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the houghton STAR

Houghton College's Student Newspaper Since 1909

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SGA Considers Resolution to Boycott Coca-Cola

by MEGAN SPECKSGOOR

September 29, the SGA passed Resolution 9—a call to action for the College to sever ties with the Coca-Cola Company, namely by boycotting its products. Drawn up and petitioned by seniors Chris Clark and Gordon Brown, the resolution has been much discussed and, although the resolution was passed, the decision is still not settled due to a Senate presidential veto last night.

Brown said he first discovered allegations against the Coca-Cola Company concerning severe human rights infringements, business connections with companies that utilize child labor, and environmental misuse about two years ago and then proceeded to call the situation to Clark's attention. "Would you want to buy the products of a company using poor environmental regulations, intimidation, and murder?" Brown asked. According to Brown, Coca-Cola has been accused of environmental degradation in countries such as India, polluting and/or depleting vital water sources, using illegal amounts of pesticides, and perhaps the most poignant charge, employing paramilitary groups to threaten and even kill union leaders and their families in countries such as Guatemala and Columbia.

"Many people know about the practices of Nike and Walmart," said Clark. "We have been similarly convicted about Coca-Cola, and we don't feel right supporting their company." Clark hopes that his and Brown's proposal will make students aware of grave issues manifested across the globe but closely related to our business market and adopt the cause along with Clark and Brown. On a larger scale, Clark hopes that collectively, Houghton and other influential institutions can align to impact significant change. "Activism works," said Clark. "By affecting Houghton, we will inevitably affect the community."

Clark and Brown realize despite the vote to approve the resolution, their efforts have not yet come to full fruition, but they are certainly

See COCA-COLA page 3

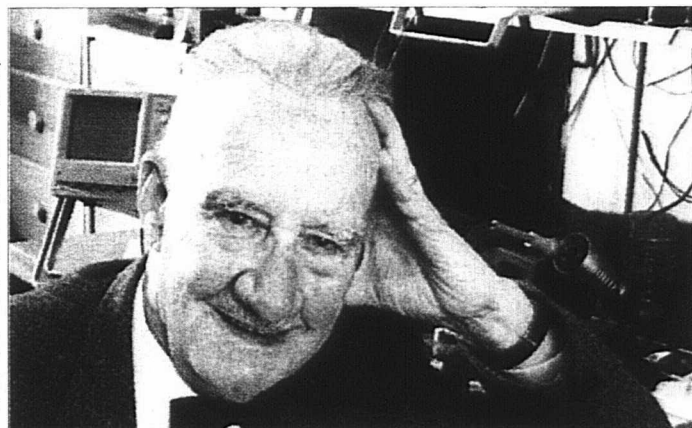
Wilson Greatbatch Remembered

by KATHERINE BAKER

Wilson Greatbatch, the inventor of 1958's implantable pacemaker, died last week, October 27, at the age of 92.

The pacemaker has been recognized as one of the most important engineering achievements of the last 50 years by the National Society of Professional Engineers, and Greatbatch was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame, receiving a National Medal of Technology in 1990 from then-President George H. W. Bush. Greatbatch was awarded honorary doctoral degrees from both Houghton in 1970 and SUNY Buffalo in 1984. In addition, in the winter of 2008 and 2009, Greatbatch and his late wife Eleanor received the Houghton Medal for their contributions to Houghton's science and music programs respectively.

After developing the pacemaker, Greatbatch worked tirelessly to improve its design. Bernard Piersma, an electrochemist who researched electrodes with Greatbatch for a decade, said "he had the idea that research needed to be done, and Christians needed to be doing it, so he came to Houghton College." With Greatbatch's support, Piersma was hired to teach chemistry part-time at Houghton and to research the best elements from which



WWW.GUARDIAN.CO.UK

Wilson Greatbatch invented an implantable pacemaker in 1958 and helped support Houghton College's music and science departments.

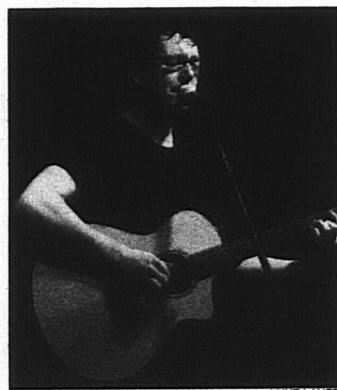
to make heart pacemaker electrodes so they would last longer and have fewer side effects.

Stephan Calhoun, who is since deceased, and Frederick Shannon, both chemistry professors at Houghton at the time, also contributed to the research. Shannon described Greatbatch's generosity and said "when Bernie came to do the research Greatbatch was funding, Houghton was not a wealthy school, and our chemistry equipment was fairly

primitive. Greatbatch provided us with the best equipment that was available." In addition to providing Houghton with research equipment, Greatbatch's funding enabled several of Piersma's undergraduate students to collaborate in his research. According to Piersma, heart pacemaker electrodes are now made up of about 90% platinum and 10% iridium due to some of the research

See GREATBATCH page 3

Homecoming Celebrations Continue This Weekend



LUKE LAUER

Alex Glover performed October 4

by COURTNEY COIRO

Homecoming 2011 is set to be bigger than ever, with events including classic Homecoming traditions such as Founders' Day Chapel, the College Choir Concert, and SPOT, integrated with newer events like a golf tournament, 5k Fun Run, and Fall Festival. Coordinating 37 separate events "is more than we've ever done before," said Executive Director of Alumni Relations Dan Noyes, who also said that "it's both scary and exciting." The weekend has been designed to involve alumni and students together in celebration of the Houghton College family, both past and present.

A scarf ceremony for new students

made its third annual appearance last night. Gathered around the eagle statue by candlelight, first-years and transfers heard the story of the six students the statue memorializes and received scarves representing their connection with "a much larger chain of students." This year's event is especially appropriate as Homecoming 2011 marks 25 years after the tragedy that claimed the lives of all six members of the 1986 Homecoming Court.

Members of the class of 1986 will indeed be on campus as part of the new integration of class reunions with Homecoming weekend. A "zero-year reunion" has been added for last year's graduates as well.

The weekend officially begins this morning with the annual Founders' Day Convocation, featuring an address by Rev. Cornelius Plantinga Jr., and the presentation of the Alumnus of the Year Award. Plantinga, former president of Calvin Theological Seminary and recipient of two "Book of the Year" awards from Christianity Today, will speak on "Mindful Love," a reflection on different expressions of Christians' love for God.

Among the new events is this afternoon's Golf Scramble Tournament at Waterways Resort in Belfast. Players will form two-person teams, and both get to take each shot from the previous

shot's best ball position. Prizes will be offered for a hole-in-one, best score, and worst score.

The College Choir Homecoming Concert tonight will offer a varied selection of pieces, followed by the welcoming of College Choir alumni for the final number. Fireworks will follow the concert, and the night will wind up with a "Celebration on the Quad" including music, dancing, and food. More music will be available concurrently in the Campus Center—an alumni coffeehouse featuring acoustic music by '08 graduate Steven Woolsey '09 graduate Kaylan (Reynolds) Buteyn.

