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the houghton STAR

Houghton College's Student Newspaper Since 1909

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So Far, Houghton Flu is Moderately Severe

ANNELISE HEIN

Since September 2012, 29 children have died from the flu, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The elderly have also been hit hard by the flu this season. This year's strand is H3N2, the same influenza strand that circulated in the 2003-2004 season, which was a moderately severe season.

Dr. David Brubaker, Houghton's College Health Physician, said, "According to the most recent CDC surveillance information, this year's flu season is significantly more active/intense than last year's, but not necessarily unusually so." Outpatient surveillance data indicates that this year's flu is about as severe as other moderately severe seasons such as 2003-04 and 2007-08.

However, as reported by CNN, CDC Director Thomas Frieden said that this flu season is "a worse than average season, and it's a bad season particularly for the elderly."

Brubaker said, "Flu seasons are notoriously unpredictable, and I think it's likely that we'll see influenza around for the next several months." The flu season typically lasts about twelve weeks, so the United States is likely about halfway through the season.

At Houghton, Dr. Robert Pool, Vice President for Student Life, said, "At the moment, levels of reported flu or flu-like illnesses at Houghton are at or below levels expected for this time of year." Thus, students should follow standard measures and visit the Health Center if they exhibit flu-like symptoms.

Students who do contract the flu should also be aware that they can get take-out meals from the cafeteria, but they need to present a note from the Health Center when picking up their meal. As far as missing classes, Dr. Pool said, "The Health Center will also only verify to professors or others that absences were due to sickness if the student visits the Health Center during the time they are missing classes."

If Houghton experiences a sudden spike or an outbreak, the Health Center will use the same protocols they implemented during the H1N1 outbreak in 2009-10, which included triaging the high number of affected students, carefully monitoring students, and providing alternate housing for those affected.

Brubaker said the Health Center staff always has a heightened awareness during flu season, and "Staff are

See HOUGHTON FLU page 3

Climate Survey Takes Campus Temperature for Diversity Audit

KATIE ADAMETZ

With the Campus Climate Survey, issued this week by the Diversity Audit Committee, Houghton College has begun to "take the temperature" of the students, faculty, and staff on campus regarding topics of ethnic, racial, sexual, gender, and disability-based diversity.

Professor Inti Martínez-Alemán explained from where the need for a Diversity Audit came. In 2009 an incident occurred during a chapel celebrating Black History Month. Two students, one dressed as a gorilla and another in a banana costume, ran through the aisles. Professor Martínez-Alemán cited this event as a key piece of evidence in Houghton's administration's realization that diversity, and the way students perceive it, might be an important issue to address on campus.

Later in 2009, a few professors and college administrators attended a conference in Vermont which dealt with diversity topics on college campuses. Documents concerning the then-current state of diversity on Houghton's campus and goals for where the discussion on diversity and the implementation of policies encouraging diversity should have gone in the coming years. According to Professor Martínez-Alemán, this document and its ideas were not explicitly implemented in any way. The Diversity Audit is ultimate result of earlier attempts to analyze Houghton in light of ethnic, racial, sexual, gender, and disability topics.

Once the results of the survey are compiled, the Committee plans to analyze the results and then create focus groups based on these results. This April, Jane Higa, current Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students at Westmont College, will be coming to Houghton to look at the Committee's and focus groups' findings and to help draft a final document to present to the Board of Trustees and Administration of the college.

Professor Martínez-Alemán said "[we] have this idea of an average Houghton student: white, female, and 18-22 years old. Anyone that does not fit that description [, on our campus,] is diverse." And so the Diversity Audit's purpose is to take a look at why Houghton is most attractive to young, white females and to discover how, once students enroll and spend time at Houghton, the college shapes their thinking about themselves and people from different ethnic and racial backgrounds, for example.

Dennis Stack, Houghton's Dean of



Students receive their soup and bread as part of Praxis' events.

ANDREA PACHECC

Students, emphasized this purpose as primary to the committee. The Diversity Audit, and particularly the Campus Climate Survey is not at all meant to target any one group or make individuals feel guilty for thinking or feeling a certain way about others. Stack described the survey as a "safe, risk free, and comfortable" way for people to share their honest feelings about people different from themselves.

"We really want to know, or it would be really great to know, what lens everybody is looking at life through," said Stack. And he followed by saying, "it would be of course ideal for everyone to see through the same lens, and for that lens to be the same one Jesus sees through."

In order to get an accurate idea of the campus climate as related to issues of diversity, the Committee hopes for people to be willing to participate. Stack said, "we want everyone to take [the survey] because we want everybody represented." The number of responses to the survey has already surpassed Stack's original expectation, and he is hopeful that the rest of campus will take the initiative and contribute.

Ellen Musulin, a sophomore, is one of the students who chose to participate in the Campus Climate Survey. After completing the survey, she said, "It made me think, and took longer than I expected." Musulin also related the relevance and merit of the survey; she said "I think the survey will help begin the process of looking at the topic of diversity; If this is truly an issue, then the college should really continue talking to students, faculty, and staff."

President Mullen is also involved

See CLIMATE SURVEY page 3

Praxis 2013: Hunger, Poverty, and the Christian Walk

JORY KAUFFMAN

Praxis, defined on the Houghton College website as "a reflection aimed toward action," spanned the week of January 20-25th and reflected on the topic "Feasting and Fasting" through various events, chapels, and workshops.

This spring's Praxis week featured Houghton professors Michael Jordan and Sarah Derck, as well as Duke Divinity School's Norman Wirzba and the global executive officer of Food for the Hungry, Luis Noda.

Sarah Derck, professor of Old Testament, commenced the week's events in Monday's chapel, where she explored the topic "Food in the Old Testament," and introduced ways for Christians to relate to seemingly outdated Biblical tradition. Derck explained that while considering this topic, she fittingly prefers to start at the beginning, with the original sin. In introducing her lecture, Derck said, "Americans have a love/hate relationship with our food." She went on to voice her hope that we might recover strength in such a relationship.

