

Professor Jon Aronson
Book Release:
"Drinking in the Wind"

Merry Christmas from the Houghton Star

FIED:
Coming Up to Breathe
this Christmas Season

PG. 7

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

THE HOUGHTON STAR

Volume CVII Issue XII • Houghton, NY • December 10, 2010 • WWW.HOUGHTONSTAR.COM

'Tis the Season for Celebration

BY RENEE ROBERTS

In this second week of Advent, Houghton has fallen into the spirit of the season. At Monday's "Tree Lighting Chapel" President Mullen spoke about beauty coming in the midst of the strain of this past semester, especially in regard to last weekend's Prism performance. Mullen thanked the campus for extending hospitality to the Buffalo refugees who attended Prism and the after-party in the Campus Center. Her message then centered on hope, speaking to the fact that God comes in the messiness. She referenced "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and the line *the hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight*. Mullen reminded us that fear is no longer in charge, as Jesus came amidst the messiness to save us.

"This is the hope of Advent," she said.

After the message, it was time for the lighting of the tree. Mullen counted down, clicked her controller, and the tree came to life. After that, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and "While Shepherds Watched" were sung and then Dean Brittain and Symphonic Winds regaled the audience with a musical version of "Twas the Night Before Christmas,"

complete with a reference to the Sugar Plum Fairy Dance and the sound of Santa falling down the chimney. The end of chapel featured "Sleigh Ride," which

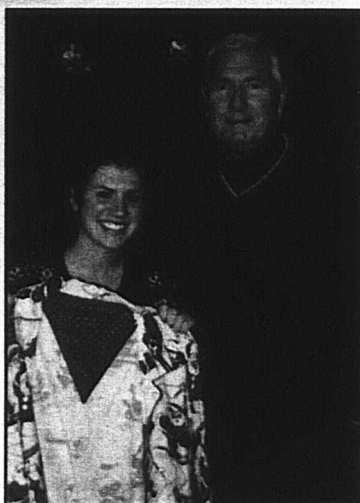


PHOTO BY DANIEL PEIXOTO

Mills tossed a nightgown to lucky student, Kristen Beck, junior.

has become a tradition at Houghton and a crowd-favorite.

On Tuesday, CAB hosted an "Ugly Christmas Sweater Party," which featured Mullen and Dr. Paul Mills

in matching Christmas pajamas and Santa hats. As fat white snowflakes fell peacefully outside and a brightly lit Christmas tree cast a warm glow, students sat transfixed as Mullen read *Great Joy* by Kate DiCamillo. With over 50 students in attendance, the President and First Gentleman sat near the crackling fire and talked about the stories that surround Christmas. As students volunteered their favorite holiday tales, freshman Luke Crawford commented on how much he loved that the President and First Gentleman had an active role in the lives of the students. It's true—not every school's president and husband would be willing to dress up in Santa hats and read a Christmas story to their students. Before she began, Mullen leaned in and said, "Children's Christmas stories are really for adults." With that, she settled back and started the tale of a little girl named Frances who helped an organ grinder and his monkey find joy at Christmas. With loving care, she gestured to the delicate pictures of the organ grinder's monkey and changed her voice to give each character his or

Christmas cont'd on page 3

Citizens to Rid Allegany County of Hydrofracking

BY OLIVIA BUTZ

The term hydrofracking, or fracking, is short for hydraulic fracturing, which is "a controversial form of natural gas drilling." Fracking has most recently and perhaps best been publicized by a series of documentaries on the subject, including *Gasland* 2010, and *Split Estate*, a documentary shown at Our Common Ground earlier this semester. Fracking operates by "shooting millions of gallons of water and a cocktail of extraction chemicals deep underground—on average, 8000 feet below the surface. The pressurized water and chemicals shake loose natural gas that is then captured and piped away." The drill is inserted vertically and shifted horizontally once underground, which allows gas companies to drill multiple wells from a single well pad.

The sand, water, and chemicals used in this process break up the rock underground. The crux of the controversy surrounding hydrofracking is the unwillingness of gas companies to disclose the chemicals used in the extraction process.

Concerned Citizens of Allegany County (CCAC) held a meeting this past Monday, Dec. 6, to work to further educate the community of Allegany County on the issue of hydrofracking before the statewide moratorium expires next May. This is the sixth organizational meeting that has happened thus far.

Tim Corrigan, board member of CCAC, argued that the gas companies should be required to disclose the chemicals they use so that they can be held accountable to environmental safety laws, giving the public faith in them. In 2005, the national Energy Policy Act exempted all gas drilling companies from the Safe Water Drinking Act of 1974 and permitted them not to reveal which chemicals in the extraction fluid are used in the fracking process.

Corrigan did agree that the allowance of hydrofracking would provide a short-term economic boom to the county, but that the toxic and cancer-causing agents used within the process would need to be eliminated before natural gas companies could begin to drill in the county. He noted that the natural gas supplies will one day run out, and that the U.S. needs to be working towards finding renewable sources of energy. He agreed that what

Hydrofracking cont'd on pg. 2

HDU Program Reinstated

BY KATHERINE BAKER

After a two-year hiatus, Houghton is now receiving applications for the newly revised off-campus program in Australia and New Zealand, called Houghton Down Under (HDU). According to the Houghton Web site, students participating in the program will "serve in the cities, hike in the bush and rainforest, swim in the South Pacific, and learn with local teachers—all amidst spectacular scenery, fantastic flora and fauna, and friendly people."

HDU had previously been located at Kingsley College's campus in Melbourne, Australia. When Kingsley College got rid of residence halls on campus, Houghton had to investigate other site options. There was some encouragement from the admissions department to bring HDU back because the program is attractive to prospective students.

Ron Mahurin, Academic Vice President and Dean of the College, said, "Research this past spring found that Australia was the second-most sought off-campus experience among a sample of our prospective students. National

statistics on where students go abroad also show very high interest in Australia and New Zealand." Another impetus to bring back the program was the interest of leaders of the Western Methodist Church in New Zealand and Australia in working with Houghton, as Dr. Paul Young, program director, explained.

Location is one of the main differences between the old and new programs. Previously, the program was located in the suburbs of Melbourne. The revised program is instead set in three distinct cities: Brisbane and Melbourne, Australia and Auckland, New Zealand.

"Roughly a month will be spent in each location, which will allow for a comparative study of three different cities and two different countries," Young said.

"We can understand our own culture better by understanding other cultures," Young explained.