Art will also be featured over the course of the weekend at the Faculty Art Exhibit and Alumni show in the Ortlip Gallery and Atrium. The latter is "a new tradition" and exciting complement to the already "long-standing annual [faculty] show," according to '11 graduate and interim Gallery Director Sally Murphy, who coordinated both shows.

Alumni will have new opportunities for academic engagement during the weekend. Certain classes will welcome alumni visitors today. "You also get some intellectual enrichment when you come back," said Noyes. High school-

See HOMECOMING page 3

WORLD / Immigration Troubles in Australia

by ADAM KNEELAND

Early in September, the Australian High Court denied Prime Minister Julia Gillard's "Malaysia Solution," a plan to send 800 asylum seekers to Malaysia, putting them at "the back of the queue," in exchange for 4000 already-processed refugees. Concerned that the Malaysia swap deal did not legally require Malaysia to protect the asylum seekers, the High Court voted 6-1 against the deal. Signed last summer, the deal was met with immediate protest by human rights organizations and Gillard's political opposition, and it became delayed with a temporary injunction until the High Court could get a ruling.

The 800 "boat people" to be traded in the Malaysia swap would have been chosen from asylum seekers detained on offshore facilities for having arrived in Australian waters by unofficial, illegal methods. In exchange, Australia would accept 4000 people from Malaysia who have already been granted international protection and refugee status. The bargain nature of the deal raised concerns that the Australian government was treating the issue as a numbers game and ignoring human rights concerns.

To understand the contemporary issue of asylum seekers—the technical term for those seeking international protection but whose requests for refugee status are still unprocessed—one must be familiar with Australia's history. One of the driving reasons behind Australia's transition from

separate British colonies into a unified nation was the white colonial population's fear of being outnumbered by Asian immigrants. One of the first official acts of Australia's unified government was the implementation of the White Australia Policy, a strict, self-explanatory immigration policy. Australia has struggled with issues of immigration from its birth.

Australia has been dealing with "boat people" since the 1970s, when people seeking asylum after the Vietnam war began to arrive on Australia's coast. Numbers began to increase most dramatically in 1999, with hot debates over detention centers and refusal of entry. One reaction was the formation of the One Nation Party, a political party formed largely on the platform that multiculturalism was a "threat to the very basis of the Australian culture, identity, and shared values" and combating what members saw as "the Asianisation of Australia."

The Pacific Solution, which was in place from 2001 until 2007, saw asylum seekers detained on Pacific islands. The Pacific Solution was a response to the Tampa incident, in which the Australian government denied entry of a Norwegian freighter carrying 438 Afghans rescued from a fishing boat to prevent the Afghans from legally applying for refugee status as they entered Australian waters.

The current controversy over the latest incident in a long history of political conflict and debate is complex. Apart from the basic fears of large numbers of immigrants arriving in a

shaky economic period and creating a worse unemployment problem, some politicians claim that controversial plans and solutions are set up to deter immigrants from risking their lives in dangerous ocean crossings. When Gillard first announced the Malaysia solution in May, she addressed smugglers directly and said "If you are a people smuggler selling the product of guaranteed processing and settlement in Australia, you cannot do so." Other politicians express concerns about boat people "jumping the immigration queue," cutting in line in front of asylum seekers pursuing more legitimate channels for their requests.

Yet human rights advocates express concerns that offshore detention centers and swap deals treat human beings as commodities to be handled logistically. A recent concern with the Malaysia deal was that Malaysia has not signed the UN's human rights convention and that politicians were not considering the dangers to the 800 people to be "handed over" to Malaysia.

But apart from the practical concerns, much of Australia is, by now, disgusted with the way politicians have handled the issue. Pastor and Brisbane Christian community worker Ken Baker said, "Past political parties, both Labor and Liberal, have used rhetorics of demonization and division," bi-partisanly treating the issue of boat people without humanity. One editorialist in Melbourne's newspaper the Age writes that in this issue, "Decency and—most of all—

common sense were flung to the winds long ago."

Worse still, the issue has been turned into a political rather than a human rights issue. As Kingsley College Professor Dr. Glen O'Brien said, "anti-immigration is a political card." Even Tony Abbot, the leader of the Opposition party, refused, many feel, to support Gillard's Malaysia solution as a political ploy rather than out of genuine compassion and concern for asylum seekers' welfare.

With the recent setback to Gillard's plan, some Australians believe that "the government now has no alternative to the onshore processing of applications for asylum," and that "in terms of compliance with domestic law and international treaty obligations, in terms of practicability and cost, and above all, in terms of dealing compassionately with vulnerable people, that should always have been the ideal course anyway."

Yet already, ad campaigns have been launched directed specifically at Tony Abbot asking him to lend full support to the Malaysia swap, and since the Malaysia Solution was announced in May, 10 boats carrying a total of 700 asylum seekers have been detained, some as recently as October 1, and their passengers taken to offshore detention centers. It is clear that while the newest episode in the immigration debate has prevented a potentially inhumane course of action, Australia is by no means close to a permanent resolution. ★

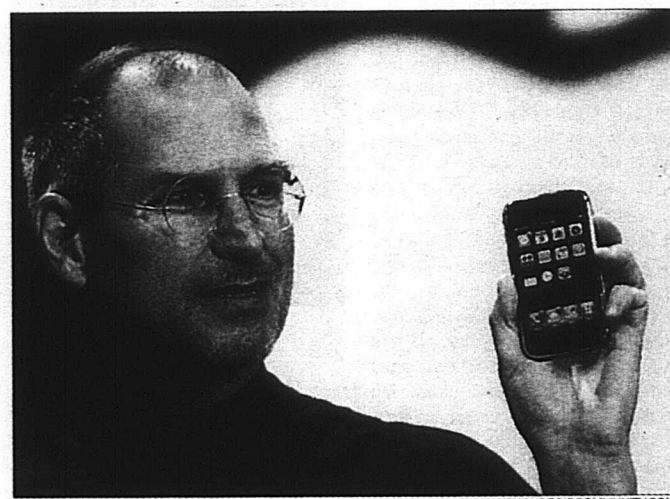
IN THE NEWS



ECONOMIC CRISIS IN GREECE | A one-day strike involving over 10,000 workers virtually shut down the center of Athens on Wednesday. The workers were protesting the pay cuts they have been suffering and demanding swift government action.



STEVE JOBS, APPLE CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, DIES | After a long battle with pancreatic cancer, the Apple co-founder and former CEO died at the age of 56 on October 5, 2011. An inventive genius and astute businessman, Jobs revolutionized the technology and music industries with the introduction of the Macintosh computer, the iPod, the iPhone, and the iPad.



China and Russia Block U.N. Resolution, Condemning Syria

China and Russia vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Syria's brutal crackdown on protesters this week. The resolution, supported by the U.S. and many other European countries, called for sanctions to be placed on Damascus in response to the violence unleashed by the government on its civilians. The rare double-veto sparked outrage amongst many U.N. members, including U.S. ambassador Susan Rice who walked out of the meeting in protest.