After Derck's lecture, Sodexo challenged students to exchange one cafeteria meal for a simpler dinner of bread and soup. Participation in this

See PRAXIS 2013 page 5

POLITICS / ANOTHER INAUGURATION, A NEW TERM



LUKE LAUER

BILL CLUNN

On Sunday, January 20th and Monday, January 21st, President Barack Hussein Obama President Obama repeated the presidential oath of office as Chief Justice Roberts dictated it in order to be inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States. For the second time in his life, Barack Obama said, "I Barack Hussein Obama do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States. So help me God."

Americans watching closely may have noticed something curious in the scene. The president took his oath with his left hand on not only one, but two books held by the First Lady. But what were these two books and what, if anything, do they tell us about the President's goals in his next term? The bottom book was the personal Bible of the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The top book was Abraham Lincoln's Bible that he read during his presidency, and the same Bible used in Lincoln's own swearing-in ceremony.

In his inaugural address, the Pres-

ident stated that, during his next term, he wants to wrestle with issues including gun violence, immigration reform, the federal deficit, minimum wage stagnation, education reform, tax codes, equality for members of the LGBTQ community, and other pressing topics. But much of the political discourse of those outside of Washington recently and during the past election has centered on a word that might seem strange to many of those outside of the political arena. It is not the word fiscal, Republican, or Democrat on which followers of the nation's politics are focusing, but the word bipartisanship.

According to *Webster's Dictionary*, the adjective 'bipartisan' means "representing, characterized by, or including members from two parties or factions." If you watch the news closely, you might believe that nothing gets done in D.C. because members of Congress will not work across 'the aisle,' meaning they will not work with members of the opposite party on principle because of a differing ideology regarding dozens of topics ranging from abortion to healthcare.

In fact, much of the job of government is outside of these debates. Relief for those suffering from the damage on the East Coast left by Hurricane Sandy, the Department of Agriculture's free or reduced lunch program, and countless more governmental programs, bills, and actions will not be as fiercely debated as other more 'political' issues. We know that the president may attempt to initiate legislation in Congress, but in the end it is Congress who passes laws.

Without cooperation from the majority Republican House of Representatives, the President stands little chance of getting bills similar to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) through both houses of Congress. However, for Republicans to keep their seats in the House and gain more in the Senate, and to even consider winning the presidency in 2016, they must appear productive to voters. Therefore, they will

have to cooperate with the President, who has the constitutional authority to veto any legislation brought to his desk.

As you know, the classical American system of government has three branches (Judicial, Executive, and Legislative), each checking the others. The President has no reelection with which to be concerned, as he has just begun his second term, and, therefore, could theoretically propose any legislation he feels necessary through his fellow party members in Congress without political backlash from the voter. Very few people actually know the mind of the President; fewer know the soul of the President. To guess what President Obama might achieve or attempt to achieve in his last term is not only an interesting thought experiment, but also one that's observable data will only be revealed with the passage of time.

Americans will wait and hope that their confidence in all levels of government will increase. According to the White House webpage, the theme for the President's inauguration was "Faith in America's Future." The rising deficit, old and irrelevant immigration laws that

grow more so every day, and the economy's appearing stagnant for the next four years could all have a profound effect on American public policy for the next few decades.

Our generation of Americans, whose confidence in government is at the breaking point and has been during their formative college years, desire the renewal of their nation. The next few years will show them if their hope in change has been in vain. If the president, who said he, "Took an oath to God and country, not party and faction," collaborates with Republicans in the House, then a nation divided on party lines and issues might unify and ultimately strengthen itself to face what Republicans and Democrats would agree is a future requiring strong leadership and resolve.

And so what do the two Bible's mean? What is one thing that the Reverend Dr. King and former President Lincoln have in common? A desire to unify this nation to face the challenges ahead, and, as the president said, "To set the country's course."



Preparations for Inaugural Day.

BILL CLUNN

December Graduates "Live with Courage"

KATIE ADAMETZ

Graduation from college, for some students, happens in the middle of the academic year. Just one month ago, Houghton sent another group of students, 42 to be exact, into the world.

For some, this slightly unconventional graduation was a semester early, and for others, it was a semester late. For various reasons, students are finding ways to finish their college career in between semesters, and a consistent number, between 40 and 45, have been taking advantage of this option at least the past 60 years at Houghton College.

Megan Velardo, a December 2012 graduate from Houghton with a degree in Communication and minors in Equestrian Studies and Business, has possibly the most obvious reason for graduating early. Megan said, "I'm graduating early because Houghton is very expensive; it just worked credit wise, and I transferred in a lot of credits, so I didn't have to stay."

The new Dean of Students, Dr. Linda Mill-Woolsey affirmed Velardo's reasoning and, said "In recent years, more students have come to college with a goal of graduating early in order to save on the costs of a college education."

Not all students that transfer in a lot of credits from their high school years, such

as Velardo, are assured an early graduation. Mrs. Margery Avery, Director of Academic Records, explained that some students make the choice to stay longer, even when they could complete their education earlier. She said, "Many more students are also bringing more credit to college with them when they leave HS [than in earlier years]. But that doesn't always mean they graduate in less than 4 years, though. Some of them do, but many stay for all 8 semesters and earn 140 - 170 hours and several majors and minors while obtaining the courses they feel they need as pre-reqs for grad school."

Not all December graduates are getting out of school early, though. Some need to spend a ninth semester in school, and so December graduation also includes those who have been at Houghton longer than the average student. Dean Mill-Woolsey also explained the probable situation for these students. She said, "For those students who are graduating after more than four years, changing majors late in the game can be a factor. Some students get off the May graduation track by stopping out for a semester, so they are here for eight semesters but have spread them out over nine or more semesters." Others graduate a semester

late because of taking off a semester for personal issues, to help out at home, or work.

At the December Graduates Reception, held on Wednesday, December 12, several administrators expressed their desire that all of Houghton's graduates know they are welcome back any time, and that the services of the career counseling center and other offices are always there to help Houghton's graduates get a good start in the world.

Dean Mills-Woolsey said, at the reception "As we celebrate the achievements of our December graduates, we are conscious that they are entering a troubled and competitive world. We are confident that the skills and understanding that they've gained during their time at Houghton will stand them in good stead. We are also confident that they will make a contribution to their communities and workplaces, because the world needs people with the sort of education that encourages them to think critically and creatively, see current challenges in their historical and cultural contexts, communicate well with others, and live with courage." ★



Graduates at the December 12th Reception.