John Rowley, who participated as a student in the previous HDU program, said, "Anytime you look at another culture you learn about your own and you learn about yourself." Rowley stated that often, studying other cultures and seeing their viewpoints makes students more open-minded.

Mahurin agreed, and said that

off-campus programs help students "develop a less dogmatic approach to life." Mahurin also stated that programs such as HDU help students to "acquire skills of relating [to] and working with people across cultural boundaries."

Aaron Routh, who was involved in revising the HDU program, said, "Increasing opportunities for students to study abroad follows Houghton's mission to prepare individuals to become globally connected."

Young also pointed out that off-campus programs provide "greater chance for God to touch your heart for mission work." Routh additionally said that, as more students attend off-campus programs, there is an "increased number of individuals who can come back and, based on their short but substantive experience, can become peer teachers. This can be even more valuable than students learning from faculty."

"I hope that by going to Australia I will receive insights into a culture that I am not familiar with and learn about my own culture in the process," said Sarah Jacoby, sophomore, who applied for the Fall 2011 semester abroad in Australia and New Zealand. ★

Engaging the World Civil War for Christmas?

BY JENS HIEBER

What does it mean to have a civil war in one's own country? We've all heard plenty about the American Civil War, but that's all history. War is a terrible thing; it is violence born of the fall of mankind. War among nations is one thing, and mostly these wars are centered on selfish motives or a misguided sense of nobility. In the past, wars have been fought with close neighbors, then with distant neighbors, and now they can be fought all the way across the globe. War in all of its forms is horrific, and yet I can't help but think that a civil war must somehow be far worse than any other form.

Over the past few years I've watched in disbelief as various countries around the world, especially in my home continent of Africa, have descended into civil war. Almost exactly three years ago, a presidential election in Kenya ignited the building racial tensions and led to almost a thousand people, estimates vary, being massacred. I watched in horror as a government rife with corruption crumbled and the democracy it so proudly proclaimed broke into bloody pieces. Even now, I watch the tensions building again in my former home country and fear what will happen in the next election

in two years.

More recently, I was forced to divert my outrage to Zimbabwe where a similar situation arose, with consequences monumentally worse than in Kenya. A ruthless dictator, desperate to cling to every shred of power he has held for about 30 years, has beaten a whole country onto its knees so as to keep anyone else from assuming his position. When Morgan Tsvangirai, now the Prime Minister, ran against him, he used the armed forces and police force to intimidate all the citizens not already on his payroll or demoralized enough to follow him. Tsvangirai was able to win the first round of elections, but withdrew, both from the election and from the country for a time after threats to his life. Hyperinflation of the Zimbabwean dollar rose to a rate of over 11 million percent per year, until even slashing zeros was no longer effective enough and trade in other currencies began to be encouraged. What would it be like to suddenly live in a country where violence was evident in our daily surroundings, all of our savings were worthless, and the economy couldn't even sustain a city, let alone a country?

In the last few weeks I've been oscillating between contained rage and concerned bafflement; now it's happening again. Let's all welcome the Ivory Coast to the civil war

club. Okay, so maybe it's not to that point yet, but since they just got out of one civil war in the past few years, this doesn't bode well. Another election, another president unwilling to give up his power, and another corrupt system that allows him to stay on his throne, sucking another African country dry. And I haven't even mentioned Somalia, Sudan, or any of the other wrecked African countries.

Why am I writing all of this? Perhaps I've gone on too long, but all of it comes down to a single question. Is there anything we can do about this? What can we, any of us, do when confronted with such mindless greed and violence? Thousands of miles away from where these atrocities are being committed, what are we to do? The sheer helplessness I feel in the face of the injustices occurring on my continent is almost overpowering.

As we near the end of our semester, let us remember those who are not surrounded by the same stability we take for granted. As we celebrate another year gone by, another snowy Christmas of presents and cookies, let us remember those less fortunate than us. Let us pray that the peace signified by Christ's coming will find its way to the blood-red soil of that lovely continent.

Hydrofracking cont'd from page 1

the CCAC was attempting to do was to offer a "counter-balance" to the "commercial spin" given on the subject in a depressed economy.

While hydrofracking sounds like a relatively safe mechanism and an efficient way to provide the U.S. with natural gas energy, it has in fact been documented as a significant health risk, contaminating groundwater 1000 feet below the earth's surface. The contamination of the groundwater, or the aquifer, is particularly significant for Allegany County given that local agriculture relies on this to irrigate their crops. The breaking up of the rock, along with the combination of chemicals used to break up the rock, releases methane, a natural gas, as well as a number of documented radioactive and carcinogenic substances discovered by independent labs. Not only is the health of the human residents potentially threatened by this practice, but also that of local ecosystems, in particular local streams and rivers and their flora and fauna.

Marcellus Shale, the rock from which the natural gas is extracted, extends from New York to West Virginia and contains Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Houghton, and Allegany County as whole rests upon some of this mineral's energy potential. There is around 1.9 trillion cubic feet of natural gas lurking beneath these surfaces.

The process of fracking requires a lease of rights by landowners to drill underground private properties. Gas companies often offer significant amounts of money, in the thousands of dollars, to landowners for this use. Currently, in New York, there is a one-year moratorium on leasing land for any such purpose. Corrigan commented that the state has been more pro-active on this issue than have many other states. This moratorium was passed on Aug. 15, 2010, and is scheduled to last until May 15, 2011.

There is concern, particularly, that the introduction of hydrofracking in the Catskills, which provides drinking water for New York City, could affect the health of nearly 10 million people. State senators have also introduced legislation that would put more stringent regulations on the practice, if allowed following the moratorium. New York's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as well as the national EPA, has pledged to look into the costs and benefits of the practice, under a "congressionally mandated hydraulic manufacturing study." This study is to be completed by the end of 2012.

On the federal level, the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act was proposed last year by Senator Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Senator Bob Casey (D-PA). It requests that hydraulic fracturing be once again made accountable to the Safe Water Drinking Act, and mandates the disclosure of chemicals used in fracking fluids, which have not heretofore been disclosed, being barred as trade secrets.

