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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

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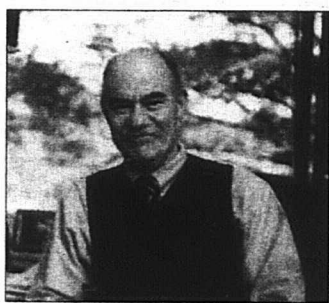
ARTIST OF THE WEEK:

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March 9, 2012 • Vol. 108, No. 19

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"The Politics of Forgiveness"



Meic Pearse gave a lecture on morality and politics as part of the continuing Faculty Lecture Series.

by EMMA HUGHES

The Faculty Lecture Series continued Wednesday afternoon with a lecture given by Professor Meic Pearse, history, on "The Politics of Forgiveness," a lecture on the interrelated issues of morality and politics in the contemporary Western world.

The lecture draws from Pearse's in-progress book, continuing in many ways the themes introduced in two of Pearse's already-published books related to the subject, namely, "Why the Rest Hates the West" and "The Gods of War."

Pearse's lecture discussed how it may be possible in a modern and post-modern world to turn from the vague and decayed morality often perceived in the West by non-Western societies to

a more concrete sense of morals.

"Where does morality come from, and how do we become immoral?" asked Pearse. "I'm more concerned with the practical answer to this question and not just theory."

A common answer to the above question, Pearse pointed out, is that of society's role in training morality. The political utopianisms of the 20th century -- nationalism, Nazism, socialism, anarchism, liberalism, and others -- were popular answers to the business of the society's training of the people in morality for the sake of the "common good."

"But the 'common good' never produced the goods," said Pearse. "Think of the Nazis, Soviets as an example. These things chased away people's private lives, and the people became terrified, and almost amoral."

Democracy seems to be different from these utopias in that it appears to offer a way of peacefully solving conflict or difference. Yet the non-Western cautionary view of democracy has real gravity -- the view that democracy leads to dominance by individual religious or political groups. With each election, the society divides into deeper conflict.

It is here that the idea of a "politics of forgiveness" becomes more evident -- what democracy needs is the ability to actually resolve and exist with differences in a constructive way. And part of this is to turn from the idea of the state's pursuing of the "common good," and impersonal morality to something that

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JV SPORTS CUT

by COLLEEN JENNINGS

After multiple meetings with both the athletic department Leadership Team and the Student Life team -- encompassing 10 to 12 different people -- the athletic department has recently decided to cut its JV sports program indefinitely.

One of the major reasons for this cut was to help with Houghton's overall goal to balance the budget. According to Athletic Director Skip Lord, the athletic department was asked to cut at least \$62,000 from its budget. After much searching, the department decided that cutting the JV programs -- which consisted of men's and women's soccer and basketball -- would have the "least devastating impact on the fewest number" of students while making a significant difference in the budget.

Lord pointed out that it is a "regular part of life to look at the budget" and acknowledged that the process "was not easy, but it was necessary." He also added that the athletic department wanted to "share in the burden" the institution as a whole is facing.

The other major reason for the cut has to do with the current switch from NAIA to NCAA Division III, a switch which Lord said he "hopes is going to enhance local and national visibility" and help increase

enrollment. NAIA tends to have "fewer offerings" available -- less sports and smaller teams -- yet there were more students who wanted to play. The JV program was a way to offer something in between varsity sports and intramurals. On the other hand, average Division III schools offer 17 to 18 different sports and Lord said Houghton will be "adding eight programs over a three to four year window."

The JV program was originally added for athletes who needed a year or two for "more development" before playing on the varsity level. According to Lord, Division III teams "carry slightly larger rosters" than NAIA, so those students will be more likely to make the varsity team.

For those who played JV sports because they preferred the time commitment and more relaxed level of play, there are a couple of options. Lord noted that there are "support roles" such as managers, in which students can work and travel with the varsity teams. He also said that the athletic department is currently "trying to enhance the intramural program to provide more opportunities."

It was a tough decision, and Lord acknowledged that at the time he

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HYDROFRACKING: TWO OPINIONS ON THE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE

Pro: I Might Be a Teetotaler, but I Still Like Sipping Oil

by CAMERON AIRHART

This year I spent a considerable amount of money insulating my 110-year-old urban house on Buffalo's Westside. I had to take out a loan, but it was worth it, because I reduced my energy usage by about 60%, saving myself utility dollars and relieving the energy grid. Thus, while reducing my carbon footprint, I also made it a little less necessary to build new power plants. In the same vein, two years ago, I left my big house in the hamlet of Houghton to downsize in the city, even further reducing my personal consumption of energy. Two years before that, I got rid of my Oldsmobile and bought a Corolla, in order to use less gasoline and reduce my auto emissions. So, in the past four years, I have significantly altered my lifestyle in ways that are counter-cultural: I moved to the city (if you care about nature, stay away from it); I downsized my living quarters (goodbye, five bedroom mansion); I invested in high-tech insulation (almost as exciting a purchase as new tires); and I bought a fuel-efficient

car (people in my social class and age group are supposed to have nicer cars than a little Corolla -- I am reminded of Margaret Thatcher's humiliating comment that only failures ride the bus after the age of 30, a quote which I read while riding on a bus at the age of 50.) These are my bona fides when it comes to having a voice in the energy/conservation discussion surrounding the natural gas extraction technique known as hydraulic fracturing.

Now, despite how virtuous I appear in the above paragraph (you might forgive me for feeling almost godly in a secular sort of way, a kind of Sierra Club saint if the Sierra Club had a canonization process), I use electricity that is produced at coal burning power plants, I drive over 20,000 miles a year, and I have my own natural gas pipeline running right into my house. I regularly get on airplanes that guzzle jet fuel that destroys the ozone layer. In fact, I consume regularly about every kind of energy that can be consumed. Not even during Lent do I abstain.