HOUGHTON.EDU

Setbacks Strain Allegany Harvest Co-op

EMILY MORROW

The Allegany Harvest Cooperative Market has suffered many setbacks since its opening in September of 2012. Since then there has been a lot of damage to the equipment and property including water ruining the floor, mold growing in the damp areas, and the cooler failing. The Co-op not only lost revenue on days it had to be closed, but also had to pay for damage costs.

Miranda Hunter, manager of the Co-op said, "we have felt like we have careened from disaster to disaster, most of which were completely beyond our control."

The first of these many catastrophes occurred during the summer; the cooler leaked causing the floor to heave up. One month later, rippling was noticed in the newly installed floor as well as buckling in the floor near the bathroom due to water leaking out of a pipe. While

the pipe recieved repairs, mold was found in the damp area, which required immediate measures. A barrier was constructed around the damaged area, and all of the bulk food in the main store area had to be thrown away, resulting in significant financial loss.

"A lot of issues around the building itself have at times made us feel a little bit jinxed," said Peter Meildaender, vice president of the board of directors of the Co-op.

Yet another disaster occurred when Hunter found the cooler malfunctioning. After calling forty-one different repairmen, she was finally able to find someone to fix the problem. However, after the man fixed the cooler, he left the temperature on too low, which caused the glass milk bottles to explode in the cooler.

After Hunter posted a message on

Facebook about the incident, community members quickly responded and about twenty-five people showed up to help her clean up the frozen milk, orange juice, and shards of glass.

In addition to the structural concerns, there have also been challenges for the Co-op relating to the lack of sales. Though sales have been steadily increasing since September, "they are not at the level yet to keep [the Co-op] financially viable," said Meildaender.

Focus groups have been organized to introduce new, different products. Because the majority of the stock is organic and local, some of it can be rather expensive for many community members and students. "We are trying

to bring more conventional items into the mix, [and] I hope that a lot of things we are bringing in now will be more appealing to those on a student budget" said Meildaender.

When asked about the future plans for the Co-op, Dr. Sunshine Sullivan, president of the board of directions of the Co-op said, "I believe that it is with these local farmers and businesses that we partner with that the Co-op has the greatest potential for providing new local resources for both consumer and producer."

Despite all of the difficulties, Hunter said, "Instead of feeling miserable, I came out feeling embraced." ★

CLIMATE SURVEY *continued from page 1*

with the Diversity Audit. In response to a question that came up in the SGA student forum concerning the purpose of the Campus Climate Survey and the Diversity Audit, President Mullen said, "The Audit really should have happened three years ago." And now that the Diversity Committee has been reformulated, with the President's input, she is encouraging students to "participate thoughtfully."

President Mullen also echoed and expanded upon the sentiments of Dennis Stack. She said, "we need to figure out a little more fully what it means to have a theology [in the realm of diversity] that is as rich and deep as the king-

dom of God."

In conclusion to the SGA Senate, President Mullen admitted that the process of a hard look at the college in light of diversity will not necessarily be easy. She concluded her short address of the topic by saying "if we are going to go through with this, it is going to require some tough discussions, and I am committed to having those discussions." ★



PRAXIS 2013 *continued from page 1*

event not only encouraged students to discipline their bodies through eating less, but also allowed them to better the community: Sodexo will donate the cost of each forfeited dinner to a local food pantry.

Other related activities and discussions included a workshop on how to create and maintain a window garden, a panel discussion considering various subcategories of vegetarianism, and a campus-wide potluck, followed by communion, held Thursday evening as a conclusive event to the week's reflection.

Tuesday's workshops included a lecture presented by Mike Walters, Professor of Christian Ministries, examining "Feasting and Fasting as Spiritual Disciplines." The lecture explored aspects of feasting and fasting such as choosing to limit food intake in order to move closer to God, and how not doing so potentially leads away from His will.

Also held on Tuesday were two panel discussions: one on vegetarianism and another concerned with informing attendees about members in the community currently producing food.

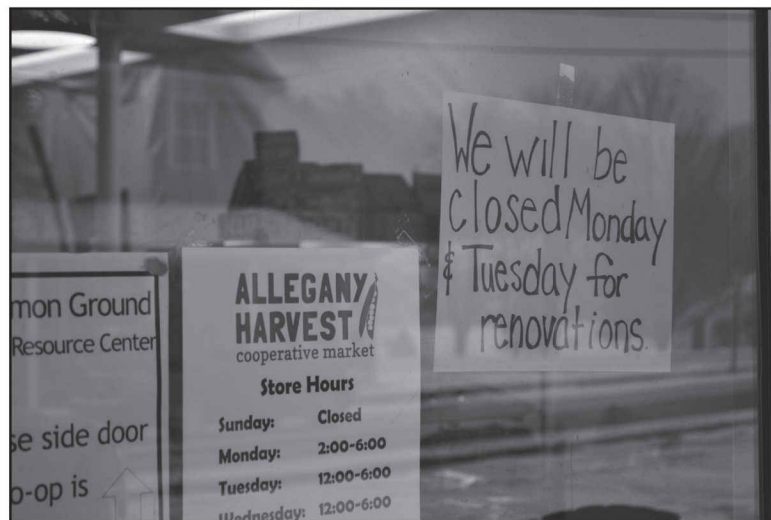
Luis Noda led Wednesday's chapel lecture on "Food and Social Justice," focusing on the indisputable lack of food in the world today. As part of the organization Food for the Hungry, Noda is understandably interested in this lack of food and how it relates to the presence of hunger.

In a description concerning the topic of his lecture, Noda wrote, "Psalm 146 mentions how the Lord gives food to the hungry, as well as how he responds to other social justice issues. Chronic hunger and malnourishment is intimately linked to the lack of social justice from the Biblical point of view and interrelated to poverty." Noda discussed ways in which Christians should react to such an injustice.

Thursday offered a variety of workshops and discussions including Michael Jordan's lecture exploring "Feasting and Fasting Through the Christian Year." Jordan said, concerning both his lecture and Praxis as a whole, "I hope it will help students to develop a closer connection to the source of their food." He encouraged those who listened to learn from traditional feasts and fasts of the Christian year, as they often create paths for spiritual growth.