In Allegany County, the CCAC have banded together to prevent hydrofracking from becoming a reality in this county. The CCAC

The World OUT There

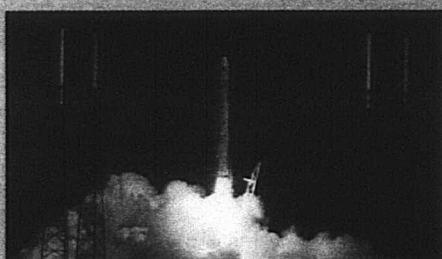
BY DEREK SCHWABE

Heavy Rain Shuts Down Panama Canal

Maritime traffic through the Panama Canal has been temporarily suspended due to record-high rainfall levels. The canal authority issued a statement this week, reporting the possibility of negative effects on shipping operations through the canal. This week marks the first time that the canal has been forced to close since the U.S. invaded Panama in 1989. The closure was somewhat sudden, leaving some vessels left waiting idly in the waterway. Officials reported their intentions to open floodgates to more quickly stabilize water levels. They expected that the canal would be able to resume its operations within hours. Over 14000 ships utilize the Panama Canal each year, representing five percent of international trade. The closure coincides with a recent weather trend in Central America of unusually high May-December rainy seasons.

Private Space Capsule Venture Successful

A private U.S. capsule that could soon be hauling cargo and even astronauts to the space station has successfully landed in the Atlantic Ocean after its test run. The landing represents recent U.S. initiatives to leave more space-related projects to the private sector. The Dragon Ship, as it has been called, was launched on a Falcon 9 rocket. Both the ship and rocket are products of SpaceX, a company, a California firm that has acquired a \$1.6 billion contract with NASA to provide 12 spacecraft for the purpose of resupplying the International Space Station (ISS) through 2016. Despite the success, SpaceX executive leadership cautioned the media, noting the unfinished tedious testing process that can routinely yield many more unexpected problems. Company President Gwynne Shotwell told reporters that "History would say that we're going to have a substantial issue in one of the first three flights. That's just empirical. It's nothing to do with our process or our hopes."



photos courtesy of www.indybay.org and www.mnn.com

Hydrofracking cont'd on page 3

Student EMTs Lend a Helping Hand

BY KRISTEN PALMER

When the siren behind Fancher Hall sounds, it is certain a few of the Houghton Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) are rushing to the scene, wherever and whatever it may be. Comprised of both community members and 11 active Houghton students, the group of EMTs is a strictly volunteer-based party.

According to Mary Jo Cronk, receptionist at the College's admission office and who has served as an EMT at the intermediate level for about 15 years, Houghton's student EMTs have set schedules. Those involved can expect to be on call during the regular semester, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, every other week, excluding breaks and finals weeks.

"It's set up with enough other people that the group of students can work together to decide who's available and when to take the calls," Cronk said.

In addition to that, EMTs are each on call 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. one night a week and one weekend a month. The members of the group never know for sure how often they will be called in, but according to Cronk, it is typically once or twice a week, and one run takes about three hours to complete.

Typical calls include calls to the nursing home, mutual aid to neighboring towns, and sometimes fires.



PHOTO BY DANIEL PEIXOTO

There are currently 11 active Houghton student EMTs from all ranges of majors.

"If there is a fire in our district, then the ambulance stands by," Cronk said. "We don't really have a lot of intense calls."

Houghton's student EMTs consist of sophomores, juniors, and seniors and come from a variety of majors.

"If everyone who joins is from the same major, they tend to have classes or exams at the same time, which leaves people unavailable at the same times," she said.

Students interested in becoming an EMT must fill out an application, which they can get online or from Seth Taylor, second assistant chief at the Houghton Volunteer Fire Department. They must submit the application and undergo an individual interview process with two members of the ambulance service. The students then must take a county-sponsored class, which is offered during the spring semester and Mayterm and that they must pass in order to become an official EMT who is New York State certified.

According to Cronk, becoming a Houghton EMT is beneficial, because it is a way to give back to the community. "It's a great way to connect with fellow students who might not be in your major discipline," she said. "It's a way to learn and build on a new skill, and it's a great life skill to have—to know what to do in an emergency situation."

Those interested can learn more at www.houghtonvfd.org.

Hydrofracking cont'd from page 2

first coalesced about 20 years ago and successfully prevented low-level nuclear waste from outside the county from being dumped within the county's landfills. Corrigan described the CCAC as a group of "regular, working-class people" who believe that citizens have the "right and duty to make their voices heard." They have sent information to local legislators on the subject and have also put up roadside signs to

publicize the issue in their immediate communities. Allowing hydrofracking in Allegany County would generate tax revenue and could potentially create jobs with the natural gas companies for local citizens. However, many want to suggest that the short term economic benefits afforded to the area are not worth the long term environmental affects, both ecological and aesthetic, to the county and to the Southern Tier region.

Sources: www.nydailynews.com ★

Christmas cont'd from page 1

her own unique personality.

At the end of the story, Mullen gave away her copy of *Great Joy* to the person with the longest last name in the audience; there happened to be a tie. While Jocelyn Matuszkiewicz won a copy of the book, Caroline Erker-Ferreira was lucky enough to be given Mullen's Christmas nightgown. Not to

President Zachary Adams. Second place was awarded to Victoria Wild, and the coveted first prize went to Aimee Bush. Adams said that the night was "another great CAB event to add to the Christmas season."

Josiah Proia, senior, said that he stopped by the story time to "take a break from his studies" and that "seeing Mills and Mullen is a plus, especially in their seasonal attire." For him, Christmas

Myers Resigns; Position Open

BY HANNAH JENNINGS

The resignation of Houghton's Executive Director of Public Relations, Sharon Myers, will take effect today. Myers was hired in June of 2009, and she will be completing her term of employment today, Dec. 10.

Citing private reasons for stepping down, Myers said that "I have truly loved working at Houghton and will miss the students, faculty, and staff tremendously. This is a wonderful Christian institution that I have been blessed to serve. I have simply made the decision to leave based on personal reasons—mainly owing to the distance I travel to get to Houghton and wanting to be closer to my family."

President Shirley Mullen praised the work Myers has done at Houghton and said, "The College is indebted to Sharon Myers for

laying the foundation for a new day in public relations at Houghton. She has led an effort to bring cohesion to our message, coordination of our various media, and a comprehensive strategy for telling the Houghton Story. In short, she has left a great platform on which her successor can build. We wish her the very best in her next position!"

The Public Relations Department opened as a branch within the school in 2009 when Myers was hired and provides a means of organizing a reliable and appealing message to prospective students, as well as a chance for hands-on experience for student interns in the business and communication departments. Myers had previously worked as Director of Communications at St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in Buffalo, and prior to that had held positions in Italy and the United Kingdom. As of Wednesday, her position is yet to be filled.



PHOTO BY DANIEL PEIXOTO

Mullen gave a copy of *Great Joy* to the person with the longest last name, Jocelyn Matuszkiewicz

be outdone, First Gentleman Paul Mills shed his own nightgown and threw it into the audience. The nightgown arced through the air and landed on junior Kristen Beck's lap.