ASSASSINATION PLOT FOILED | An attempt to assassinate Afghan president Hamid Karzai was foiled on Wednesday. Among the six people that were arrested involving in the plot was a microbiology professor at Kabul University, a security guard at the presidential palace, and a fourth-year medical student.

Student Alumni Association: Connecting Students, Past and Present

by HANNAH HANOVER

The Student Alumni Association (SAA), an association bridging and condensing the purposes of the Alumni and Advancement offices, is an important new addition to campus organizations. Its declared purpose is "to demonstrate the importance of Houghton traditions through maintaining current traditions, revitalizing historic traditions, and also implementing our own tradition," meaning the SAA works to integrate Houghton history into the lives of current students while also aiding alumni in understanding today's student body. The association is working to retain former traditions and develop new traditions in order to form a cohesive Houghton experience that will be enjoyed by both past and present students.

Emily Gaerte, member of the SAA leadership council, speaks on the importance of the SAA in creating bonds between alumni and current students. The groups work toward "institutional pride and...[a] sense of historical significance," according to Gaerte. To maintain a healthy identity as a student body, it is vital that we are

reminded, through traditions and events connecting former and current students, faculty, and staff, of Houghton's deep roots and its effect on generations of students. Gaerte reinforced the idea of a healthy student body identity. "Our main purpose is to create unity among the entire Houghton family, past and present," she said. This analogy to a family reinforces the importance of college events serving as our only opportunity to reconnect with long-forgotten family members and friends.

An especially relevant aspect of the SAA's actions is its representation at alumni events, such as reunions or dinners. Through the presence of current Houghton students at such meetings, alumni are kept abreast of ways in which the College has either altered itself or remained the same over the years. Representation of today's student body at such events is essential, because such representation allows alumni to see their undergraduate counterparts and possibly connect with them in some way.

Student Alumni Associates not only attend alumni events, but also remain available during special weekends like Homecoming as representatives of the student body. "We are those students that represent the general Houghton student

body to these alumni and friends of the College," said Gaerte. Because of this duty, those interested must be recommended or selected as potential SAA material before they can apply.

"An SAA member is...heavily involved in working the SAA events which are all centered around tradition and Houghton history," said junior Austin Rudd, SAA member, of the dedication required from members. He reasoned, however, that the organization is sustainable and worthy of students' dedication. "The interaction with Houghton alumni, meeting them, and creating connections is what drew me to be a part of the SAA," he said. "Much of my family is Houghton College alumni, so I was also interested in uncovering connections that alumni may have had with my family members."

The SAA works to connect all who are associated with Houghton, especially alumni, through tradition and Houghton history. The SAA works hard to impress, and bond with, visitors in such a way that the institution becomes defined and analyzed not by time periods, but by the connective traditions that cause Houghton graduates to remember their studies here with fondness ★

GREATBATCH from page 1

Greatbatch facilitated at Houghton.

"Don't let anyone tell you that good science can't be done at a small liberal arts college, because it can be, has been, and will be done here," Greatbatch said on Houghton's Math and Science Opportunities Day in March, 2001.

Greatbatch continued to perfect the design of the pacemaker by researching ways to improve the battery. The lifetime of a pacemaker was originally determined by the battery life, which was only a couple of years at that time. "It was clear that little improvement could be expected in pacemaker performance until we could find a more reliable power source," Greatbatch wrote in his memoir, *The Making of the Pacemaker*. With the invention of the lithium-iodine system, Greatbatch was able to design the lithium battery that is used in pacemakers today. He then founded Greatbatch Inc. to make the batteries for pacemakers. Research on the pacemaker battery was done at Houghton by chemistry professor Larry Christensen and some of his undergraduate students in the late 70s and early 80s.

Greatbatch's work was not over with the invention of the pacemaker; in fact, he held hundreds of patents. Greatbatch is described as being very humble by both Piersma and Shannon, and according to Piersma, Greatbatch said that only one in 10 of his ideas actually turned into something useful. Shannon described Greatbatch as self-effacing and said that "even when he had done something he would give others credit." Ben King, Director and Associate Dean of the Greatbatch School of Music, said that "Dr. Greatbatch gave generously to Houghton on several occasions, providing significant funding for the original construction of the Paine Science Center. Other gifts, almost always very quietly made, followed over the years." One such gift was made by Eleanor Greatbatch, who loved music and oversaw the endowment of the Greatbatch School of Music graduate program and the construction of the Center for the Arts. ★

COCA-COLA from page 1

celebrating the success of the process in the Senate. "It's so satisfying to have something we've been working on for two years finally be taken seriously," said Clark. Brown added that "there's a certain joy in staking a vampire." Brown claimed he is "hopeful that Houghton will join the 50 plus colleges that have already banned Coca-Cola." This list includes such prominent universities and notable names as Oxford, Rutgers, Saint Olaf College, Queens College, Union Theological Seminary, and many others. Brown is optimistic that the resolution will cause Houghton students to "be more aware of this kind of issue in general" and to "be careful of what we're consuming." Brown said that it is time for students to "take a stand."

For Clark and Brown, the elimination of Coca-Cola products on campus would be a blatant matter of justice, of defying the stereotypical blind consumerism characteristic of current society, and of making the conscious choice and mustering the effort to speak out against what is inherently wrong. With the anticipation of raising awareness and educating the rest of us on the cause they have already adopted, Clark and Brown said they intend to show a documentary entitled "The Coca-Cola Case." In the meantime, they recommend that any interested students visit the Web site www.killercoke.org or engage in independent research on the subject.

"I think the resolution's goal of a boycott is a worthy cause, because the violation of ethical standards of labor and human rights should not be ignored," said Senator Joel Ernst. He also said, "Houghton College should discontinue support of Coca-Cola, because we have a chance to make a statement against the practices of devaluing human life and mistreating laborers." Ernst hopes that Brown and Clark's resolution "affects Houghton

students by raising awareness that we as a college will stand up for the rights of the oppressed, and not let unethical business practices go unnoticed."

"We initially heard about the effort to ban Coca-Cola last year in Senate," said Senator Sarah Jacoby, "when Gordon and Chris presented it for the first time." According to Jacoby, "It was obvious that both of them felt passionate about the issue, but at that time there wasn't enough information or evidence for the Senate to feel comfortable passing a ban." Since that time, Clark and Brown have renewed their efforts, researched the issue more thoroughly, and developed a stronger argument through evidence gathered both on their own and with the assistance of fellow senators. "This semester, we were asked to consider the resolution again, and several senators pitched in to help research the issue and find reputable sources that could help substantiate some of the claims made by a variety of social justice Web sites," said Jacoby.

"Essentially we've called on the administration to ban the sale of Coca-Cola products in the campus store, the dorm rooms, and the vending machines," said Brown. However, he and Clark recognize that the next move lies beyond Student Senate. "We can only make suggestions," said Clark.