Norman Wirzba's Friday lecture on "Eating as a Christian Act" signified a final conclusion to the week's reflection. Wirzba said, "My focus for the talk [was] on what it looks like for Christians to think about food as a gift from God, rather than a commodity, like so much of our industrial food system wants us to think."

Concerning the spring Praxis, Michael Jordan said, "Through feasting and fasting, we are disciplining our bodies. We need to be more content to do that." ★



Closed for renovations signs in the window of the Co-op.

ANDREA PACHECO

HOUGHTON FLU *continued from page 1*

prepared to evaluate and support students who come to the health center with flu-like symptoms."

The College has taken preventative measures, which includes the flu vaccine clinic held on October 29. Other preventative actions have included email and Facebook messages encouraging students with flu-like symptoms to remain at home until fever-free for 24 hours, as well as posting flyers around campus to remind students to observe the CDC health safety tips.

Despite these measures, student awareness of the flu seems to be rather low, according to Ben Hardy, Vice President of the student body. He suggested that student awareness may be low because, "We're all young and healthy, so we're not in the demographic most af-

ected by the flu."

Because influenza spreads easily, the most effective preventative method is the immunization, which seems to be 60% effective this year. Brubaker said that while the flu shot does not offer perfect protection, it does prevent contraction of the flu and diminishes the flu's severity in immunized individuals.

It is not too late to get the flu shot, but it takes about two weeks for the immunization to be effective, so individuals wishing to obtain the immunization should act as quickly as possible. Flu vaccines are currently available at the Fillmore Pharmacy, the Rite Aid in Cuba, pharmacies in such stores as Walmart or Wegmans, and the Allegany County Department of Health. ★

Want to write for the Houghton Star?

Send an e-mail to:
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Personal Records in Indoor Track

LAUREL WROBLICKY

Though the rest of the campus may be, the track and field team is undeterred by the cold temperatures and the snow, training hard for their indoor season. With three meets already completed, the men and women will continue to compete until their season ends in May.

Coming off of Christmas break, the Highlanders had one practice before competing in their second meet. Many of the athletes set personal records and qualified for National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Nationals at the RIT Invitational on January 12. The women's 4x200 placed second, running the event in 1:55.07.

Junior Alyssa Figueroa qualified for NCCAA Nationals and broke two school records, running 60 meters in 8.08 seconds and jumping 11.35 meters in the triple jump.

Head track and field coach Matthew Dougherty said, "With Alyssa Figueroa, Sarah Munkittrick, Savannah Doviak, and Mary Strand as sprinters, Leah Williams and Annelise Hein running long distance, and Andrea Melhorn adding good depth on the field, we have a good group of returners this year."

While all events in track and field are performed individually, aside from relays, the team still plays a significant role. The

teammates encourage one another at practices and competitions to persevere through mental and physical exhaustion.

"The track team is really unique in a way that as a whole team we only practice together once a week, during meets is when we get to spend time together," junior captain Sarah Munkittrick said. "We all want everyone to do their best."

The team competed again this past weekend at the SPIRE North Coast Indoor Track and Field Open hosted in Columbus, Ohio. More personal records were broken as the athletes had a week more of training.

Sophomores Andrea Melhorn and Mary Strand both qualified for Nationals. Melhorn qualified for the hammer throw with a mark of 11.99 meters. Strand ran 200 meters in 27.06 seconds. The Highlanders ran the women's 4x400 meter relay in 4:15.28, Strand anchoring with a split of 59 seconds. Dougherty also highlighted senior captain Andrew McGinnis' time of 24.35 seconds in the 200 meter race.

"I think [the season] is going well. We have a bunch of new guys and girls coming in," sophomore captain Austin Groff said. "We had about 48% personal records broken for girls in the last meet and a high percentage for the guys as

See **TRACK** on page 5



Indoor track race at RIT Invitational

Downton Season 3 Disappointment

RENEE ROBERTS

So, cult-favorite *Downton Abbey* is back for its third season, and once again American audiences can sit back and watch in gross fascination as the drama unfolds in 1921 England.

Seasons one and two brought a myriad of tragedy as the Crawley family lost an heir with the sinking of the Titanic, found an heir through a distant male cousin, struggled through a family scandal concerning the honor of eldest daughter Mary, lost another natural heir through an unfortunate miscarriage for Cora, not to mention the trauma of World War I, and the emotional turmoil of the love-triangle between Mary, Matthew, and Lavinia.

The first two seasons were fairly believable and quite enjoyable with the exception of the unlikely resurrection of a soldier who claimed to be Patrick, the lost heir from the Titanic sinking in the first episode of the first season. But, three

episodes into this season I am already growing restless and lacking a certain sense of fulfillment.

The constant bickering between Matthew and Mary is tiresome due to Mary's insensitivity and tunnel-vision towards saving her ancestral home. The on-going saga of Bates in prison never seems to developing past glimpses of his life behind bars. The writers could at least devote more time to giving the audience just a bit of resolution, or at least answers. Then, there is the overarching "Downton has no money" issue. But I won't get into that, for fear of spoiling even more of the season than I already have.

Ultimately, the success of this season and subsequent seasons will depend on how well Julian Fellowes, creator, and his team of writers planned the storyline even before the pilot episode launched. My fear, based on season three's dismal

See **DOWNTON** on page 5

LES MIS: Still a Beloved Story



Promotional poster for Les Mis

ALLYSON MURPHY

Few musicals adapted to the big screen are considered equal to the stage performance, and Tom Hooper's *Les Miserables* is no exception. Still, the film is still a beautiful and heart-wrenching depiction of a soul's search for redemption from a life of misery.

Victor Hugo's five-volume story, originally published in 1862, took the stage in 1980 when Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg co-composed it. Critics of the musical and movie have complained that it was condensed into a vague, generic, and melodramatic story. To these critics I say that *Les Mis* carries just as much dynamic depth and awareness as any other serious musical.

Ambiguity is certainly a fault in these adaptations; after all, the roots of the revolution are addressed vaguely. But the heart of the story does not suffer; these revolutionists are boys fighting for a desperate cause in a confused world.