CAB then rounded up everyone wearing an ugly sweater and judged each one accordingly. In fourth place, Courtney Spink stood proudly, while third place was achieved by SGA

brings a time to remember that "everything we've been given is a gift." Mullen commented that she has enjoyed reading through Isaiah every Advent season since college and uses an Advent calendar to mark the season. As the snow keeps falling, keep the Advent season in your mind, remembering as Proia said, that this season is a gift, as is everything we've been given. ★

Students Use Arts to Raise AIDS Awareness

BY CAMERON THIBAUT

In every region of the world, cases of HIV are popping up at an alarming rate. Diagnoses in the UK alone have tripled in the past 10 years, with about 14,000 new infections occurring daily worldwide. While many focus their attention on AIDS in rural Africa, it is estimated that 90% of new infections are happening in developing countries around the globe. With over 33.4 million people worldwide currently living with the HIV virus, countless organizations have banded together in attempt to fight this disease by equipping others with the knowledge, resources, and opportunities to make a difference.

World AIDS day, December 1, was instated to help raise awareness for this devastating epidemic. Houghton students, along with faculty members such as intercultural studies professor Ndunge Kiti, Ph.D., joined the battle by finding their own way to shed light on the suffering and bring hope to those in need through a series of events that took place on Wednesday and Thursday of last week.

It all began with Wednesday's Social Justice chapel, attended by a large crowd clad in red to show their support for the cause. In between musical interludes, students such as Tiffany Dukes and Joseph Chinn shared meaningful mission experiences and God's call to care for the hurting. Art majors Rachel Preville and Marc LeMaire, seniors, and Joyce Taylor, junior, were stationed at different points around the stage painting abstract and expressionist images of what AIDS meant to them. Preville's painting, which depicted two figures — one shrouded in red — huddled together and encapsulated by a moonlike crescent was displayed in the basement of the campus center as a reminder of the importance of supporting those who suffer from the HIV virus.

The following evening, a coffeehouse took place in which attendees had the opportunity to participate in various fundraising activities. The Java stage featured the musical styling of freshman Taylor Wilding, junior Danny Kim, and freshman Ben Murphy, accompanied by sophomores Nathan Cronk and Hannah Jennings and junior Devon Martin,

while various activities took place right outside the doors in the reddish hue of hanging lanterns. Artwork donated by students, including the paintings done in chapel the previous day, was available for purchase via a silent auction where pieces eventually sold for anywhere from \$20 to \$100 or more. Senior Sally Murphy, a volunteer running the booth in which students could exchange \$2 in order to have an AIDS day logo screen printed on to anything of their liking, states, "It was a lot more interactive than I expected it to be, and that's a really good thing." Other tables were set up for purchasing baked goods or to help one get an early start on their Christmas wrapping for just \$1.

Hundreds of dollars were raised throughout the events and by generous donations by students, staff, faculty, and community members alike. All funds are being sent to World Vision to be used for purchasing medication for those who can't afford it as well as for preventative education in regards to AIDS. "It was a really successful and enjoyable experience,"



PHOTO BY MIKI KANEKO

Amy Coon, freshman, contributed in many components of the World AIDS Day events, including assisting in screenprinting clothing.

according to freshman Amy Coon, who helped organize the coffeehouse along with students Andrea Pacheco and

Roxanne Kehr. "It was really cool to see people use their artistic talents to glorify God." ★



PHOTO BY MIKI KANEKO

From L-R, sophomore Nathan Cronk, freshman Ben Murphy, and juniors Danny Kim and Devon Martin perform for the AIDS Awareness coffeehouse.

Machleder Achieves "Unified Sound and Color"

BY HANNAH DUGGINS

In February the Houghton College Artist Series is hosting the Beijing Guitar Duo. This Monday night, however, several students chose not to wait to enjoy the beautiful sounds of guitar in chamber music at the Center for the Arts Recital Hall where Houghton College faculty Dr. Anton Machleder performed a faculty recital with two guest artists from the Rochester area.

An-Chi OuYang has played violin in the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra since 1997 and teaches violin lessons privately and at Hochstein School of Music in Rochester. Machleder and OuYang

opened the concert with a few movements of Astor Piazzolla's *Histoire du Tango*, a frequently performed work that explores the evolution of the tango from the early 20th century. Machleder then performed a selection of solo pieces which included a few of the well-loved preludes by Heitor Villa-Lobos, a Brazilian composer, and several variations from Mexican composer Manuel Ponce's *Theme and Variations on La Folia*. Machleder gave a brief historical introduction to the *La Folia* variations and prefaced the Ponce variations with an arrangement of the same theme by 17th century composer Gaspar Sanz. OuYang rejoined Machleder on stage to play an elegant 19th century Italian sonata for guitar and violin by Mauro Giuliani.

The evening's music concluded with a selection of three guitar duets played by Machleder and Eastman School of Music professor and widely-acclaimed guitarist Dr. Nicholas Goluses. The first two duets performed were written by Cuban composers. As a published scholar of Cuban guitar music, Machleder recently released a CD of Cuban guitar music and was featured on NPR for his Cuban guitar research. It was a special treat for audience members to experience these rarely performed pieces performed by Machleder and Goluses. The concert ended with a 19th century duet by one of the foremost guitar composers of the era, Fernando Sor. In contrast to the Cuban duets, Sor's duets are widely known by guitarists. Goluses

introduced *L'encouragement* as "one of Sor's four great duets." A beautiful example of Sor's compositional mastery, *L'encouragement* represents the 19th century guitar duet at its best.

Though only a small number of students attended Monday night's concert, the audience was enthusiastically attentive and responsive to the performers. A hearty applause was offered after each selection and students were delighted to converse with the performers after the concert finished. Graduates from a range of years who studied in Machleder's guitar studio

Recital Cont'd on p. 5

Faculty Book Review

A Way to Keep the Stories Flourishing

BY EMILY RINEHART

Professor Jon Arensen's memoir "Drinking the Wind: Memoirs of an African Odyssey" was released this week. Beginning with a story about elephants, a hyena, and an invincible roll of film that survived all odds – a story still told throughout East Africa – "Drinking the Wind" gives an intriguing look into Arensen's life growing up as the son of missionaries and eventually as a missionary himself.

From the beginning Arensen felt at home in the African bush, spending his days with the boys in the nearby Sukuma villages. As a young boy he tried coloring himself with charcoal in hopes that he would be accepted as a part of the Sukuma life. Life in the bush was hard work, gardening and hunting everything from guinea fowl to hippos, but the Arensen family flourished in their environment of adventure, heat, and ministry.