The passing of the resolution was a crucial catalyst to the ambitious process of eliminating Coca-Cola from Houghton's campus. However, last night the resolution was vetoed by SGA President Garrett Fitzsimmons who said, "While a considerable amount of effort has been put in Resolution 9, clauses of this document lack sufficient evidence and an objective standpoint for its magniloquent and weighty allegations." Fitzsimmons hopes to garner more information "and strengthen our stand by considering due evidence and deliberation." ★

HOMECOMING fr. page 1

aged children of alumni can experience a mini visit day in cooperation with the Admissions office.

These opportunities will be complemented tomorrow by a dedication ceremony for the new science labs and classrooms that were completed in the first phase of the Paine Center renovations. In conjunction, interactive science experiences in the afternoon will engage adults and children alike. Topics will include DNA and forensic testing, a multimedia guided tour of the universe, Alaskan ecology, and Houghton's amphibians.

Tomorrow morning, the 5k Fun Run will be making its second appearance as a replacement for the parade done in previous years. "The parade was a thing for a long time," said Noyes, "but it took a lot of energy and probably ended up having more people in it than watching." The Fun Run is meant to bring together everyone who loves both Houghton and running.

The Fall Festival on the Quad will feature the involvement of approximately 16 student organizations. "For the past five years, student organizations have contributed in a big way to make the Festival on the Quad a successful event," said Phyllis Gaerte, who coordinated the organizations' efforts. The Student Alumni Association hosted the scarf ceremony and will also host the class reunion dinners.

Athletic events will include traditional soccer and volleyball games as well as alumni games in soccer and field hockey. A highlight will be hearing the national anthem sung by Doug Allen, an '86 graduate and the official national anthem singer for the Buffalo Sabres. Between men's and women's soccer games tomorrow, Science Honors students will demonstrate the go-karts they built in the program and over 70 current Houghton men will perform "the Haka," a traditional New Zealand war dance. ★

HOMECOMING EVENTS:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2011

The academic class schedule has been altered for today.

10:25 a.m. Departmental Receptions

11:00 Founders' Day Convocation

1:30 p.m. Golf Tournament

6:30 Alumni Volleyball Game

8:00 College Choir Concert

9:00 Fireworks

9:00 Cirque de la Danse

9:00 Alumni Coffeehouse

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2011

8:00 a.m. 5K Fun Run

8 - 9:00 Pancake Breakfast

9:00 Alumni soccer game

10 - 11:00 Chat with the President

10:00 Fall Festival

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch

12:00 p.m. Alumni Field Hockey Game

1:00 Volleyball vs. Roberts Wesleyan

1:00 Dedication ceremony for science facilities- Paine Science Center

2:00 Women's Soccer vs. Roberts Wesleyan

4:00 Men's Soccer vs. Walsh University

4:00 Science Alumni/Faculty Gathering

5 - 7:00 Dinner

10:00 SPOT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2011

10:00 a.m. Family Weekend Worship Service

College Choir Embraces Change and Consistency

by BEKAH HALL

This year's College Choir includes 35 new voices. It seems a daunting task to bring in so many new students, not all with previous experience; however, every year about one third of the choir is new, according to director Brandon Johnson. Brian Clark, first-year graduate student and College Choir Manager, recognizes the beginning-of-the-year challenges that come with such a large portion of newcomers.

"A challenge for every choir at the beginning of the school year is to figure out what the identity of the group is," he said. "We have been getting to know each other and learning how to sing with each other. The entity of the College Choir remains a constant, but the personnel changes every year." Johnson, though, is confident in this year's choir and said the group has "made great progress so far."

Andrew Evans, junior, who joined College Choir this semester, and Hannah Carter, senior, who is entering her second year, both expressed the importance and desire to glorify God with their fellow choir members. This desire is central to the College Choir; both Johnson and Andrew Dibble, first-year graduate student and

Director of Choral Festivals, emphasized the importance of the College Choir's mission statement which says, "We seek to glorify God personally and corporately by upholding and extending a rich tradition of excellence in choral music. Through a diversity of choral literature, we aspire to minister the life-transforming power of God's love and grace to all that hear us. Because of our desire to reach others for Him and our understanding of Christ's love for us as His children, we strive to live humbly as a community of individuals that love and value each other." When asked about his goals for this year's College Choir, Johnson explained that they all fall under this central statement. Dibble sees the mission statement as integral to the choir's functioning as a whole.

"What makes the College Choir so great from year to year is its commitment to our mission statement," he said. "It cannot be overstated that getting 75 singers to commit to any one thing on a daily basis is indeed a powerful feat. In every semester, every week, every rehearsal, and every concert, we reaffirm our belief in this mission and greet this difficult calling with tenacity."

This year's College Choir schedule also holds some new tours and venues. This winter, Houghton will be bringing Prism, the college's annual Christmas concert, to Buffalo and Rochester. At the end of October, the choir will be performing at the American Choral Director's Association at Nazareth College—a variety of middle school, high school, and collegiate choral groups will be present. During spring break, the choir will be travelling for 10 days to New York City, Boston, and Philadelphia, among other places, to perform on a "New England" tour. In May after classes let out, the choir will be traveling to South Korea.

Every three years, College Choir travels overseas for a summer tour; so far, the choir has toured such countries in Europe as Spain, France, and Italy. According to Johnson, this will be the first time in the choir's history they will be travelling to Asia. Clark explained that this trip "is a great opportunity for our students to see a part of the world they might never see, to spread the message of Christ and of Houghton College, and to learn about the musical culture in South Korea."

The College Choir's first concert will be tonight at 8 p.m. in Wesley Chapel. More information on College Choir and other music ensemble concerts at Houghton, can be found on www.houghton.edu. ★

Were You Aware?

by MEREDITH TOOMBS

In 1825, the Seneca Native Americans of the Houghton area sold their land to settlers, including one with a family by the name of Houghton. A Seneca named Copperhead claimed he had not received proper payment for his land. He believed the settlers of the area owed him a living, which he was given. He died at the age of 120 from burns he sustained after his cabin burned down and was buried next to his cabin at the intersection of Centerville and Old River Road. After heavy rains, the creek next to his house threatened to wash his remains down the hill. In 1914, after reading an article in the Star about the matter, students and friends raised money to move Copperhead's remains and establish a monument for him. He is currently buried under the large boulder near the map as you drive up the hill to campus. Years later, students had a contest to name the yearbook. Keith Farmer, class of 1925, suggested the *Boulder*. ★

NICKI MINAJ IS HERE TO STAY



WWW.ZIMBIO.COM

by EVAN YEONG

In a heavily male-dominated genre of music, Nicki Minaj stands out among her cohorts in more ways than one. As a performer who has rapped opposite of Eminem, the speed of her rhymes are swiftly surpassed by her ability to meet his level of lyrical vitriol. A back and forth between two highly talented wordsmiths, it is difficult to tell which half of the duet has the upper hand.

Where the most popular female artist in recent years has only recently begun utilizing her male alter ego Joe Calderone, Nicki Minaj beats out Lady Gaga in that her very name is an identity she crafted years ago. Tracks like "Roman's Revenge" feature not Minaj herself, but her angry, gay British male persona, Roman Zolanski. Alter egos Nicki Teresa and Rosa have both appeared or performed in the past, and it is more than likely that we will see more of both in the future.