When criticizing the film adaptation of *Les Miserables* I would first ask whether the cinematography adds to or detracts from the production. Film hinders Jean Val Jean's trek across the countryside by

Hunting is important for many reasons, many of which I will not be able to fully explore. One is to control the herd, and if you noticed, the herd in this area around Houghton is very large. Especially in areas where the nutrition is high, deer reproduction is very high. What people tend to overlook is that if we don't reduce numbers from the herd, there can become too many animals and not enough resources, such as food and water, to sustain all of them. Herd management is the responsible approach contributing to the sustainability of both the deer population and the natural resources at stake.

Herd management is much deeper for me though, because I don't look at deer as numbers. Deer management

depicting it through short, incoherent and seemingly random intervals. Also, some ensembles like the trio, "A Heart Full of Love" are a bit jarring since the camera skips back and forth between the soloists.

In the musical, there is an intermission after the exhilarating and triumphant delivery of "One Day More" sung by numerous cast members as they prepare for the Revolution. Since there is no intermission in the movie, this song doesn't quite swell and build like it does on stage.

Hopper decided to cut certain parts of the score from the movie; the duet of "A Heart Full of Love" sung only by Marius and Cossette was cut completely, and part of "Drink With Me Two Days Gone By" was omitted. I agree with the first choice since Cossette and Marius, though essential to the story, are less engaging characters. However, cutting the second song short took away an important depiction of vulnerable young men drinking their sorrows away before their short lives in this unfair world would come to an end.

On the other hand the production was improved by numerous aspects, such as the intimate filming done with the camera throughout. This intimacy lets "I Dreamed A Dream" be sung as a bitter prayer instead of an uncontrollable rant and enables Jean Val Jean's personal conversion to be delivered through a helpless whisper. Film also captures the horrific end to the Revolution in a way live production has never previously been able to. This is best conveyed when Enjolras' limp body falls while still grasping onto the ragged flag of freedom.

On top of the quality filming the acting was impeccably done. Due to open-tryouts the all-star cast was comprised of well-known Hollywood names, professional London performers, and young new faces. Hugh Jackman was the lead role needed to capture Val Jean's amazing strength as well as human weakness. Anne Hathaway stole the show with her portrayal of the hopeless Fantine, particularly in "I Dreamed A Dream."

See **LES MIS** on page 5

Hunting Locally

JASON REID

Hunting is important for many reasons, many of which I will not be able to fully explore. One is to control the herd, and if you noticed, the herd in this area around Houghton is very large. Especially in areas where the nutrition is high, deer reproduction is very high. What people tend to overlook is that if we don't reduce numbers from the herd, there can become too many animals and not enough resources, such as food and water, to sustain all of them. Herd management is the responsible approach contributing to the sustainability of both the deer population and the natural resources at stake.

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See **HUNTING** on page 5

CALENDAR

1/26

- T&F Empire 8 Championship
- WBB @ St. John Fisher
- MBB @ St. John Fisher

1/28

- Student Recital: Elena Velazquez, violin
- Coffeehouse: Justin and Hannah Bowersox

1/29

- WBB vs. Nazareth College
- MBB vs. Nazareth College

All information from
houghton.edu

HUNTING *from page 4*

is an art in my mind. Myself and several friends put forth significant efforts in providing the deer on our property with the nutrition in the form of food plots. We provide the deer with the nutrition and help create ideal habitats on the property through proper forestry practices. We have a management plan for our property which basically means that the senior members of our party are only allowed to shoot bucks with six points or more or any doe they wish.

So why do I hunt? I am not out for blood, and that would be a serious misconception of hunters. I care more about taking care of deer and the land than any pencil pushing PETA member will ever do by protesting hunting. The act of killing is not always fun, but killing is only a part of the overall whole. When you have the larger whole of a hunting group (as close as a family) together, the fellowship and the bonds created between people by the activity of the hunt are nearly indestructible.

Here in New York, deer hunting is rooted deeply in the culture especially in the area we find ourselves attending college. Did you know that in 1939 Calvin Roosevelt Lucky killed the state record buck that stood for over 70 years right in Fillmore? The deer sported over 200 inches of antler on its head. Even for anyone not particularly familiar with deer, you have to admit, having over 200 inches of bone sticking out of the top of an animal’s head is a lot.

- Ways to prepare venison:
- 1) Jerky - The key to jerky is how you prepare it. First step is to make sure you cut it into thin strips that can dry thoroughly, and also remember with jerky that you are not cooking the meat, but are drying it. Second, you want to make up the spices you wish to cure the meat in. Many quality jerky cure kits can be bought at any sporting goods store. Let the meat sit for several days in a cool area to really let the cure do its job. The drying part of the job can be done in an oven, but I prefer to use my dehydrator at home. If you are going to use an oven, heat the oven between 150 and 200 degrees, and I tend to let it dry for 12 or more hours.
 - 2) Venison stew in a crockpot. What I do is take a few nice haunches of venison, chopped vegetables like peppers, onions, potatoes, and carrots throw them into the crockpot with gravy seasoning packet and slow cook it all day.
 - 3) Grilling - If you have the opportunity

to grill your venison, I would suggest finding a marinade that you prefer and pre-soak it. Keep a close eye on your steaks; take my word for it especially if you want to eat your venison off the grill medium rare, trust me. And sautéd vegetables to go with your venison steak is always an excellent choice.

I don’t know how many times I’ve eaten at the dining hall with a hollow appreciation for my food, and I am sure that you have felt the same. Every time I eat a piece of venison I can still feel that same joy and thankfulness for the animal as the same moment I knelt by its side and praised God.

DOWNTON *from page 4*

first three episodes, is that we will all continue to watch our beloved show out of loyalty and not necessarily due to a compelling storyline.

But, what happens if we do just keep watching out of loyalty and not because it’s really good anymore? Why will we keep watching? Why is it such a popular show? I’ll be honest, when I first heard the premise I couldn’t understand why everyone was watching *PBS* on a Sunday night. It was not until I was desperate to procrastinate writing the first part of my senior seminar project that I really became interested in the show. Four episodes and four hours later, I was addicted.

Downton Abbey has such a cult-following because we want to be transported to a different time and place. Yes, I understand this is why we read books and watch films—escapism at its finest—but watching *Downton* is about the experience. Everything from the costumes to the rich inclusion of history makes this an accessible show for just about everyone. We are fascinated by people who are not like us, which is exactly what the characters of *Downton Abbey* are. They are privileged and have servants and live in a time we cannot conceive of. We can’t relate to the upstairs, the elite, and we can’t relate to the downstairs, the servants, so we just sit back and watch in fascination.