Arensen left Africa to attend college

in the U.S., then returned to Tanzania to work at his alma mater, Rift Valley Academy (RVA). It was there at RVA that Arensen met his wife, Barb, a native of Fredonia, NY. According to Arensen, his wife helped to proofread his manuscript. Though the memoir is primarily meant to portray Arensen's life as he remembers it, he was sure to include Barb Arensen's perspective of a hunting trip preceding their marriage where she ended up crouching beneath an angry rhino.

As mentioned in his memoir, Arensen's parents met Cam Townsend, founder of Wycliffe Bible Translators, before moving to Africa in 1946. This connection later allowed Professor and Mrs. Arensen to work in Sudan with Wycliffe taking language surveys and eventually living and working among the Merle people. "Drinking the Wind" concludes in a reflection on life with the vibrant and strong Merle, a people the Arensens not only ministered to in the name of Jesus, but also a people they befriended and grew with as

fellow Christians.

While on furlough, Arensen was asked to teach an anthropology class at Houghton and eventually started the spring semester trip to Tanzania that is now in its 14th session. Professor Arensen loves "having a foot in Africa," working full time for Houghton, but spending half of each year in his first home country.

The decision to write "Drinking the Wind" came, in part, as a reflection on his father's death. Arensen said that, though his father worked as an editor, he never recorded his experiences and "when he died his stories died with him." Arensen hopes "Drinking the Wind" will be a way to keep his own stories flourishing.

Arensen said that his favorite stories were a nighttime adventure that ended both hilariously and a little nauseatingly with he and his father covered in baboon waste, an uncomfortably applied polio shot, and the way his cork gun was thrown down the outhouse hole as "stories I can't

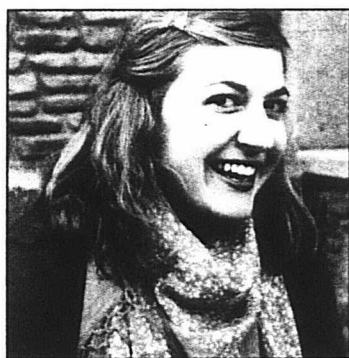
forget."

This memoir is the first of three books Arensen plans to release with Old Africa Books, a small publishing company that puts out a few books each year portraying "lives lived in Africa." The book features pen and ink drawings by Kendra Inglis, senior, who traveled to Tanzania with the Houghton program, as well as color photos.

"Drinking the Wind" documents exciting and relatable adventures Arensen said he hopes will appeal to a wide readership of not only evangelical Christians already acquainted with the idea of missions, but also secular readers. By telling the everyday stories of African life as well as missionary accomplishments, Arensen hopes to show the realistic 'human' aspect of missionary life and adventure; something everyone can connect with. "Drinking the Wind" truly shows his life and work in Sudan and Tanzania as "adventures with a purpose." ★

Thoughts from a Social Critic:

"I Love the '90s"... Really, We Do



BY ERIN CARR

I am a grandma. Actually, all of my friends are – in regards to technology, that is. There is, without exception, a point every one to two weeks when we divulge into deep conversation marveling at the differences between today's teens and our own high school experiences. That roughly four-year difference, we think, is profound.

But what could be so different? After all, ours is the first generation to grow up with the earliest forms of online communication and social networking – yes, IM, Xanga, MySpace. We *invented* texting in schools...spending our parents' money to text the friend sitting ten feet away in the same classroom, no less. Over the

past 20 years, we've seen the crossover from cassettes, to CDs, to iPods and digitally downloaded (and usually pirated) music. We have watched VHS fade in the light of DVDs and Blu-ray. As a child, my Dad told me that one day we would have a way to rewind and fast-forward not just tapes, but TV as well, and ten years later...TiVo. There you go. Done.

What we find most remarkable at the dinner table, however, is the fact that many of these have so quickly become obsolete. Facebook makes MySpace, Xanga and IM unnecessary (although one would think they could come up with a less absolutely frustrating chat system by now). Even YouTube has begun to replace MySpace as a source of music.

It seems to be a common enjoyment to share among one's peers: that your generation's collective knowledge and experiences are unique. Just as I've listened to my parents reminisce about songs on the radio and recall outmoded social conventions, so I no longer marvel at how young I am ("You graduated in 1990? I was born in 1990!") but rather, how much things have changed since I've become so old and remarkably wise ("Hey guys remember when people actually wore midrifts?")

No doubt, this is what gives VH1's "I Love the 70s/80s/90s New Millennium" show and the Beloit College Mindset List such widespread appeal. VH1's decade-driven show features novelty items and cultural happenings unique to each of the past four decades and commentary of comedic TV personalities. I most look forward to the '90s and 2000s series, as my experience of any earlier decade is nonexistent and therefore less satisfying. Likewise, the Mindset

List – a collection of elements that distinguish each incoming college class's year from previous generations, published annually since 1998 – is often more remarkable for those generations who are actually familiar with the events and experiences which today's youth has missed. For example, I find it hard to care too much about our foreign relations with Russia, but that fact that the Soviet Union, Cold War and threat of nuclear attack appear time and again on the Beloit list over the past 12 years clearly shows how noteworthy these items were – and are, now that they are no longer a big deal. And I don't think it's quite as interesting for me to hear that all of my classmates "have had a relative--or known about a friend's relative--who died comfortably at home with Hospice," or that "Roseanne Barr has never been invited to sing the National Anthem again" – I mean, I only heard about Roseanne's unpatriotic faux pas through "I Love the '90s" as it is.

However, I don't think high school sophomores would find their lack of exposure to quality Disney channel shows like "Even Stevens" (so far superior to "Hannah Montana") or their premature introduction to cell phones and Facebook quite as conversation worthy as do my friends. Why is it we have entered into such an early state of elderly behavior? Whether this disposition of hyper self-awareness is simply a component of my friends' personalities, or if it is inherent to our generation, in our experience of accelerated cultural shifts, it will continue to be a driving factor in personal and historical identity of anyone who takes the time to consider it. ★

Recital Cont'd from p. 4

enjoyed discussing the performance with Goluses and Machleder who shared tips on strings, guitar luthiers, and repertoire pieces with the students.

Laura Danneker, junior music education major with a concentration in saxophone, reflected on the concert, "I thoroughly enjoyed the variety in the recital and thought it a very tasteful mix of solo and duo works."