The outcome of a major record label bidding war, Minaj's album "Pink Friday" dropped last year, released by Lil' Wayne's Young Money Entertainment. Minaj said that its title was a way of "[carrying] on a great tradition of Black Friday," and that in 2010, she switched it up and titled the album after the renamed holiday. It took second place on the U.S. *Billboard* 200 and later took first. The RIAA has since certified it a platinum album.

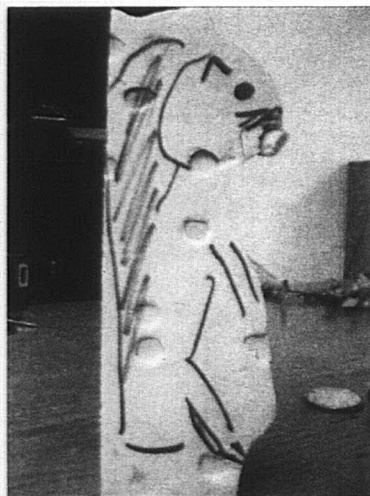
"Pink Friday" features the average number of featured artists for a rap album, yet this particular group is a star-studded cast of sorts. The aforementioned Eminem is the first on

the album, followed by Rihanna, Drake, The Black Eyed Peas' will.i.am, Kanye West, and Natasha Bedingfield. Each collaboration is a track that acts as a stage for both Minaj and a performer that has since proven him or herself; each is also a chance for Minaj to prove her even standing—and she does. On "Blazin'," featuring West, Minaj asserts that "I catch wreck on recreation/So I exceed all your expectations"—a statement that rings true considering her success.

November 2010 was close to a year ago, yet this past summer top 40 radio was blasting at least two songs that flaunted Minaj's voice. The infectious "Super Bass" wasn't even released on the original version of "Pink Friday," a fact that didn't keep it from being the second highest rated rap song in the country. French DJ David Guetta's "Where Them Girls At" also features rapper Flo Rida, but it is Minaj's verse that shines when laid over Guetta's synths. Her lyrics are their typical sweet-yet-aggressive, asking, "Coming through the club all the girls in the back of me/This ain't football why...they tryin' tackle me?"

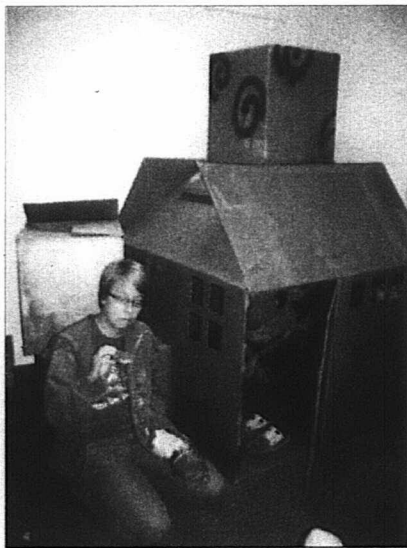
Though rap may be what Minaj has made herself known for, she can hold a note as well. While she sings portions of "Super Bass," Minaj exhibited just how clear and strong her vocals are when she performed alongside Katy Perry at VH1's "Divas Salute The Troops 2010."

It has been years since Lil' Kim and Missy Elliot have made waves as far as MTV is concerned, and for a while it seemed that the female rap in general had come and gone. Nicki Minaj is here to change that, and she is not going away. ★



Cameron Thibault isn't buying any food until the first snowfall. He's been finding food to eat from outside.

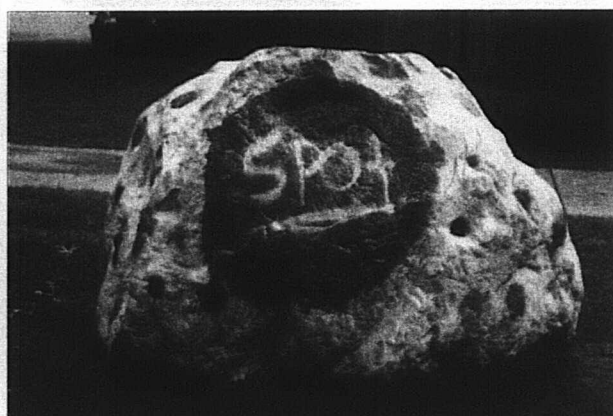
He found crabapples and has been using them to practice shooting squirrels to eat. This is his mock squirrel to practice his aim. Chelsea Ellis '12



5th Lambein made our own Study Box/Fort! We can draw/color the inside when we're bored or need some stress-relief! Kayla Gilbertsen '14

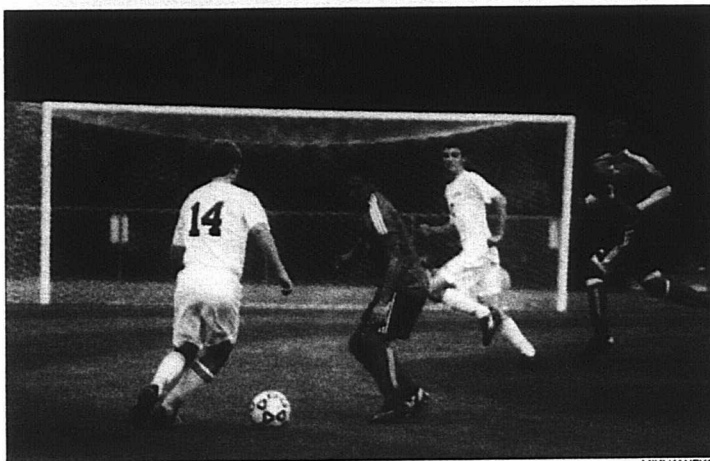
THIS week in PICTURES

Submit (with photo credit and brief description) to houghtonstar@gmail.com!



Its story continues: painted to advertise this weekend's anticipated "SPOT" talent show. Shawn Gillis '13

Midseason Soccer Update



by ZECHARIAH MIENTKIEWICZ

After completing the season's non-conference games, both the men's and women's soccer teams begin conference play with high expectations. The women's team, coached by David Lewis, has a record of 5-1 against non-conference opponents. The team's impressive start has solidified its position as the favorite to win the conference for the 17th time in 19 years.

"We...consider ourselves contenders

for post-conference play, the national tournament," said Lewis.

Led by a strong defensive line of seniors Samantha Choma, Katie-Jean Vandzura, and Keeler Topping, along with a group of explosive forwards, junior Jen Hudson and sophomore Alyssa Figueroa, the team has proved it is ready and able to meet any challenges set before them. The girls have been able to outscore opponents 22-4 and outshoot opponents 138-70 in eight games. Despite the team's impressive start to the season, Lewis said the players were hampered by illnesses early on and are not always consistent, especially in their one loss to Olivet Nazarene University. However, Lewis has been impressed by the team's chemistry and will to improve.

"These characteristics are definitely the strength of the team," said Lewis.

Lewis added that another characteristic of the team contributing to the success of the program is that his team appreciates the support of the community. He hopes students are in the stands for the team's Homecoming match against Roberts Wesleyan College.