It’s not just the accents or the costumes; it’s more about our fascination with the polished, elevated upper class. America just doesn’t have this. Yes, we have our trashy celebrities, but we lack our refined Will and Kate. In Matthew and Mary, we see the same thing, but in 1921. Two wildly attractive, seemingly

was condensed and relationships appear melodramatic at times, but the portrayal of the story is not weak. It still carries the heart of the book; a man fallen from grace journeying through hell towards a heaven.

When *Les Mis* opened in New York in 1987 it earned eight Tony Awards including Best New Musical, and now the film has garnered eight Academy Award nominations including Best Actor, Jackman, and Best Supporting Actress, Hathaway, and Best Picture for a reason. The film is overall a well-adapted version of a beloved novel and musical that I highly suggest you do not wait one day more to experience.

TRACK *from page 4*

well.” The team will participate in the Empire 8 Championships this Saturday, January 26. The indoor season will end in March, and then the outdoor track and field events will begin.

The main difference when the team transitions to outdoor events is that the races are longer distances, losing the shorter sprints. In addition, some other throwing field events are added, such as javelin and discus.

The indoor facilities built with the Kerr-Pegula donation will result in more

efficient ways to train for events such as the triple jump and pole vaulting. As of now, there are no pits to jump in and the vaulters do not actually vault until the meets, although they train in other ways.

“It is hard for a coach to have goals, but the team came in second last year and I think they want to replicate that this year,” said Dougherty. “Basically the team is as strong as any other and we just want to finish in the top half.”

Munkittrick said, “Personally, I want the womens 4x200m relay to become All-American at the NCCAA indoor nationals and to break the school record again!”



Promotional poster for Downton

Things to Do

KATHERINE BAKER

The Riviera Theatre and Performing Arts Center in North Tonawanda has a rich history; in fact, you can read all about it on the theatre’s website thanks to Bob Sieben.

I learned the Yellen family built the theatre in 1926, and they installed a Wurlitzer pipe organ in the same year. The theatre’s organ, nicknamed The Mighty Worlitzer, began with 11 pipes and has since expanded to 20, requiring constant attention and tuning according to Sieben.

The North Tonawanda History Museum’s website states that the theatre, which seats 1,200 people, first showed silent movies accompanied by Wurlitzer organ music. It goes on to explain that the theatre fell into disrepair for a time after television replaced movies.

In 1980, the Riviera Theatre was

placed on the Register of Historic Landmarks by the US Department of the Interior. In 1988, the Riviera Theatre and its organ were put up for sale, and the Niagara Frontier Theatre Organ Society (NFTOS) set out to purchase the theatre through the help of a fundraising drive in the Tonawandas and Western New York.

Now the NFTOS and Western New York aim to preserve and share the heritage of the historic “movie palaces and their original ‘Mighty Pipe Organs’ ” through the restoration and upkeep of the Riviera Theatre, in Sieben’s words.

You can go to see this nostalgic theatre and organ for yourself; it remains active to this day, still presenting movies, live theatre, concerts and other special events. Coming up on Friday and Saturday February 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday February 3 at 2 p.m. is a performance of Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt’s Broadway show *I Do, I Do*.

The pair are best known for The Fantasticks, the world’s longest-running musical. Riviera Theater’s website describes *I Do, I Do* as the touching story of a couple’s journey through 50 years of marriage, eventually re-discovering how much they need one another.

Adult tickets for the production are \$20, and they can be purchased online through the Riviera Theater’s official website. If you are a history buff or a theatre enthusiast, consider making the trip to North Tonawanda for this or one of the theatre’s later events.



The Riviera Theatre

LES MIS *from page 4*

And though not possessing a strong voice, Russell Crowe rose to the occasion in his soliloquy before plunging to death amidst angry waters below. Outrageous comic relief overflowed through the eccentrically crass and hysterical performances of Sacha Baron Cohen and Helena Bonham Carter in their roles as Mr. and Mrs. Thenardier most notably in “Master of the House.” Other characters such as Marius, Cossette, Enjolras, and Eponine delivered strong singing and acting performances as well.

In conclusion, after reading the book myself, I agree with critics that the plot

Is Christianity Intolerant? Defining Tolerance and Intolerance in Response to Accusation



JOE LARSON

In an increasingly secular western world, there are growing numbers of non-religious and even anti-religious young people in our country. I enjoy dialoguing with these people, because they offer a perspective that is rarely encountered here at Houghton: a perspective without God in the picture. Oftentimes the conversation drifts towards the criticisms of Christianity in particular, since it is the largest and most influential faith in our society and since Christians tend to make themselves easy targets. While there are plenty of valid arguments that arise from the critic’s corner in these talks, one criticism that I hear over and over again bothers me because is often spewed without much thought. That would be the sentiment that “I dislike Christians because they are intolerant”.

Intolerance. What does that word mean? I think before answering this question, I should explain what it *doesn’t* mean. That’s because it is a word thrown around so casually and frequently in religious conversation that it can easily overstep its boundaries. Some people that I’ve talked to seem to think that Christians are intolerant just because they have exclusive beliefs that don’t fit into a relativistic culture. This just isn’t the case. Yes, Christianity could be classified (in most of its orthodox strains) as an exclusive religion. It affirms that Jesus Christ is the only way to most fully experience God in this life, and that Jesus is also the only way to gain access to God in the next life. By default, Christians must admit that other faiths are incomplete, misinformed, or at least lacking in some key way. Unfortunately for modern western Christians, this doctrine of exclusivity doesn’t bode well in a society that increasingly seeks to minimize religious differences, stress similarities, and ultimately claim that all faiths lead to the same place. Society basically puts all faiths “on the same team” in hopes that in this way religious tensions and sensitivities can be put to rest; so that instead the moral cores that religions tend to bring out in people could thus shine through. When a stubborn adherence to a non-relativistic belief system, such as that of Christianity, threatens the secular agenda, it is labeled as “intolerant” in order to scare or shame people away from the church. But this is an inaccurate label.