Like many Houghton students, Laura's exposure to chamber music with the guitar was limited. She commented, "Most of my previous experience consisted of hearing solo guitar so it was enlightening (and delightful) to hear collaboration between two guitars and between

the guitar and violin – the timbres of the guitar and violin particularly complimented each other."

The high caliber of artistry in each of the performers was apparent throughout the concert. Individually the performers all offered strong, dark tone, precise execution, and expert musicality, and as chamber musicians, Machleder and each of his partners were able to achieve unified sound and color. The variety of music performed provided something for everyone who attended.

A Contract of Faith: Faculty's Consent to Uniformity



BY MICAH WARF

The other day, out of sheer curiosity, I was examining Houghton's Faculty Handbook, a document that outlines the structure, governance, policies, procedures, and expectations of the Houghton College community. In the "Statement of Faith" section, I ran across an interesting bit of information that sparked a few engaging hours of study and exploration. Under a very general Christian creedal statement, there is this quiet little caveat that has more potential to shape the nature of Houghton College than perhaps any other aspect of its guidelines or practices: "...it should be noted that all faculty are expected to annually affirm their adherence to the Articles of Religion of the sponsoring denomination, The Wesleyan Church."

I had previously assumed that these "Articles" were something akin to an affirmation of the tenets of the Christian faith, but my enjoyable interlude of study uncovered something entirely different. Perhaps I was the only one unaware of this, but the "Articles" are a document that declaims, very specifically, the way that its adherents (in this case faculty members) are to think, behave, worship, live, use their resources, and engage in marriage and other relationships, both familial and romantic. And let me emphasize again that all faculty are expected to annually affirm

their adherence to this document. This isn't taken lightly – it's an integral part of what sorts of people are teaching us.

There are those (I, myself, depending on the day) who question whether we should, in fact, stock our classrooms with at least a few non-Christian professors, and in the

midst of some obvious benefits, there are also valid reasons why this may be a bad idea. But what surprised and discomfited me was that Houghton isn't content to simply hire Christians – instead, there is an exceptionally specific sort of Christian that is allowed to be a part of the Houghton teaching faculty.

Further on, the Handbook promises that "Houghton College will sustain a scholarly community of believers who confess the Lordship of Jesus and who actively seek

truth and recognize its foundation in Christ." The goal of this, according to the same source, is to "provide a challenging and stimulating environment which is also nurturing and supportive." The question that ran through my head upon juxtaposition of these statements was: "can this sort of challenging and nurturing environment – that is purportedly built within a faculty that actively seeks truth while professing a Christian faith – actually exist in light of unequivocal adherence by all concerned to the 'Articles of Religion'?"

I submit that it cannot, at least not nearly

to the extent claimed by Houghton's literature and its self-presentation. It would be entirely understandable for Houghton to expect adherence to a creedal statement of faith from its faculty members. Even further, it would be reasonable for that creedal statement of faith to include

specifics, which affect, in a general way, how the professed faith is articulated and understood in relation to the life of the Christian. But let me present a short list of the things that our professors are required to affirm: a specific Biblical canon, the viewing of homosexuality as a perversion and a sin, the free will of humanity, the possibility of total earthly sanctification, the viewing of communion as a

There is an exceptionally specific sort of Christian that is allowed to be a part of the Houghton teaching faculty

symbol only, a belief in an everlasting hell, the recognition that abstinence from alcohol is "more Biblical" than drinking in moderation, that spousal abuse is not an acceptable reason for divorce, that speaking in tongues is not to be tolerated, and that God is to be understood as specifically a male, and a father.

This, to me, removes the possibility of a "challenging and stimulating environment." It is simply a fact that the beliefs of our professors, no matter how seemingly insignificant, influence and shape the things that we are taught (or, as

is more often the case, not taught) in the classroom. For a challenging environment to be a reality, there must be challenging ideas and beliefs that are taken seriously by professors. To a great extent, it can be said that Houghton expects its faculty to all believe the same things. That is a very poor and immature reflection of God's kingdom, of the human experience, and of the students that are here to learn.

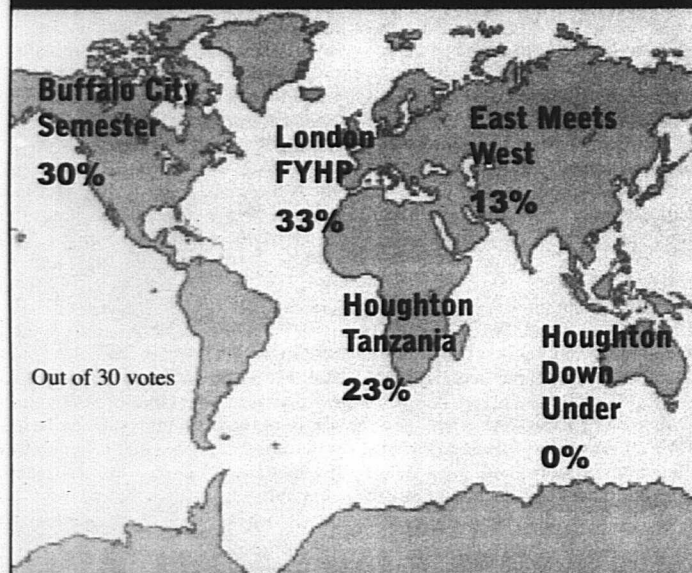
It also handicaps the possibility of a "nurturing and supportive" environment. It is ridiculous to think that a student with beliefs contrary to those stated in the "Articles" could be nurtured, or find a mentoring figure among the faculty, if every one of those professors was persuaded of a different mindset.

Perhaps this is not the way that Houghton actually is – I'd like to think that it's not. If it is a different sort of place, should not the central documents that govern and shape this community reflect its true nature? Another possible circumstance is that the faculty of Houghton are required only to affirm these beliefs by signature, but are free to personally deviate from them, which seems to me dishonest, and quite unbecoming to this college.

So, really, the only possibility that we are left with is that all faculty do, indeed, affirm the doctrines and teachings outlined in these documents, in all of their specificity, and we are being herded and funneled, rather than nurtured, challenged, and encouraged to actually embrace the diversity to which this campus is so ready to give lip service, but (apparently) unwilling to implement in their fundamental constitution.

Micah is a graduate student in the Greatbatch School of Music

Which off-campus program is or will be most beneficial to students?