See AIRHART page 3

Con: Other Valuable Natural Resources are at Stake

by SHANNON AMES

Hydrofracking -- you've probably heard about it. You've probably seen pictures of protests -- people outside city hall, yelling at the camera or yelling at each other, holding signs reading "No Fracking Way" or "Friends of Natural Gas NY." Hydrofracking is an issue of great contention across the state of New York, and indeed the country. This issue affects us all -- it affects the trajectory of energy development and natural gas prices for the future, but it also affects our quality of life, our environment, and our possession of one very essential natural resource -- water.

Hydrofracking extracts natural gas that's trapped inside the porous structure of underground shale by pumping several million gallons of water, mixed with sand and a cocktail of chemicals, through a pipe into the shale formation at such a high pressure that the shale fractures, releasing natural gas. New York sits atop the Marcellus Shale formation, which is estimated to contain 400 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

There are several risks to drinking water posed by the hydrofracking process. First, some of the water/chemical sludge remains in the ground, where it can leech upward through natural fault lines and reach groundwater, contaminating underground springs and well water. According to an Environmental Protection Agency study in Pavillion, Wyoming, such leeching is already occurring.

Sludge that is recovered is stored on site in plastic-lined pits, then transported in large tanker trucks through the countryside to waste treatment plants or landfills. Though hydrofracking chemicals initially make up a small percentage of the fluid, and are often chemicals that could be found in everyday cleaning products, the high concentration found in the waste sludge causes a devastating impact on ecological systems. Spills on site and accidents on the road can, and have, polluted land and bodies of water. In the online documentary "Fracking Hell," one Pennsylvania man recounts how

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POLITICS / Candidate Platforms for SGA Presidency

by JOSHUA MERTZLUFFT

Let's face some facts. This coming year, the College is implementing around 2.5 million dollars in cuts to its budget. Many staff positions on campus have been reluctantly removed, the Flats are to be vacated, and the Campus Service Budget must undergo massive cuts including the elimination of the Campus Activities Board. However, it's what we do in this season that defines who we really are. We're going to make it through this season and make the most of it.

I would like to see the SGA use the tools and resources available to it to help our student body, and the global Houghton community answer the question "What does it mean to be a Highlander?" This asks how Houghton is unique along with how we identify with this place that we invest so much time and energy into. Bringing this vision to fruition will require the SGA to step outside of its comfort zone. The SGA must accept this challenge.

The SGA and student clubs need to be ready to step into the void left by the loss of CAB. Because this gap will open up the calendar significantly, the SGA needs to ensure that the process for a club to put on an all-campus event is as efficient as possible.

Long ago, Houghton had a rich tradition, the Purple & Gold rivalry. This healthy tradition was so strongly embraced that to this day, many alumni from the era will show

support for their team. My proposal is to bring this Purple & Gold spirit back to life starting this fall. I would have the SGA host a competition that runs the length of each semester between the Purple and Gold teams, with the winner declared at the semester's end. The beauty of this simple concept is that almost anything can be integrated into it, whether it is an intramural tournament, a dorm-wide pillow fight, a talent show, an event hosted by a club, or even an alumni's donation.

With the variety of opportunities for students to get involved, it's quite clear that Houghton is a place that leaders can grow in many different fields. The SGA can help those elected to student organization cabinets learn quickly all of the technical details of leading a club so that they can quickly step into their role as a leader. This could be done by revamping the fall workshop along with having each member of the SGA act as a resource person for a group of clubs. The SGA could even look into the possibility of hosting a leadership conference.

The SGA needs to start being proactive and function as the medium through which over a thousand minds belonging to students, faculty, administrators, and staff can collaborate and execute new ideas. These hard times provide us with an opportunity to rethink the course that Houghton will be on for the coming years. I would be honored to serve and represent you as your student body president through this season.

SDG ★

by JOEL ERNST

As SGA president, I want to promote the strengths of the Houghton College student experience. To me, the role of student government president exists to benefit the Houghton student body and seek your best interests as the students. There are two key aspects that I see under this broader vision: the student representative and a leader of initiatives on campus.

First, the student body president acts as the main student representative to the faculty, administration and Board of Trustees. I believe I can do a good job to represent your concerns. I have represented my fellow students for the past three years as a Class Senator and College Senator. As a Class Senator the first semester of freshman year, I learned the ropes of how the SGA Senate works. As a sophomore Class Senator, I worked with fellow senators on a "Let Your Voice Be Heard" initiative -- we put up a microphone prop in the campus center to gather student concerns and forward them to the proper offices on campus. As a College Senator this year, I continue to take seriously my role as a student representative and do my best on behalf of concerns from my fellow students.

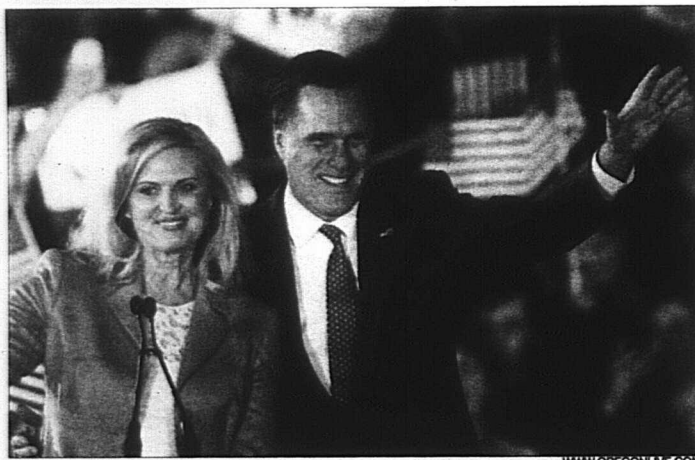
I have also represented student concerns in another way: This year I had the privilege to fill the role of Resident Assistant in Shenawana Hall. In this position, I took responsibility for student concerns in the residence hall, bringing these issues before the proper authorities or departments on campus. I have gained a greater perspective on the

needs of students and the importance of student life.

I see the second aspect of the role of the student body president as a student leader that can spearhead initiatives on campus. I believe it is important for the SGA president to cast a vision for the next year of the student experience at Houghton College. One of my main goals is to continue to promote Christian life on campus. As president, I would strive to spread greater awareness of student prayer groups, worship events, and Bible study opportunities on campus. I believe that Christian faith needs to be our top priority as students at Houghton College. If students can take advantage of existing opportunities on campus to grow in their faith during their time at Houghton, other priorities such as academic and career goals will benefit as these are guided by students' spiritual commitment.