Believe it or not, a person who subscribes to an exclusive faith can indeed be as tolerant of other faiths as someone who doesn’t believe in any God at all. In fact, overzealous atheists and secularists, usually those who most often throw around the term “intolerant”, are actually a pot calling the kettle black. What most people don’t seem to recognize about the word “tolerance” is that it requires or assumes a degree of disagreement to be relevant. After all, what need is there for “tolerating” of a belief, lifestyle, ideology, or stance if you have no difference of opinion with that position? Then you would not be tolerating that position at all, but simply agreeing with it. Tolerance is the trait of having something you don’t fully agree with, and yet being okay with that. In a sense, tolerance is an “agreeing to disagree” with someone and respecting their right to hold that opinion with peace and dignity. For example, a Christian will not share the beliefs that a Hindu holds, but both men can still be friends and not let the differences in beliefs become a barrier to their relationship. The Christian can believe that the Hindu is mistaken in certain regards, but at the end of the day, the Hindu has reasons for believing what he does just as the Christian does, and has the right to retain those beliefs without feeling shamed or attacked.

There is also a time where it is a good thing to be intolerant.

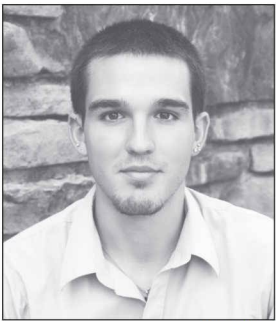
What is intolerance then, and where does religious adamancy cross the line? Intolerance is where one not only disagrees with something, but fails to respect someone else’s rights to hold that belief. Intolerance can also cross the threshold of actually performing slander or violence against an opposing belief. This threshold has been crossed many times by both religious parties and secular groups, but is not necessitated by either. As I briefly alluded to earlier, many atheists or secularists who accuse Christians of intolerance are sometimes guilty of that very same thing. A main characteristic of the latest surge of “new atheism”, for example, has not only been the disagreement and argument against religion, but an aggressive and

brutal slander of religion and religious followers. Certain prominent atheist speakers, such as Richard Dawkins and Sam Harris, have made out religious people to be necessarily deluded, uneducated, fanatical, or a detrimental threat to society. Taking away the dignity and respect from millions of people who have done nothing to deserve such a reputation is what makes the new atheist movement intolerant. Christians can certainly fall guilty of the same sin, when evangelism or dogma turns into a weapon aimed against the intelligence, autonomy, morality, or dignity of an opponent.

There is also a time where it is a good thing to be intolerant. None of us would tolerate the murder of the children at Sandy Hook last month, for example. It is a moral imperative for people of all faiths to take active stands against the types of immorality or sentiment that cause harm to others. The difficulty comes in identifying what battles are those against threats to society and moral atrocities, and which ones are battles against a mere difference in belief. The responses to these different types of disagreement must be handled in different ways. Being a Christian does not require compromising one’s faith in order to be liked by other groups, nor does it require taking a sword to those who don’t share our beliefs. What Christians are commanded to do, among other things, is to love one another and to fight injustice. Against such things there is no law, and against such things there is no valid label of intolerance. ★

Joe Larson is a senior Religion major.

Ex Mea Sententia / Fear Mongering and Media Bias



ANDRE NELSON

Over the course of the last couple years the discussion over gun control has been gaining momentum. Unless you lead a secluded life, you have at least heard the incessant hubbub surrounding the debate, if not outright participated.

When the Aurora and Sikh shootings happened over this past summer I followed the ensuing debate very closely. I gained a strong stance against guns. For the most part, the arguments of the predominantly liberal pro-gun control crowd resonated well with me. Guns are designed to kill, and though they are not responsible for high crime rates, easier access provides the opportunity to do more harm, and after all, who needs a 30 round magazine?

Then I heard some interesting statistics revealing that over the course of the last 20 years, crime rates have been dramatically decreasing in the United

States. According to crime stats provided by the FBI, America had a violent crime rate of 757.7 per 100,000 in 1992. Fast forward to 2012, and America’s violent crime rate dropped to 386.3 per 100,000. That is an almost 50 percent decrease. If this is true, why isn’t it better publicized? The media seems to want us to think that we will get shot every time we walk out our front door.

What’s even more surprising is that the United Kingdom—idolized by every good progressive liberal for their strict gun legislation—is, according to the European Commission, the most violent country in Europe. The rate of violent crimes with firearms has in fact doubled since the ban on guns was implemented after the Dublin shootings 20 years ago. According to the Home Office, England and Wales had over 762,515 violent crimes in 2011 alone. For a population of only 56 million, that comes out to a ratio of roughly 1,361 violent crimes per 100,000. That is 3.5 times higher than in the U.S.

Looking closely at the facts, it is evident not only that violence does not decrease with increased legislation, but that the opposite is true: the decrease of legally obtainable weapons leads to an increase in violence. The obvious conclusion is that in either case, people who use firearms for

harm do not obtain them legally.

It is true that the U.K. has a slightly lower murder rate—only 1.3 compared to the U.S.’s 4.7— however, there are other factors to consider. The bulk of murders take place in small pockets in metropolitan areas of over 250,000 people. The U.S. has 186 of these metropolitan areas whereas the U.K. only has 32. Needless to say we are just scratching the surface when considering the complexities behind these tragedies.

It is clear that the solution does not lie within stricter gun laws. To suggest such a thing would be to ignore the facts. For example, both Chicago and NYC have a total ban on firearms, yet both cities are at the top of the charts for murder rates. So why would creating

The solution does not lie within stricter gun laws. To suggest such a thing would be to ignore the facts.

more gun restrictions better anything?

The statistics make the suggestions of gun-control seem even more ludicrous. According to the EU Commission the U.S. is not even in the top 25 most violent modern nations. The U.K., Austria, France, Sweden, Finland, and even Canada are ahead in violent crime rates, and naturally, all have strict gun laws in place. Based on the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission data, guns aren’t even in the top 10 most common reasons for emergency room visits. Yet the media has a heyday

every time there is a violent crime in America. It makes a better story to talk about one crazy man on psychotropic drugs shooting up a school in a state possessing some of the strictest gun laws in place, than to mention the mother in Colorado protecting her twin infants by taking down a home-invader with her .38 special, or the 15 year old boy in Houston who defended his sister against 4 armed home-invaders with his father’s legally obtained AR-15, or, most notably, the woman carrying a concealed weapon at the Hobbit premiere in San Antonio who took down Jesus Garcia, preventing what would have surely resulted in another Aurora-style slaughter. There are countless stories of law abiding citizens defending themselves with legally-obtained weapons.