Check out www.houghtonstar.com for the new poll question

Letters to the Editor

Send to

houghtonstar@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

Last week, Kyle Johnson wrote an article that emphasized the need to keep criticisms of Christianity in perspective. Kyle is correct because some of the criticism is based on misinformation or a smear campaign, as in the historical cases that Kyle mentioned. If Kyle says that we should leave open the possibility that there may be no way to explain Christianity without criticism, I say that this is a matter of reality. After all, many of the claims of Christianity appear no less fantastical than those of other religions as seen from outsiders. Whether or not criticism is based

on hysteria or legitimacy, we must describe ourselves as Christians, or else we give credence to misconceptions and misinformation as tools that we tolerate; furthermore, the world loses respect for us if we waver in making our identity clear. As a good friend told me, Christianity is a case of a loud minority ruining the image of the majority.

Kyle claimed that criticism from non-Christians is "...coming from those who have different...criteria," and that these presuppositions are "...necessarily going to lead to misunderstandings that can't really be reconciled." Although this is theologically accurate, it is otherwise ludicrous and unfounded. It is a non sequitur for good will between Christians and non-Christians. One could call this a leap of faith – in the wrong direction. When Christians meet non-Christians, they must assume that there is a common sense of morality, and that differences in narrow religious dogma do not have far-reaching consequences on this earth. One of the tests of the truth of any religion is its ability to work purposefully with those outside the religion with the goal of good. If Christianity could not do this, I would be an apostate because this would make religion life-destroying nonsense that is incorrigible. I am no

letters cont'd from page 6

philosopher, but I will say this: the nature of religion is such that it attempts to explain the non-rational – relative to science, it has insufficient evidence for its claims; hence the term faith. Religion is bound to be divisive not only because of its claims, but because it adds the conception of a supreme being. One reason Christianity is true is it has shown that Christians can purposefully work with non-Christians for a common cause.

—William Evans, Class of 2013

Dear Editor,

Last week when I read the article titled, "The Truth of Homosexuality: It's Not a Religious Issue," it brought up some intense feelings within me. As a student in Houghton, I have already encountered questions which pushed me to study my Bible more deeply as the Bereans did and, searched the scriptures daily, whether [Paul and Silas' teachings] were so. (Acts 17:11). In doing so, I find the basis by which the afore-mentioned article was founded to be wanting.

The Don't Ask Don't Tell policy is one that has been controversial, we all know this, but to say that the ones that want to keep this policy in action would have been the ones who would have opposed women's rights, emancipation, and desegregation is absurd. Women's rights, etc were for the freedom of certain classes of people who for no reason but for the color of their skin or their gender were put down. Homosexuality on the other hand is a conscious choice and whoever says to the contrary is deceiving themselves. The Bible clearly states in Genesis 1:27, "so God created man in his own image . . . male and female, created he them." That leads me to believe that God created two specific and different genders and since it states in Romans 1:27 "and likewise the men, leaving the natural use of the woman," I am further lead to believe that men and women were meant to "use" for lack of a better word, each other: not men using men, or women using women but the natural process of a man with a woman.

True, gluttony and drunkenness are sins, and I personally don't know where I stand in the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy, but I can tell you this with outright assurance: homosexuality is most certainly a religious issue (with obvious quotes from the Bible along with gluttony and drunkenness: Proverbs 23:21 and 20:1).

Mr. Hartline ended his article with, "Hopefully sometime soon, the Conservatives and Religious Right will realize that as in many other cases, they are on the wrong side of morality, the wrong side of reality and the wrong side of history." The wrong side of morality? I suppose then that God also is on the "wrong side of morality" because he led others to speak out against homosexuality which then would lead me to believe that homosexuality is in "reality" a religious issue.

—Nicole Pepe, Class of 2014

From the Editor's Desk

Coming Up to Breathe this Christmas Season



BY KRISTEN PALMER

I remember my reaction when my mom told me about my grandparents' plan for Christmas a few years back. They asked that each family pick a charity they could donate money to, in place of sending everyone presents. I thought my grandparents must be pretty delusional to think there were kids out there who needed anything more than I needed a new pair of Ugg boots.

Black Friday shoppers must suffer from the same bout of delusion I thought my grandparents had, because according to a report by the CNN Wire Staff, some of this year's were trampled as they rushed through the doors of Buffalo's Target. The report reads: "People at the front of their line were pushed to the floor when the doors opened. The commotion and screams drew additional store staff to sort the crowd out." Apparently the crowd was too much for shopper Keith Krantz, who fell to the ground after being thrust against a metal door. Krantz went to a local hospital (to find out he had a herniated

disc) but not until after he finished a day's worth of shopping, of course.

Target spokeswoman Jessica Carlson told CNN "The safety of our guests and team members is a top priority.... We take this incident very seriously. Target plans well in advance of Black Friday and employs numerous crowd management tactics to prevent incidents. We continually analyze and improve those plans, and will do so in this case, to help ensure a safe and enjoyable shopping

Since when
is safety a
concern when
it comes to
shopping?

experience." Since when is safety a concern when it comes to shopping?

Krantz remembered his thoughts when he was lying on the floor of the store: "I don't want to die here on the ground."

I don't want to die here on the ground? But am I any less pathetic? What about when I jumped in the car and heard the song "The Christmas Can-Can?" The song opens with: "Christmas, Christmas time is here/And Christmas songs you love to hear/Thoughts of

joy and hope and cheer/But mostly shopping, shopping, SHOPPING!" and is repeated obnoxiously throughout the rest of the song.

Those words rang in my head for the next two hours after I left the car. It reminded me of all the shopping I had to do. Then it reminded me of all the shopping my mom had to do, so I made my Christmas list that night. I even found myself online, shopping for Black Friday's leftover discounts, while five or six e-mails about Operation Christmas Child sat unread in my inbox.

When did the Christmas season become a time of greed? Or has it always been like this? It sounds cliché to say this is the time of year to focus on important things, but everyone can use a little reminder. 1 Timothy tells us that those who place importance on material things are destroyed and that "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs."

I have nothing against those who shop on Black Friday. I have something against those who trample someone to the ground (to the point of a herniated disc) on Black Friday and who think shopping, shopping, SHOPPING is the reason for the season.

Kristen is a junior English and Communication major

From Where I Stand

No Obnoxious Tourist Shops? No Thanks.



BY LAUREN KOSOSKI

It's no secret that Houghton has never pretended to be any sort of metropolis. Traveling to a significant store or town requires you to set aside a considerable chunk of time, and, frankly, it can be quite frustrating and inconvenient. While there are advantages to our hidden placement in Western New York, our location also imposes limits upon us, prevents us from experiences that we would otherwise have if we attended a college in or near a city.