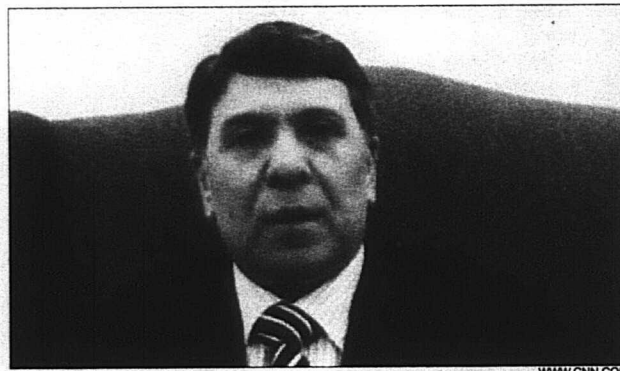
Another of my main goals under the role of leading initiatives is to promote service and outreach to the greater community beyond Houghton College. In particular, I would like to see the Houghton Outreach Project become a vital part of the Houghton student experience in the next year. HOP, as this endeavor is called, is an effort to create opportunities to serve and learn from residents of Allegany County, Buffalo, and others surrounding areas. I want students to have greater opportunities to put their faith and academic studies into practice beyond the property lines of Houghton College. ★

IN THE NEWS



ROMNEY EMERGES AS NARROW VICTOR ON SUPER TUESDAY (ABOVE) | Mitt Romney defeated his opponents in many key states on Super Tuesday, the day when the greatest number of states hold primary elections. Although he did win many key states, some were very narrow victories. In Ohio, Romney beat Rick Santorum by an eighth of a percentage point.

AFGHANISTAN PRESIDENT ENDORSES "CODE OF CONDUCT" THAT IMPOSES STRICT RULES ON WOMEN (RIGHT) | On Tuesday President Hamid Karzai said he supported a "code of conduct" created by the Ulema Council, a group of influential clerics. The guidelines in the document support the segregation of the sexes as well as allow husbands to beat their wives under certain circumstances. Human rights activists fear that, although the document is not legal, it is a backward step for women in the country. However, Karzai claims that the guidelines follow Islamic law and was made with support of Afghan women's groups.



HIGH-PROFILE SYRIAN OFFICIAL DEFECTS (ABOVE) | In a YouTube video, a man claiming to be Abdo Hussam el Din, Syria's deputy oil minister, said that he was "joining the revolution" and defecting from President Assad's regime.



SPORTS COMPLEX UPDATE

by COLLEEN JENNINGS

On January 9, the College held a Pre-Bid meeting for the Sports Complex. Almost 40 architects met with the Steering Committee -- made up of President Mullen, Athletic Director Skip Lord, Executive Director of Human Resources and Administration Dale Wright, Director of Advancement Services Pam Witter, and Ralph Kerr -- to hear Houghton's goal for the Complex, to ask questions, and take a tour of the campus.

Architect firms that were interested in the project submitted their proposals by January 20. The Steering Committee then looked through the options and narrowed the choices down to two to four proposals January 24. Those firms came back to Houghton January 31 to give final presentations before the Committee made its final selection. The Committee met with the Board of Trustees in early February to submit their decision. Ultimately, the Board of Trustees made the final decision concerning the architect firm and plans before the project continues.

The major project -- put in motion due to a \$12 million donation from the Kerr-Pegula

family -- contains two parts. The first will be outdoor baseball, softball, field hockey, and lacrosse fields. These will be turf fields so poor weather conditions will have less of an impact. They will also have lights so midweek games can be at night to avoid missed class time for the athletes.

The second part of the project is the field house. This will include a 200-meter indoor track with room for field events so the College will be able to host indoor track and field meets. It will also have an indoor tennis court so the tennis teams can still practice or have matches when the weather would not permit it outside. Another part of this field house will be a space large enough for any of the sports teams to use to practice any time of the year.

The Committee and others involved -- including people from the town and county -- have started looking at multiple spaces for the new facility to be built, but a space has not been chosen yet. One option is the Field of Dreams; however, it is a flood plain and the river has been eroding and continues to erode the bank there. Other options include the parking lot at the base of Burke Field and the practice field at the bottom of the hill by Shen. Lord noted they would like the facility to have a "presence"

on Route 19; they would prefer the building to be a sort of Houghton College landmark people see as they drive by, rather than have it tucked away on campus.

The Board of Trustees approved the architect and gave them approval to continue with the process of narrowing down potential building sites. Lord said the architect is now working with the steering committee with "hopes of finalizing the site in the near future" and hopefully no further than the Board Meeting in May.

The timeline after that is not concrete. The goal is for the project to be finished by June 2013. Lord acknowledged that "Our hope is to move along quickly, but the timeline will need to be flexible according to the needs of the school, town, and county." He emphasized that this project involves a lot of people from the local area who will be "very important to this process and will impact what we do." It is a detailed process and adjustments will have to be made when necessary. Lord concluded that he is "very excited about the spirit of cooperation and partnership" that has already taken place between everyone involved and he "look[s] forward to continue working together." ★

JV SPORTS *from page 1*

does not foresee the JV program being reinstated any time soon. However, Lord pointed out that all colleges need to invest in things "that are strategic to growth and improvement." Lord and the athletic department hope these changes will help the institution as a whole. ★

FLS *from page 1*

is more personal and genuine. To solve an ever-deepening gap of conflict and strife in such things as politics, a genuine cultural change needs to happen on an individual basis.

"What is necessary is the retreat of the state to let people make their decisions and take responsibility," said Pearce. "Morality affects the community, but has roots in private life. What we actually need is millions of people not to do graffiti, falsify tax returns, etc. Where is that learned? In the family, and the direct community."