This is a sensitive issue to be sure. But realize that where the insensitivity lies is in those who manipulate facts surrounding tragic events in order to push their agenda and increase government control.

Our time and energy would be better spent in figuring out how to decrease unemployment and poverty and fix the education systems within the areas with high crime rates, rather than attempting to deprive law abiding citizens of a chance to defend themselves against rapists, home-invaders, and criminals who gain access to illegal weapons.★

Andre is a senior communication major

FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF / Women in Combat, A Next Step Toward Equality

In case you have missed the recent headlines, one of Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta's final significant policy decisions, has been to lift the military's ban on women in direct combat situations.

We as an editorial staff collectively say, "Finally." We find compelling the case presented by the four servicewomen who sued the Pentagon and Panetta over the ban, pointing out that women have already in essence been serving in combat situations, and yet have not received formal recognition for their work and their sacrifices.

In an interview with Eyder Peralta for *NPR*, former Navy Lieutenant Carey Lohrenz said, "We have women in combat roles right now. We are just not able to promote them." This denial of formal recognition and promotions has gone on too long, and Panetta's lift of the ban is, in the words of Democratic Senator Mazie Hirono, a "great step toward equality."

Others who read and commented on Elisabeth Bumiller and Thom Shanker's *New York Times* coverage of the story don't see it as such. A *New York Times* pick comment on their website by the username *Harry* from Michigan reads, "Next feminists will tell me that women can handle a man in hand to hand combat. How about we have women play

in the NFL or any other pro sports..."

First, this comment villainizes feminism, a movement that has made and continues to make great strides in human rights issues for years. Next, to the dismay of *Harry*, we would point out that some women actually can handle men in hand to hand combat. There are many women who are more athletic than men, just as there are many women

the American military the most feared and admired fighting force in the world — particularly the rigorous physical standards for our elite special forces units."

Women will now have an equal opportunity to enter direct combat positions, but they do not expect any special allowances. In fact, the key is that servicewomen do not want to be treated any differently from servicemen.



www.google.com

who are less athletic than men.

Veteran and Republican Senator John McCain has issued a statement supporting Panetta's decision, and he added that, "As this new rule is implemented, it is critical that we maintain the same high standards that have made

Another online commenter on the *New York Times* article going by the username *Keeping It Real* wrote, "Why do American women want to be men? (Or is the real question, 'Why are American women not allowed to be women?')"

menter *Academia Nut* from Canada retorted, "Why would you limit a woman's choice to be whatever she wants to be and is capable of being?"

Women have been moving into spheres traditionally occupied by men for years, and as Lohrenz said to Peralta, "We have women in combat roles right now... They're on the ground in Iraq; they're on the ground in Afghanistan. This is strictly formalizing and recognizing what their contributions currently are."

The backlash from commenters such as *Harry* and *Keeping It Real* seem to be knee-jerk reactions to the blurring of lines between what is masculine and what is feminine that in the past have been more clear. They are focusing on the differences between men and women when the differences among men and women are much more significant.

This change in policy is not the first of its kind; New Zealand, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Germany, Norway, Israel, Serbia, Sweden and Switzerland all already permit women to serve in direct combat. There is no word as to whether women have ruined professional sports in these countries yet. ★

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ARTIST OF THE WEEK



ANDREA PACHECO

BECCA
DYGERT

As a latecomer to the art world, a great deal of my focus is just discovering who I am through my art. This question has permeated just about everything I've made, and has led me to explore even bigger questions of humanity and mortality. Bookmaking is the best vehicle for exploring this idea, because the viewer can move through the images and thoughts on the piece in much the same way that I do as I create it. I also hope to use some of my book and printmaking techniques in the ceramic arts.

Becca is a senior art therapy major with a concentration in print making.



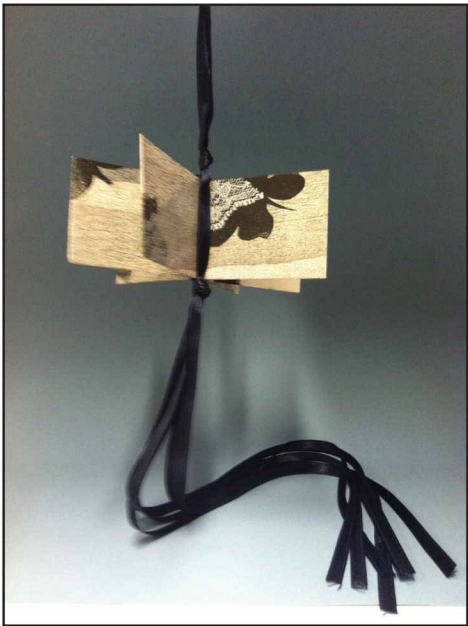
Untitled, Japanese stab bound book with handmade gampi paper



Untitled, stoneware bowl with relief carvings



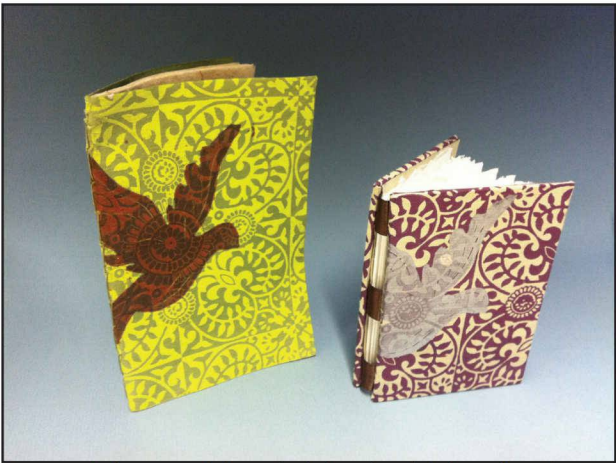
Wildflowers, collagraph print



Concertina in blue, multimedia relief print in a concertina book form

SUDOKU

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Doves, left- pamphlet stitch book with handmade gampi paper and linoleum print. Right- concertina bound hardcover with linoleum print

To enter a drawing for 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 by 6PM on WED 01/30.