Members of Houghton have done a respectable job recognizing these limitations, I think. This is proven by the abundance of off-campus

opportunities provided by the college. Possibilities flourish to visit dozens of cities and countries around the world, and anyone who has participated in these programs would most likely rave about the benefits and life experiences offered. One of the most recent off-campus attempts, however, has not found such success. At least, not for the moment.

Next Spring was supposed to be the pioneer run of City Semester, a program in which about fifteen students live in Buffalo for the entire semester while taking classes and participating in an internship in their chosen field. Despite significant efforts to advertise and spread the word, this program will not be happening next spring.

For what reason will Houghton students flock to off-campus programs in London, Australia, the Balkans, or Tanzania, but avoid a potentially remarkable semester in Buffalo? The initial answer seems almost foolishly obvious: Buffalo, of course, does not sound as glamorous as any of the other places mentioned. But in this evident truth, there lies a more unsettling fact: many Houghton students are afraid of cities like Buffalo.

We have romanticized cities like London. For many, thoughts of sophistication and old-time elegance dominate our conceptions of the city, and so we see traveling to such a place as an adventure, a time for growth and enlightenment. In comparison, Buffalo seems like nothing but a bunch of abandoned buildings and blue-collar monotony. It is seen not as a place in which to be enlightened, but rather as a place to improve, renovate, survive. An unassuming city like Buffalo embodies the notion that cities themselves are the breeding grounds and meeting places for all that is unseemly and sinful in society. And so, we who have picked a college on a hill surrounded by idyllic and wholesome simplicity often choose to avoid the less glorious aspects of civilization. Buffalo has no famed clock towers or red buses to distract us from the more crude but honest personality of the city, so why even bother spending time there?

Lauren is a junior English and Writing major

MIKI KANEKO

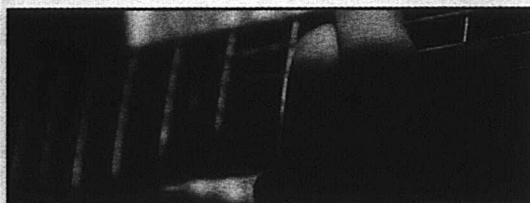
ARTIST of the WEEK



Hidden Self, photo



No Words, photo



One Chord, photo

A note from the artist: People inspire me from the way they express themselves, and present themselves to their different styles, features, and passions. This inspiration has developed within me a great appreciation for portrait photography. Caitlin Worthington photography stimulates my artistic intuition and captivates my attention for hours. She has inspired me to push boundaries, take risks and experiment in my photography. I want to provoke my audience to question themselves on how they view people as well as themselves. I want my photos to take my observers intellectually deeper than the superficial surface by leaving them questioning not only the photo but their perspective on reality.

CROSSWORD: 20th Century Trivia

ACROSS

1. Beat, as in the Joneses
6. Airline purchased by American
9. Whirlpool
13. Better than good
14. Harry Potter's pet
15. Hindu woman's dress
16. Respond
17. *Subject of 1970s embargo
18. ____-la
19. *Vanished aviatrix
21. Red plus yellow
23. Feeling of veneration
24. Short for "and elsewhere" or "and others"
25. *The widest net ever cast?
28. A son of Adam and Eve
30. Some claim it is everything
35. Sailor's call
37. Looked at
39. Opposite the pinnacle
40. Actress Campbell
41. Humpy ungulate
43. Hokkaido language
44. "The American ____"
46. Rig
47. *Landing spot
48. Metal detector, e.g.
50. Not any
52. *Used in German artillery shells in WWI
53. Cashier's call
55. African migrator
57. Deprive of food
60. *Conflict without active fire
64. Unusual collectible
65. *Dolly's cry
67. Love intensely
68. Lion group
69. Chicken's successor or predecessor
70. The smallest dwarf planet

DOWN

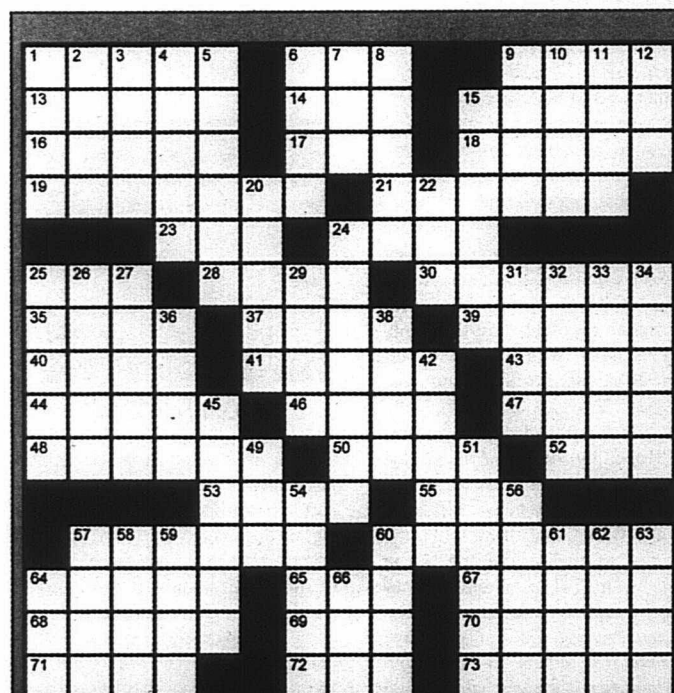
71. Fuss
72. "To His ____ Mistress," poem
73. German surrealist Max
1. Made popular by "Shrek"
2. Carbamide
3. Salty drop
4. Medvedev's country house, e.g.
5. Capital of Canada
6. Thomas the Engine's warning
7. *1914-1918 event
8. Administer
9. Bring home the bacon
10. *Transvestite clothing
11. Mark for omission
12. Uh-huh
15. *Advocate of Great Purge
20. Three-stringed violin
22. *Sinatra's pack
24. Just one on Mendeleev's table
25. Harry's and Hermione's magic tools
26. One of journalism's Ws
27. Like a basket
29. Unfledged hawk
31. "Yes, ____!"
32. Dostoevsky's "The ____"
33. ____ de l'Enclos, French poet and courtesan
34. Straining sound
36. #12 Down, pl.
38. Visual presentation
42. Jargon
45. *Candle in the wind?
49. One time around
51. Twist together
54. Three-masted merchant vessel
56. Dairy gland

57. Voiceless consonant

58. *The Three Tenors
59. *Blood disease
60. Cautious and wary, alt. spelling
61. Damaged by long use
62. Greek god of war

63. R in RIP

64. Tax helper
66. Gone by



Prize: *Larry Jones and the Joneses* album
 Bring your finished crossword to the
 Starline