Pearse admitted that his original question is complicated, to say the least. As he said, it is easier to ask these questions than to find answers to them. But all the same, the ability to forgive others for their differences from our own mindsets and ways of life is an essential element our politics need to embrace. ★

AIRHART *from page 1*

(This year, I've given up TV for Lent, which is easy since "Downton Abbey" just ended.) And I have no intention of stopping, and neither do you.

Supplying my energy appetite (and yours) is a complicated business and requires the constant weighing of risks. Remember, all forms of energy extraction, transportation, and consumption create some undesirable effects; our question should be whether, on balance, the benefits outweigh the risks. There is no risk-free way to produce and transport energy, not even renewable energy like wind or solar. Here are the kinds of questions that can't be avoided. Is it better to send more tankers full of petroleum through the Strait of Hormuz or build a pipeline from Alberta to Houston? Are the health risks associated with high-voltage transmission lines outweighed by the benefits of transporting electricity from wind or solar farms

in rural areas to population centers where the electricity is consumed? Given that natural gas is a cleaner burning fuel than heating oil, should we use hydraulic fracturing to extract difficult-to-reach underground supplies of natural gas?

My reading of the evidence on hydraulic fracturing leads me to conclude that the risks associated with the extraction process can be controlled through vigilant regulation, and that our federal and state governments have the necessary enforcement and bureaucratic capacity to hold energy companies to a high enough standard to ensure public and environmental safety, that is, within acceptable parameters of risk. I don't trust the energy companies outside of frameworks of regulation and enforcement, and I don't have to. With public agencies holding energy companies to a high standard of compliance, and with citizens vigilantly holding our public agencies accountable to the law, we have the laws and the enforcement mechanisms already in place to

realize the benefits of hydraulic fracturing inside of acceptable levels of risks. This is the best humans can do, and it's good enough. As Ronald Reagan (a name I invoke because it is sacred to all Republican readers of this article) used to say, "Trust, but verify."

While I've reduced my energy appetite (admirably, too, don't you think?), I still consume an awful lot of energy from renewable and non-renewable sources. I can't see any realistic prospect of eliminating or even much reducing my use of dirty and semi-dirty hydrocarbons. Given this reality, I must make reasonable choices and trade-offs, and I think carefully regulated hydraulic fracturing is a reasonable activity to support. This is also the conclusion of the Obama administration, and will soon be the conclusion of the Cuomo administration. Like me, they base their conclusions not on pressure from Big Oil, but on sound science and reasonable public policy. ★

AMES *from page 1*

he lost his retirement home as a chemical spill from a nearby gas well polluted his drinking water and killed all the life in a pond on his property.

Stories like this continue to come in from around the country as natural gas drilling goes on. This argument has not even begun to address the many other cons of hydrofracking, including destruction of forests to lay pipe, the draining of reservoirs and rivers for water to use in hydrofracking, dangers to land and water surrounding landfills where waste is dumped, dangers from waste plants using inadequate treatments to the chemical sludge, methane pollution driving people from their homes or causing faucet water to light on fire (check out

the videos online), road damage from truck traffic, the noise from drilling, the smells of drilling, and more. The long-term environmental impacts are still being studied, and frankly we may not have enough time within these few years of experimenting with hydrofracking to see the ultimate environmental results and impact. As Anthony Ingraffea, Professor of Engineering at Cornell University, shared in an interview "...the cumulative effects are accumulating.... Come back in 10 years."

States like New York who have not yet decided whether to allow hydrofracking in the state would do well to say "no" to hydrofracking, but still must get involved as much chemical sludge from Pennsylvania wells is being dumped in New York landfills and waste plants. States

like Pennsylvania would do well to demand tighter restrictions and oversight of drilling sites, insist on the release of the chemical composition of fracking fluids, and encourage development of an alternative form of fracking which uses propane and, so far, seems to pose less of a risk of groundwater contamination and less waste of fresh water.

Though hydrofracking can seem like a convoluted issue, one thing is certain -- we don't want to risk polluting the one natural resource we all need to sustain our very lives. We in the United States, unlike much of the world, would do well to stop taking this resource for granted before it's too late.

Check out www.coalitiontoprotectnewyork.org for more on the fight against hydrofracking in NY. ★

H.E.L.P. Day Schedule Wednesday, March 14, 2012

8:00-9:45 AM: Plenary session for Faculty, LIB 323

Starting at 10 AM, advisors are meeting with students throughout the day.

Session #1: 10:00-10:45 AM

Alternative Chapels (scanning occurs)

-Brandon Hoffman "God, Meet Physics" ChC 125

-Ndunge Kiiti "Faith and Vocation: Engaging in a Diverse and Complex World" Lib 323

-Brandon Johnson "Seeing the World through God's Eyes: Searching for Beauty in a Fallen World" ChC 325

Session #2: 11:00-11:45 AM

-Scott Spear ('07) "Better Safe than Sorry: Navigating Your Insurance Needs" ChC 125

-Marge Avery "GPS: Graduation Procedures Simplified" Lib 323

-Brian Reimour "Writing an Effective Resume" ChC 325

Session #3: 1:00-1:45 PM

-Scott Spear ('07) "Better Safe than Sorry: Navigating Your Insurance Needs" ChC 125

-Daniel Noyes & Friends "Field Experiences in College: What Internships You Can Do and Why You Should!" ChC 325

Session #4: 2:00-2:45 PM

-Ken Bates "Got Debt? Managing college debt, budgeting, and other personal finance things" ChC 125

-Marge Avery "GPS: Graduation Procedures Simplified" Lib 323

-Daniel Noyes and Friends "Prep for Grad School (Traditional and On-line) and Other Cool Future Things" ChC 325

Session #5: 3:00-3:45

-Cameron Aihart "Opportunities in Buffalo: the City Semester, Wesley Service Corps, and More" ChC 125

-Richard Halberg "Money tips: Planning, controlling, saving, and investing it" Lib 323

Send your opinions to houghtonstar@gmail.com

EAT// THE PERFECT OMELET



WWW.LEMONTSAINTMICHEL.INFO/EN

by ANDRÉ NELSON

While lack of food has been a cause of death for many around the world, its abundance has birthed an art form. Like any other art form, there is good art and there is poor art. There are thousands of books that do not deserve to be called literature, many films that would make Hitchcock turn over in his grave, songs that would compel Van Gogh to cut his remaining ear off, and entrées that would make Annette Poulard gasp.