For the men's team, soccer season has been full of competitive contests that have seen the team off with a record of 1-6-2. The team finished non-conference play with an impressive victory over the heavily favored University of Maine at Fort Kent in a nail-biting 5-4 overtime victory.

Coached by Matthew Webb, the men are regarded as a competitive, technical team with excellent goalkeeping. However, key injuries, along with the departure of last year's seniors, have impaired the team.

"Overall, we struggle to find ways to score goals, which has hurt us and cost us several close games," said Webb. "But the path to winning the conference and advancing to the national championship is up for grabs. I still think we can make it."

The men's team is led by midfielders and juniors Mike Amico and Paul Seddon, junior Mike Dix on defense, and senior Steve Zacchigna in goal. A positive take from the season is the number of freshmen, including Cory Brautigam, Troy Bowersox, Eric Dehond, and Kevin Miranda, who have impacted the program years before they were expected to.

The team's biggest upcoming challenges are its games against Roberts Wesleyan College, Damien College, and Point Park University, which are all conference games. Webb encourages students to come out, support the Highlanders, and watch his team as it takes on the AMC. ★

SPORTS RECAP

FIELD HOCKEY:

Saturday 10/1
at Wells College - W 1-0
Season Record: 6-3-0
Upcoming this weekend:
Saturday, 10/8
vs Alumni @ 12pm

MEN'S SOCCER:

Friday, 9/30
at Point Park - T 1-1 2OT
Saturday, 10/1
at Fisher College - W 8-0
Season Record: 2-7-3
Upcoming this weekend:
Saturday, 10/8
vs Walsh Univ. @ 4pm

WOMEN'S SOCCER:

Saturday, 9/30
at Point Park Univ. - W 3-0
Saturday, 10/1
at Fisher College - W 10-0
Tuesday, 10/4
at Walsh Univ. - L 2-3
Season Record: 8-2-0
Upcoming this weekend:
Saturday, 10/8
vs Roberts Wesleyan @ 2pm

VOLLEYBALL:

Thursday, 9/29
vs Point Park - L 18-25, 13-25, 8-25
Tuesday, 10/4
at Mercyhurst - L 21-25, 10-25, 16-25
Season Record (as of 10/5): 4-12
Upcoming this weekend:
Saturday, 10/8
vs Roberts Wesleyan @ 1pm

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

Presenting:
Dr. Ron Sider

Chapel Talk
"America's Historic Choice:
Libertarianism vs. The Common Good"

Monday, October 10, 11:30am
Wesley Chapel

Lecture
"Thinking Biblically About Politics"

Monday, October 10, 8:00pm
Wesley Chapel
Free and Open to the Public

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Dealing With Suffering in the Midst of God's Silence



by STEVE CORELL

*"There is among the people a silent, long-suffering grief."
—Fyodor Dostoevsky*

Something has been weighing on my heart recently, and it has caused me to think about the ways in which Christians, myself included, interact with people who are suffering. I have been thinking about the question of Theodicy (How can God allow suffering if He is a loving being?), and I want to turn it on its head for a spell, if you will allow me. What if we are asking the wrong question? What if instead of "Why does suffering occur?" we ask "How can we be present with those who are suffering, rather than positing a half-hearted solution to something that was never really a question, but rather an ache beyond the depth of our reason?" I do not say this to discount the question of suffering, but only to say there is no answer sometimes except that things just happen. It is not enough, no matter what theology we proudly flaunt, to make glib statements in the face of the enormous, looming form of unexplained suffering. I am not just talking about physical suffering either, but also the immense lifetimes of mental ache suffered by so many in the silence of their own minds—the suffering that seeps from the very wounds of existence and often escapes our notice. Not just the genocides, the wars, and the injustices, but the personal, immanent suffering of our neighbor.

I worked at a summer camp in July, and at one point during staff orientation, one of the student lifeguards was inexplicably struck by lightning while taking a shower (as if there is an "explicable" time to be struck by lightning). The initial reaction of the staff, which I believe was the correct reaction, was an immediate retreat into prayer. It was the theologies of suffering that emerged from these prayers, not the act of prayer itself, that shocked me and caused me to think that many Christians have a problem with the phrase "I don't know," as if it means you possess no faith. My fellow counselors spouted prayers like "Thank you, God, for this opportunity to praise you in the midst," and "God, we know this is Satan doing this, and we need your help to battle him!" So, do we believe that God did this, or Satan? It was shocking to me, because it revealed to me the ways in which we as Christians often fail to be a presence of hope in the face of suffering, simply because we think that our place is instead to explain it away. How can we thank God so insensitively in the face of suffering? Do we think that God is pleased with our smug confessions of trust and gratitude when they mostly exist to make us feel better or to try to prove to God that the strength of our belief resides in our ability to undermine people's suffering for the sake of being "a good witness?" Do we think that those who do not believe will have a magical change of heart after seeing us smile our way through the deep agony of the human condition? I think it takes a more mature, solid faith to posit that perhaps not everything happens for a reason. Or have we forgotten that faith implies a certain amount that we don't know or understand? What if our place as Christians is to "weep with those who weep" and not only to "rejoice with those who rejoice?"

In all of this, I am not saying that I do not believe in God or that God does not show His mercy in tangible ways. I have seen things happen that should not have

happened that I know I do not deserve, and from my own standpoint, because of those things, I can no longer believe in a God who is absent and detached...but what about those people God seems to overlook? And what do we say to those who are suffering and cannot feel hope, not because they are "not listening to God's voice," but because their souls simply cannot receive it for whatever reason? Or what if God is actually silent at times, and it is no negative statement against us that we cannot hear Him?

If a woman feels like it was an answer to prayer for a car to magically move out of a parking space right in front of her at a local hospital, how do we then explain the child she found dead upon stepping inside, though she prayed for his life, which was the very reason she desperately needed a parking space in the first place? Her faith will be shaken, and what will we tell her? That "the ways of the Lord are mysterious?"

These questions aside, how can we deal with the suffering that occurs if it is not able to be so simply tossed aside as "God's plan" or "Satan's attacks?" Christ never said "there is a reason why Rome is oppressing you," or "this is why there has been a demon inside your body for the greater part of your life." The hope He spoke was a quieter hope—one that embodied only two things: "I am present with you," and "I understand." Maybe this is all we can do. All I know is this: we can no longer use clichéd analogies like "the world is like a patch-work quilt, and only God can see the full quilt, and we are

stuck looking at it close up." Trite images like this seem insensitive and rude when sized up against such monstrosities as Auschwitz, the Spanish Inquisition, the loss of a child, or that kid at school who took his own life and found it completely reasonable in his own mind. Flaunting our faith in the goodness of God in the face of the suffering often makes people feel overwhelmed and confused and not comforted. Perhaps

all we can say is that which Dostoevsky's wise Elder Zosima once spoke to a woman who had lost her faith in the face of life's hardship: "I believe completely in the genuineness of your anguish." The woman asked him later, "What will give me back my faith?" He answered only, "the experience of active love." Perhaps all we can do is to attempt, in our own way, to do what Christ did—to be present with people and to love people. I think Jesus told us to do that once, and I don't think He ever told us to use others' grievances as a platform for our message, which usually only makes us feel better because we have "planted seeds," and we think that means we are good Christians. I think we don't understand grief and suffering, and until we do, we cannot understand what hope looks like. We cannot be a message of hope if we do not first seek to understand suffering.

