's consideration of limited Sunday play then suggests that we no longer value this particular rule and the effect it has on our college. If this is all it is, then the worst one could say is that Houghton is wishy-washy in its convictions, which is quite disappointing in itself.

But I worry that the problem is more than that. If the administration thinks it necessary to bend or remove this rule, a rule it has created and defended in the past, for the sole purpose of attracting prospective students and obtaining more money for the

school, something is deeply wrong. This is no different than if one decided to remain celibate, as part of the Christian lifestyle they had chosen, but went on later to have sex as soon as celibacy got to be a drag. In both cases the rule that was previously endorsed is considered less important once it gets in the way of the fulfillment of personal desires. What really saddens me is that this motivation for making decisions appears to be a habitual one for Houghton College as an Institution.

*-Mark Lauer, Class of 2012*

Dear Editor,

The article "NPR, PBS, and Government Spending in a Time of Crisis" from today's edition of the Star left me feeling ambivalent about the issue presented. While I agree that there are better ways of dealing with excessive government spending than targeting NPR and PBS for removal from the budget, \$36 million is still a substantial sum. It may be a drop in the pool, but every little bit helps, and I'm not sure that the services rendered by the organization are worth the additional strain on the nation's finances.

In the article, Hartline gives some examples of what's good about the CPB, and why it should be publicly funded, but the problem is that you can say similar things about the "Big Four," many people depend on Medicare and Medicaid for expensive medical bills that they couldn't otherwise afford (the question of whether that's the government's responsibility is another matter). Social Security has been so integrated into the lives of people and the government itself that I can't imagine it being removed any time soon (quite apart from the debate regarding its usefulness). Military spending can't be justifiably cut until we deal with the issues at the heart of the wars going on, and interest just has to be paid.

In short, we're spending a lot more than we have, but it'll take a lot of time

and effort and smart choices to drive that spending down, and it doesn't seem like our government (or populace) has a surplus of smart options these days. The issues at the heart of the budget deficit are important to say the least, but they're not easy. On this point, I agree with Hartline: we as a nation need to buckle down and make the tough choices that need to be made. The hardest part is deciding the right way to go about it.

*-Benjamin Valyon, Class of 2013*

Dear Editor,

Chris Hartline's February 18 piece "NPR, PBS, and Government Spending in a Time of Crisis" completely overlooked the threat to a program of immediate importance to Houghton: AmeriCorps. The same resolution cutting federal funding for NPR and PBS--which was passed by the House and is now before the Senate--

would eliminate federal funding for AmeriCorps.

The elimination of AmeriCorps should concern every resident of Western New York, but would also have immediate consequences for Houghton. Since 2000, over 200 Houghton students and alumni have undertaken national service through WNY AmeriCorps, with 142 placements in Buffalo, one of the poorest cities in the nation. The college's brand-new Wesley Service Corps initiative places alumni in twelve-month service positions throughout Buffalo and Allegany County.

As a program enabling Houghton's current students and graduates to address challenges facing the disadvantaged, AmeriCorps is worthy of our support. I urge you to fax a letter to your senator, sign change.org's Save AmeriCorps petition, write a blog, or even post a tweet--because AmeriCorps is worth every federal penny.

*-Laura Jackson, Class of 2010*

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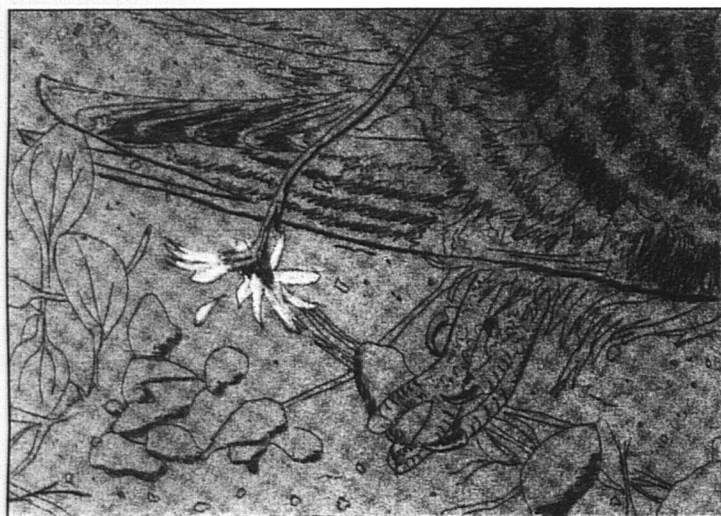
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L: *Sun in the City*, photograph. R: *Melancholic Fall*, photo etching



L: *But Your Letters Never Came*, intaglio etching  
R: *Chelsea: Phlegmatic*, screenprinting

*A note from the artist:*

I've often seen my life in series of stills, from the macroscopic to a grand scale. I've always wished to take those images directly from my head and share them with others. I've never really been a good painter or drawer, but I found photography as my outlet for showing others that which they may not have seen for themselves. At Houghton I found I could blend photography and my other creative influences through printmaking. To be able to see my captured frames come alive in their stillness fuels my excitement for this life and these things that I love.

## hannah yanega

### ARTIST of the WEEK



## sudoku CHALLENGE

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

Last week's winner of the Maze was Sergio Navarte! Please come by the STAR office to claim your PRIZE!

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