One food that has crossed the cultural barriers, becoming a staple dish in almost every setting, is the omelet. Though this entrée has become a norm in most societies, its preparation nevertheless remains an art form. The omelet has been a staple meal for centuries across the globe. Though it certainly predates any written texts, one of the earliest mentions of the omelet is in a chapter on French cooking published in a

manuscript in 1393, "Le Ménagier de Paris," which featured two recipes. Throughout history the dish has developed a variety of presentations and has adapted itself to almost every culture, from the Alaskan Omelet to Vietnamese Omelets. It can be made into a thin wrap; it can be souffléed; it can be served flat, stacked, folded, or rolled.

In 1852, the woman who perfected this staple meal was born -- Annette Poulard. In 1888, Poulard settled on the quaint tidal island of Mont Saint Michel. From the French Revolution up until that point, the monastery off the coast of Normandy was used as a prison. Shortly after it had been set free, Poulard and her husband Victor set up an inn to accommodate the many pilgrims and food-lovers. After perfecting some 700 recipes, she became known as "la Mère Poulard," an honorary title distinguishing the extremely talented female chef. The restaurant still remains today, serving its cheapest omelet at

18 euros per 100 grams, the smallest omelet on the menu being 250 grams and 45 euros.

What distinguished Poulard's omelet from what you might order at some drive-thru or motel is exactly what differentiates classic literature from the unreadable titles found in grimy stands outside a train station restroom: the artistic touch.

La Mère Poulard's most common recipe uses three eggs per person. First, you must separate the egg yolks from the whites. Then, beat the whites until they form firm peaks, adding a pinch of salt. Beat the yolks. Melt some butter in a pan on high heat, making sure not to brown it. When the butter is sizzling, pour in the yolks and stir. Add salt and pepper to taste. When the egg yolks start to coagulate, add one tablespoon of Crème Fraîche and two tablespoons of the beaten whites in the middle of the pan and lower the heat. Add more salt and pepper and fold in the edges gently. Cook for two minutes and serve.

The outcome is a thick outer layer of yolk with a light aerated beaten white center. The light interior carries with it an almost sweet flavor, allowing for a smooth finish instead of the almost overwhelming egg flavor that a typical omelet can sometimes have.

Depending on the mood of the day you may add fresh sautéed garden vegetables, maybe a fresh slice of raw salmon, or you can enjoy this delicacy in its purest naked form. The omelet can be a quick and easy way to finish off leftovers, or by adding a tablespoon of sugar and a dollop of crème, it can become a sweet, unusual dessert. However you wish to present it, this recipe may serve as a basis for expanding your "omelet repertoire."

JACOBSEN RETIRES

by ANDREA PACHECO

Richard "Jake" Jacobsen, known as an "icon of the [mathematics] department," in the words of fellow mathematics professor Jill Jordan, is retiring after teaching at Houghton for 46 years. Since the fall of 1966, Jacobsen has developed introductory courses, worked extensively on honors projects with students, and, as he said, "taught about every course offered in the math department." Jacobsen, Jordan said, "likes math, and so when he finds something that he likes, he'll dive in and develop a course."

His retirement, however, is not something he planned.

"I wasn't intending to retire at all," he said. Looking back, he described the decision process beginning with a retirement package email last year and ending with the feeling that the Lord was telling him to examine the option of retirement more seriously. "The Lord said 'do it' so I did," he said.

As someone who has had the experience of working with Jacobsen, both as a student and as a professor, Jordan said, "we can't really replace Jake, the wisdom that he brings, and his heart for students, his love for teaching and his love for Houghton -- we can't replace him." She remembered him telling students struggling with homework to "just think about it some more" or "just sleep on it."

Student and TA Elizabeth Bailey, junior, said, "Just having the right answers did not make for a perfect score," but instead, a thorough understanding of the material was emphasized. Junior Laura Ballard enjoyed Jacobsen's methods of "doing math outside the box" by using "strange variables, like 'pitchfork' or 'squiggly' or 'cloud.'"

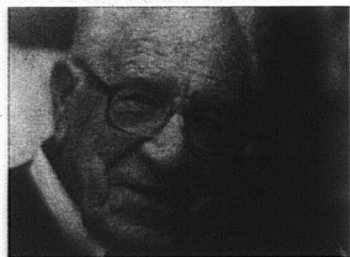
The math department plans on shuffling some of the courses around and will be hiring someone to fill Jacobsen's position, according to Jordan, and because of his background in engineering, it will emphasize applied mathematics expertise. Bailey expressed interest in having more diversity in the professors' research areas to "allow for a diverse selection of courses to be offered where the professors are focused in the particular area that they are teaching."

Furthermore, the "Beehive," Jake's house for over 30 years, was also razed this year. It was the last standing house still located on campus, across the street from the Paine Science Center. As it was part of school property, he was informed of their plans to remove the Beehive and was provided a new apartment home near the nursing home. Although he has not heard about the plans for that space on campus, there has been some speculation of it being converted to a parking lot to provide for the parking needs of Luckey and Paine.

"People ask me what I'm going to do when I'm done, and I have no idea," said Jake. "I suspect the Lord is going to continue to take care of us, so I don't worry." He and his wife have no plans of moving and plan on staying in Houghton for the time being.

Jacobsen expressed his deep enjoyment of teaching throughout the years and gratitude for all the good friendships. "I feel very wealthy -- not in terms of financial things, but in all the blessings [God's] given us," he said. As a message to his students, he said, ask for wisdom every day. "Make plans for the day but hold them lightly, because the Lord will probably change them," he added. "Well, not always, but he often has a different plan, and it's usually so cool." ★

George "Bev" Shea Celebrates 103



WWW.EPM.ORG

by MEGAN SEAWOOD

George Beverly Shea, "America's Beloved Gospel Singer" and 1932 Houghton graduate, turned 103 years old on February 1. Shea is best known for his contribution to the Billy Graham crusades as the lead Gospel singer.