Stephen is a senior writing major

Sex at Houghton College | part 1 of a 3-part editorial series



by ELISA SHEARER

Houghton students are having sex. No, not just the married ones.

And when I say "sex" I'm not only referring to the real deal but also to the long list of activities that can be comfortably filed under not-actually-that-kind-of-sex. I think that it's different from the kind of sex that can impregnate a woman; I also think that it's sex, or at least, I'm pretty sure it would be as defined by our commandment-following-12-year-old selves. I think that more Houghton students are having sex than most people would like to admit; I also think that we (the students and the community in general) don't really know what to do about it.

The problem with sex (for nervous

promise-ringed young adults) is that it's a good thing. The other commandments have translated pretty well into a social behavioral code, because one could argue that stealing, lying, murder, etc. are basically destructive things; sex, however, out of all of the commandments, is not.

The problem with sex, then, is its potential for construction. It is one of the most creative things humans can do, and it can be one of the most intense expressions of love and vulnerability and commitment.

So sex is super important, is my point, and an essentially good thing. It's taught to us, however, with all the other Evangelical commandments: Don't be drunk, Don't do drugs, Don't have sex. It's treated, largely, as a thing to be avoided, feared, or even dismissed ("I Love My Future Wife, And I haven't Even Met Her Yet" shirts, I'm looking at you). Our sex drives, in a vestigial Gnosticism in the contemporary church that saddens me, are seen as shameful things to be suppressed or ignored.

This attitude works fine until we are actually with someone. The main reason to remain celibate was often, basically, "Because the Bible says so," an argument which weakens palpably the moment you're alone with an attractive human be-

ing who's attracted to you too. Most of the sex—including the sex leading up to the "real" sex, which, yes, is very different and which, yes, I'm going to continue to assert is still a big deal (commandment-breaking, I would posit, if you're concerned about such things)—is wrapped up in substantial layers of vague guilt and shame and self-berating.

To assuage our guilt, we also end up deciding upon arbitrary Ultimate Borders of Virginity (which tend towards frequent revision), e.g., "We're going to keep on all our clothes." We then realize, e.g., how much one (I guess two) can actually accomplish while remaining clothed. Rinse and repeat with almost any "line" with which we decide to define Purity. I have never seen any line, like "hands above the waist," work for a couple. Ever. And yet, sadly, it seems to be one of the main strategies of the inhabitants of steamy cars (or, for the careless, the stairways at the side entrances of the Campus Center, the Gillette lounge, the ski hill, various rooms in Chamberlain, the lean-tos in the woods, the lobby of the library, practice rooms in the music building, the booths in the cafeteria, the Campus Store, the flats parking lot, the lawns behind the townhouses, the booths in Big Al's, the couches in the Van

Dyke Lounge, or the "study rooms" in Hazlett 37).

So what we do is immerse ourselves in cycles of guilt and denial and more guilt. This, needless to say, isn't super healthy. We start to talk about how it's basically impossible to find a consistent definition of "adultery" as it's used in the Old Testament. We find out that "fornication" often only applied to women and commandments against it are preceded by things like "don't marry your dead husband's brother." We reassure ourselves that "sexual immorality" in the New Testament, when you come down to it, is pretty vague. The subject of our "Virginity Rocks" t-shirts becomes somewhat more complex than perhaps we once thought, and these newfound nuances conveniently complement our recently emerged interests.

This quick justification, while rather impressive in its ability to persuade even the previously prudest new couples (our argumentative skills and ability to think outside the box can probably be attributed to a strong liberal arts education), is seriously unhealthy. We are taught from an early age to regard sex as plainly Bad, down there with mur-

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK / The Redemption of the "Whatever Generation"



by ANDRÉ NELSON

The world is watching us, Professor Huth said in a talk over *The Shallows*; the "Whatever Generation" is some sort of freak show that the world is watching." The question for this generation isn't about whether we will tackle the problems arising in this time, but if we even can. What is to become of the Christian message? As the Internet rises, as Neil Postman claims in *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, will this new medium not be able to carry the message, or is it true, as Marshall McLuhan said, that "the medium is the message?"

Many have written about the development of mass media, covering both extremes of the spectrum. There are those such as Postman who claim we are "amusing ourselves to death," presenting mass media as the spawn of the Devil, sending the 21st century to Hell in a hand basket. Conversely, Steven Johnson maintains in *Everything Bad is Good for You* that mass media is in reality making us smarter. Standing between this disparity, Nicholas Carr in *The*

Shallows presents a book full of facts and stats that leave us with the sobering question: has the Internet, in changing our brains, made us shallow? And if so, can the Christian message thrive in this generation or has technology changed our minds in a way that leaves us incapable of comprehending the depth necessary? Will the Great Commission become the Great Omission?

The writer of *Ecclesiastes* reminds us that "there is nothing new under the sun." This mode of communication (that is, the Internet) is simply one more means amongst many others preceding it, and like each of its predecessors, the Internet will take on depth. Early visual art as a means of communication had little depth, but with time rough images on canyon walls were followed by intricate frescoes. With one simple stroke of a brush on a blank canvas, artists are able to denote deep philosophical explanations. One thing that is found in every Catholic Church is the 14 Stations of the Cross, the purpose of which is to allow people to make a spiritual pilgrimage through prayer. In a time when Mass was entirely in Latin and illiteracy was not uncommon, these images permitted people to view and understand the process that Jesus went through. Images transmitted a message of salvation and redemption, and visual

communication took on depth. When the first people attempted to put their ideas into writing, it wasn't very different. Plato warned people not to put anything in writing; he maintained that it would ruin our minds, change our brains, and essentially make us dumber. Starting out crude, rough, and with little depth, writing quickly took on great depths,

as Leon Dumont drew out in one of his essays: "Flowing water hollows out a channel for itself which grow broader and deeper, and when it later flows again, it follows the path traced by itself." Depth followed as writing became the norm. Now we have millions of books from mil-

lions of authors—some is cheap literature used for simple entertainment, but some bears unimaginable depth that scholars still scratch their heads figuring out. Written communication, like image-based communication, took on depth.

Now the Internet is here. Postman predicts the tribulation, Jonson predicts salvation, and Carr predicts a change in our brains. One powerful statistic is that 90% of all Internet bandwidth and 65% of mobile bandwidth will be video by 2014 (Cisco). Social Media becomes the rage, video chats are the norm, and libraries are on the verge of becoming the new museums. How can any good

come out of this situation? Where before media was very much a one way process—the artist, the author, and the television producer fed their ideas to the spectator or scholar—criticism of the observed work was difficult and time consuming. Now that the Internet and the world of Social Media come into play, individuals can criticize the work of businesses, scholars, and artists. Not only do means exist for the latter to respond to the criticisms, but the situations demands they enter into conversation with individuals. Discourse continues, but this time on a global scale.