Shea has many honors to speak of, including 10 Grammy nominations, one Grammy victory in 1976, an induction into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, and an induction into the National Religious Broadcasting Hall of Fame. Just last year, several days after his 102nd birthday, Shea was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, an honor bestowed by The Recording Academy in conjunction with the 2011 Grammy Awards.

The musical ministry of Shea reached people far and wide through the means of modern technology, but his part in the ministry of Graham reached just as many in a live setting.

The Guinness Book of World Records credits Shea with the record of singing in front of the most people ever -- a combined live audience of over 220 million.

Houghton has also recognized the life and achievements of Shea by awarding him an honorary doctorate of the fine arts in 1956. Although Shea is recognized as a 1932 alumnus, he only attended Houghton for one school year. He started at Houghton as a freshman in the fall of 1928. His musical gifts did not go unnoticed. Shea spent his freshman year singing in the College's Glee Club, as well as in various other small choirs. In 1929, the depression hit and Shea was saddened to receive a letter from his father informing him that the family didn't have the money to send him back to Houghton the following year.

One may wonder how a Grammy award-winning musical artist found his way to Houghton in the first place. Despite being dubbed "America's Beloved Gospel Singer," Shea was actually born in Canada. He was the fourth child of eight, the son of a traveling evangelist. His father spent much time moving around and was well-known in the Wesleyan community for starting Wesleyan churches in Canada. In 1917, Houghton, New York, was a very influential place for the Wesleyan denomination. Years before Shenawana Hall was built, there was a Wesleyan

Camp meeting at the top of the hill. The Shea family moved to Houghton looking for a place to minister as well as a place for their young children to receive an elementary education.

The Sheas moved into a home that would now be placed in the parking lot between Gillette Hall and the Campus Center. The children attended the two-room school house nearby. The Sheas stayed in Houghton for several years, but eventually moved back to Canada. Despite their move, the family kept roots in Houghton. As Shea wrote in his autobiography, "Then Sings My Soul" (available in the library), Houghton became a "home away from home."

Approximately half of the Shea children returned to Houghton to receive a college education. Although Shea completed only one year, he is still very fond of his alma mater. He has returned on several occasions to perform at the College. His nephew, Professor Paul Shea, intercultural studies, noted that his uncle returned to sing in Wesley Chapel before construction was even completed.

In addition to the honorary degree and medal that Houghton has awarded Shea, the College also honors his legacy with a large portrait. Painted by world famous portraitist John Howard Sanden, it hangs in the music library as a reminder of the life and accomplishments of a talented and humble servant of God. ★

Third Annual Battle of the Bands

by BEN MURPHY

Houghton consistently offers musical talent and diversity through varied venues, and the upcoming Battle of the Bands set for 8 p.m. tomorrow in Wesley Chapel is no exception. This concert, organized by the class of 2013, will be the third such campus-wide competition of student-organized musicianship.

In the past, this show has canvassed a wide range of styles and genres, and it seems that this year will promise the same. The only concrete stipulation for all entering artists is that lyrics must be cleared by Houghton standards of appropriate themes, language, and overall

content. This measure will impose very reasonable guidelines while still allowing for much creativity and ingenuity on the part of the artists. The six registered bands, Lily Among Thorns, The Undeified, Dreaming Outloud, Metal Clergy, To The Sky, and Breaking Chains represent a mixture of indie, alternative, and rock influences, and each one will play a small set of three songs in hopes of winning first place.

Apart from the equal opportunity for all types of music and performance, this show also relies heavily on audience participation. Each ticket will have a stamped number on the back and, at the start of the night, six numbers will be

drawn at random. Each of these arbitrarily-selected audience members will then become a judge. After all the songs have been played, the judges will each cast a vote for their choice of winner and this count, in addition to a seventh vote supplied by whichever band receives the loudest cheer, will determine the winner.

But first place in this show, although undoubtedly a testament to the band, is more primarily significant as an opportunity to propagate generosity. Junior Joshua Mertzluft, one of the student organizers, pointed out that the Houghton Battle of the Bands was created for the purpose of giving to those in need and that is why winning band members will have the opportunity to choose which non-profit charity organization they would like to donate the proceeds of the show to. This event is a creative, fresh way to showcase eclectic talent while raising money and the best (insert genre) rockers of the night simply act as a directive push toward any one of thousands of worthy causes.

Tickets will be available for two dollars during lunch and dinner today and tomorrow in the Van Dyke lounge. This ticket may simply allow your entrance on the night of or, if you are lucky, it may also prove to be one of six golden tickets (figuratively speaking of course) that will transport you from audience member to judge. And, whether you vote at a table on stage or as one voice amid a yelling, clapping throng, both your two dollars and your opinion will play a role in deciding an act of corporate giving. ★

Valley Theatre: Weekend Premiere

This March The Valley Theatre presents Beth Henley's Pulitzer Prize winning dramedy "Crimes of the Heart" directed by Nic Gunning.

Lenny McGrath's (Rachel Stowe) life consists of taking care of her ailing Granddaddy and being henpecked by her pushy cousin Chick (Amanda Cox). As her 30th birthday goes largely unnoticed Lenny worries that her spiral into spinsterhood is inevitable. When Granddaddy takes a turn for the worse Lenny calls her sisters home to say their goodbyes, only to discover that her unreliable middle sister Meg (Carly Trask) is nowhere to be found and her youngest sister Babe (Amy Coon) is behind bars for attempted murder! Luckily for the McGrath sisters, Barnette Lloyd (Ben Layman) is fresh out of law school and eager to take on Babe's hopeless case. Meanwhile, Meg's return after a long absence brings tension among the sisters and potential disaster for her happily married high school sweetheart Doc Porter (Eric Mikols). As the sisters struggle to deal with their troubled past and complicated present they grow to realize that they need each other now more than ever.

The show will run at the Hough-



ton Fire Hall Thursday, March 9 and Friday, March 10 at 7 p.m. All tickets are just \$5 and will be available at the door or by reservation. With questions or tickets requests please contact TheValleyTheatre@gmail.com or find us online at www.facebook.com/ValleyTheatre.

ATHLETE PROFILE: REBECCA SASS



by ANNELISE HEIN

With basketball season over and softball season just beginning, Rebecca Sass has established herself as a notable athlete who is praised by coaches, professors, and friends. A senior from Huntington Beach, California, she has been playing sports since age five. She attended Ocean View High School and has played softball, basketball, soccer, and volleyball. At Houghton, she has focused on varsity basketball and has now joined the softball team for its first season.

A two-sport athlete, Sass finished the basketball season and quickly transitioned into softball. Although she was only able to make it to a few softball practices due to basketball before the season's first games, she quickly showed herself to be a remarkable player. Annette Shepherd, Assistant

Softball Coach, said Sass "has taken on a much-needed leadership role, hits second in the lineup, and has started every game at second base." Sass also plays in the outfield. Shepherd added, "We've been blessed to have her join our team this year and look forward to watching her reach her potential this season."

"I am really excited to be playing softball again and feel blessed to have the opportunity to continue my softball career at a collegiate level," said Sass. Although the season will be challenging because this is a new athletic program, she said, "The team is made up of great girls. It is a privilege to be part of the first softball team at Houghton."

Sass will graduate in May as an Inclusive Childhood Education major with a concentration in English Language Arts. Professor Sunshine Sullivan, education, commended Sass's academic dedication, noting how she demonstrated confidence in her student teaching and was willing to put her students first, even staying late after school and missing basketball practice if necessary. Student teaching, as a capstone of her academic experience at Houghton, was a top priority, but she continued to dedicate herself to sports as well. In addition, she finds time to volunteer with the Boys Club at Houghton Wesleyan Church.

Teammate Emmi James, junior, said, "Rebecca is an extremely kind and loving woman of God and puts her whole heart into everything she does. She works hard, and her enthusiasm is contagious. She has a bubbly and fun personality and has a great attitude on and off the field."

Baseball Team's Florida Campaign

by NICK FREDETTE

While most students return to Houghton's campus after a week-long vacation, the baseball team spent its February break working hard. The Highlanders are returning from Winter Haven, Florida, where they played their first intercollegiate baseball game in 25 years. After nearly a three-decade hiatus, the baseball and softball teams are back in action as part of the College's move to NCAA Division III and the Empire-8 conference. This trip to Florida was part of a series of games that restarted Houghton's baseball program in impressive fashion.

The Highlanders kicked off the road trip with a double header against Goshen College, who also made a long trip from Goshen, Indiana. The double header finished 1-1, winning the first game but dropping the second against the Maple Leafs. In the first game, the Highlanders found strong performance from several players, finding RBIs from juniors Jake Bannerman and Iggy Villalobos, and freshman Seth Cornell, and another three from freshman Mike Kerr, who had a fantastic offensive outing throughout the Florida trip. Houghton won 7-4.

The second game against Goshen College finished with a loss for Houghton with a final score of 9-6. The Highlanders were able to find performance from the same players as the first matchup, but with senior Mitch Weaver and junior Jeremy Austin each adding an RBI in the unfortunate loss. They continued the road trip with a tough loss against St. Xavier University, although still finding a strong performance from Kerr, third baseman. Later, the Highlanders faced off with Bethel College in perhaps the most interesting match-up of the week. It was hard fought through a long 14 innings before Bethel drove in the winning run and ended the game. The last double header for Houghton resulted in two losses to Calumet College, 7-4 and 11-7.

Picking up a few wins and a few tough losses, the players are overall very optimistic about the season. The team has had the opportunity to experience a win while also having the valuable position of learning from a loss. A few high points for the Highlanders included strong play from several players, including the corners of their infield, first baseman Bannerman and third baseman Kerr. Both showed strong offensive performances, each driving in a few runs over the course of the week.

The baseball team plays its first home games of the year at 3 and 5 p.m. March 20 at Bolivar-Richburg High School. There the team will play a double-header against Medaille College.

SPORTS RECAP

BASKETBALL:

THU 3/1

vs St. Xavier College - L 9-12

vs Bethel College - L 9-10

FRI 3/2

vs Calumet College of St.

Joseph's - L 7-11, L 4-7

UPCOMING GAMES:

FRI 3/16

at Geneva College @ 2PM & 4PM

SAT 3/17

at Geneva College @ 1PM & 3PM

SOFTBALL:

THU 3/1

vs Davenport Univ. - L 0-8

vs Adrian College - L 0-7

FRI 3/2

vs St. Xavier Univ. - L 0-9, L 1-10

UPCOMING GAMES:

SAT 2/18

vs Carlow Univ. @ 2PM

UPCOMING GAMES:

FRI 3/16

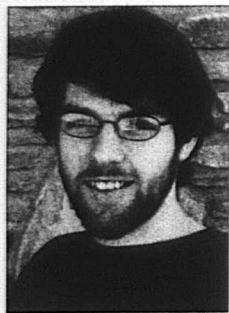
at Geneva College @ 3PM & 5PM

SAT 3/17

at Carlow Univ. @ 1PM & 3PM

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

What Houghton and Australia Have in Common



by ADAM KNEELAND

I would like to put forward a motion that in addition to making the Highland cow our official mascot, we should also make talking about Houghton the official pastime of Houghton College. As incoming freshman, we quickly started to analyze, critique, and discuss the school and all of its decisions and routines and traditions, and that's a habit that continues until graduation. We live here, after all. It just comes with the small and isolated territory.

Hoping to escape this isolation, I spent last semester studying abroad in Australia. When I wasn't looking for Hugh Jackman or the nine-foot python living outside of our dorm, I actually took a little time and learned a few things about the culture. In fact, it would have been hard not to, because one of the things I learned about Australians is that they love to talk about Australia. At each homestay, within the first few hours of my arrival, my hosts were talking not only about the culture of Australia vs. the U.S. but the politics of Australia, the history, and the culture's recent and potential changes because of immigration

or the atheist Prime Minister, Julia Gillard. I was a U.S. American college student coming to study in their country, and they were eager to both show off their country as well as help me learn more about it. It became apparent, however, that there was something else going on.