This is a transition period; people appear scatter brained, and relationships seem shallow. But like its predecessors, this new form of communication will take on depth with time, as water flows creating new paths. Looking to the future, the Internet is near limitless in its capacity to reach people. Missionaries in remote places are able to blog and tweet, reaching thousands of people. Theological books don't form relationships with people, but theologians using Social Media can. The medium, the Internet, can carry and facilitate the message, creating an ambiance of sustained dialogue, something that its written and visual counterparts could not do.

André is a sophomore communication major

der and lying and stealing, and so when we realize that it isn't quite so terrible, it's pretty easy to renege on our former simplistic convictions. This—not the sex itself, but the quick way in which we flip from "Obviously Not" to "well maybe just a little bit"—is worrisome.

I'm not criticizing couples who are sexually active; I am concerned more about the self-deceit, denial, and guilt that permeate societies that pretend that its members aren't sexually active. There is a flaw in the system that funnels young adults raised in the Church toward unhealthy attitudes about relationships, I think.

Students are having sex on campus, students are confused about their morals in regards to sex, and students are deprived of practical conversation about sex. It seems that the contemporary church doesn't really know what to do with sex besides tell young people to avoid it. Unless the goal is to leave young people confused and ridden with guilt, unless the goal is to communicate an attitude of oversimplified fear and denial when it comes to sex, and unless we prefer a confused silence to more risky and constructive dissenting discourse, the attitude with which sex is approached throughout young Christians' lives needs to change.

Elisa is a senior English and psychology major

HOW PSYCHED ARE YOU FOR THE NEW SWITCHFOOT ALBUM?

50%

I will likely do little but listen to it for the next month.

11%

I'm disappointed in the new direction the band has taken.

39%

I don't care for Switchfoot.

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

Out of 18 votes

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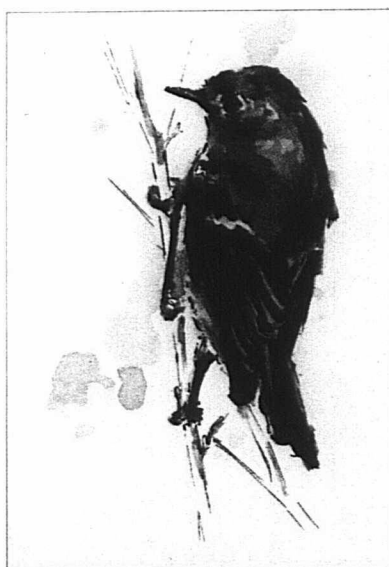
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ARTIST OF THE WEEK



ANDREA PACHECO

ATALIE FITE

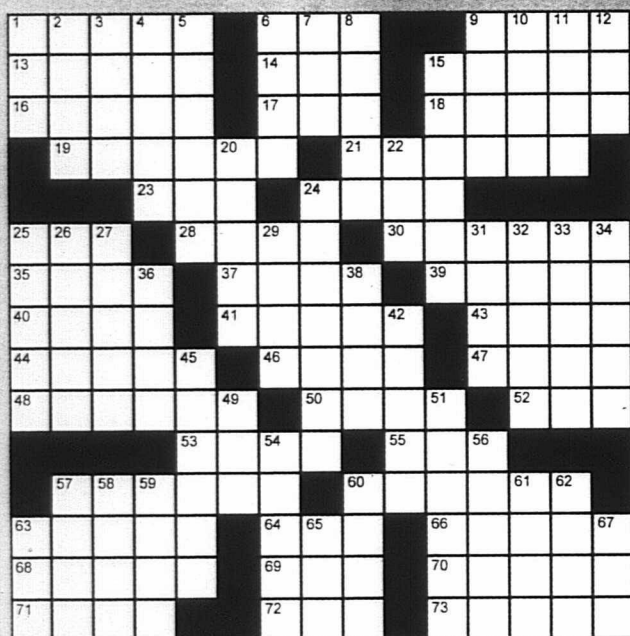
Growing up, my brother and I daily challenged each other to drawing contests, and being home schooled allowed us to venture outside in the morning with sketchbooks. I have been inspired by the interesting compositions, color schemes, and emotions in Andrew Wyeth's paintings. I enjoy the boldness of charcoal, though I've explored different mediums while studying at Houghton. My art enables me to study and value what God has designed and to share beauty, emotion, and truth with others, which I dream of doing with my art beyond college.

Atalie is sophomore art major.

Clockwise from left: Josiah, graphite; Ruby Crowned Kinglet, watercolor; Figures at Sunset, graphite



CROSSWORD: "The Internet"



ACROSS

1. Substitute for currency
6. Sound meant to scare
9. Third behind Bonds and Aaron
13. 1836 Texas battle
14. Romanian monetary unit
15. Knight's breastplate
16. Most famous Bolshevik?
17. Food morsel
18. Turns sharply
19. *Small application

DOWN

21. _____ toward or aimed at
23. Poetic even
24. Thunderstorm sight
25. Beaver's creation
28. "Never" without n
30. Distant
35. "Without further _____", pl.
37. Miners' bounty, pl.
39. Make happy
40. Domestic animal shelter
41. Writer Asimov

43. Russian governmental agency
44. One way to get to top
46. Trend-setting
47. Poor neighborhood
48. Declare as true
50. Unoffensive manner
52. "But I heard him exclaim, _____ he drove out of sight, Merry Christmas to all..."
53. Under this in court
55. One from Laos
57. Native American tradition
60. *It's often used in verb form
63. Pepsi and Coke
64. _____ of Aquarius
66. Relating to the ilium
68. Skirt shape
69. Overnight stop
70. Vigorous fight
71. *Way to be heard
72. Pecan, e.g.
73. Lock of hair

DOWN

1. Salt in Spanish
2. Ball of yarn
3. Raja's wife
4. Polyimide or carbodiimide, e.g.
5. Type of silk cloth
6. Pat dry
7. Poetic over
8. Money paid out
9. Samuel Adams, e.g.
10. "A Death in the Family" author,

Last week's sudoku winner was ANDREW WILLIAMS! Your gift card will be sent to your campus mail.

To win a free Java drink, bring your finished puzzle, clearly marked with your full name and CPO, to the Star office in the basement of the Campus Center.

- James _____
11. Charlie "_____ " Parker
12. It turns host into hostess
15. *Virtual you
20. Short stanza at end of poem
22. Toy-maker
24. Gamut
25. Capital of Bangladesh
26. Infamous Nazi
27. Paisley, e.g.
29. Gaelic
31. Directed, produced, written by Warren Beatty
32. Immature ovum
33. Longest human bone
34. *Express outrage
36. 18-wheeler
38. John Galsworthy's Forsyte story
42. _____-cross bicycling
45. *Surf
49. Communist Zedong
51. Tao follower
54. Writer Clemens' nom de plume
56. Watcher
57. Gallup's inquiry
58. Medley
59. Designer Vera
60. Belgian port
61. Low-cal
62. Grub
63. Metered ride
65. Wildebeest
67. Cosine