About halfway through the semester I went to stay in a little town called Wangaratta, and for the weekend I was staying in someone's home. I was making small talk with my host mom, discussing the U.S. and Australian foods. I brought up Vegemite, a truly unique yeast extract spread made out of the leftovers of beer production and eaten on sandwiches, toast, and even crackers. I mentioned that I had actually started to enjoy Vegemite on toast for breakfast. I expected her to start a light conversation about culture and food, maybe about U.S. tastes vs.

Australian tastes (understandably, many American visitors hate Vegemite). But instead she paused, gave a mournful sigh, and said, "Sadly, Vegemite isn't Australian-owned anymore, unfortunately." She seemed legitimately upset about this, as if Australia had lost a national treasure. It was kind of a conversation killer.

I had similar conversations at other times during the semester, in which my hosts brought the conversation back to Australia in unexpectedly and (to my mind) unnecessarily serious ways. I began to realize that Australians are not simply eager to share their culture; they are all a little obsessed with the fact that they are Australian. To be fair, everyone is conscious of where he or she comes

from, especially when they meet a visitor from a foreign country. But while I was in Australia I started to notice the number of businesses that referenced Australia in their company name: an insurance company called Auzcare, a cable company named "Aus-star," and once a little dog washing business called "The Aussie Pooch Mobile," run out of the back of a truck (or ute, as the Aussies call them), and complete with a little dog wearing a stereotypically Australian hat on the side of the vehicle.

Let's be honest, while we're all conscious of living in the U.S., that's just a little much. Only the most obscure and hyper-patriotic American would name their house-call dog washing service "The American Pooch Mobile." I realized that Australia is so small (with a population of about 22,000,000 it

has only a little larger residency than the New York City metropolitan area), so out of the way, and so often sidelined that it has become more inward focused. It's Small Nation Syndrome: Australians are very obviously aware of being Australians simply because so few other people in the world pay attention to them.

I didn't make the connection to Houghton's own little subculture until after I returned this semester. I've always been aware of the Houghton Bubble. Our college creates a culture more or less incomprehensible in the wider world, complete with its own special vocabulary (for example, the load of connotations accompanying the word "community"). Then, while cleaning up my room before

returning from break I found a copy of the Houghton Star I'd taken the Friday I left for home. After just eight or nine days at home, many of the issues discussed in the paper just seemed so much less important.

We spend a lot of time thinking and talking about Houghton, sometimes about its relation (or lack thereof) to the rest of the world, and more often about issues with no relevance at all past the "Welcome to Houghton" sign. It's because we're so isolated that we spend so much time talking about Houghton. After a certain point, what else is there to talk about? Sidelined from the rest of civilization, we compensate by making Houghton issues the big issues.

Now, however, in my last semester, I'm realizing more fully how irrelevant a lot of it is. In less than three months I'll be going out into a world in which "community" doesn't produce knowing smiles, where no one knows or cares about the state of the college flats, and where there is no such thing as "open hours." I think it's always good to have a hold on perspective. That woman I met in Australia had a very real sadness about the ownership conditions of Australia's favorite yeast paste, and it was (frankly) a little ridiculous.

All of this to say, take a breath. Step back. I'm all for honest and periodical self-analysis, and it is a good thing to put energy into our life on campus. Heaven knows we're spending enough money, and beyond that, this is our home, however temporary. But sometimes we need to take a moment to remind ourselves how small Houghton is and remember that the real world, the world outside the Bubble, is not nearly as far away as we think.

Adam is a senior English major

Sidelined from civilization, we compensate by making Houghton issues the big issues

The View From Down Here: Politics, Media, and Generation Y

by CHRIS HARTLINE
and ELISA SHEARER

Between 1972 and 2002, youth voter turnout steadily dropped. There were slight increases in 2004 and 2006 and a significant increase in 2008, but the general trend has been a continuing decrease over the past 4 decades. Between 2006 and 2010 alone, young voter turnout dropped by almost 20%; only 21% of eligible voters 18-29 voted in the 2010 midterm election, down from 26% in 2006 and 23% in 2002.

One possible explanation of the decline in young voting is the national shift to the political right. Young voters have for the last decade tended to vote Democrat, and the failures of the Democrats during the 2010 election cycle and the resurgence of conservative sentiment may have repelled young voters from the political scene in general.

However, while allowing for the fact that the very recent shift toward conservatism may have alienated a left-leaning younger generation, we should consider the possibility that broader trends in the evolution of the American political process are causing the general apathy of younger voters.

The unregulated flow of money into American politics, for example, may be discouraging Generation Y from being politically active. Politics has come to resemble legalized bribery, where private entities systematically donate to politicians on opposing sides to ensure political back-scratching from

whomever is elected. Before the 2008 election, for example, Chesapeake Energy CEO Audrey McClendon donated the maximum amount possible to both the leading Democratic candidates (Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton) and the leading Republican candidates (Rudy Giuliani, John McCain, and Mitt Romney). Incidentally, his salary in 2010 was \$21 million and his company paid \$0 in income taxes despite \$2.8 billion in profits.

In 2010, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission invalidated previous federal campaign law, which prohibited corporations and unions from using general funds to advocate for or against a candidate. The Citizens United decision drastically inflated private and corporate money's place in politics. In the opinion of the Court, Justice Anthony Kennedy quoted himself from McConnell v. Federal Election Commission:

"The First Amendment underwrites the freedom to experiment and to create in the realm of thought and speech. Citizens must be free to use new forms, and new forums, for the expression of ideas. The civic discourse belongs to the people, and the Government may not prescribe the means used to conduct it."

The problem with Kennedy's statement is that Citizens United did not place civic discourse in the hands of the people in any real sense. In reality, the legalization of unlimited donations to Super PACs gave more power to the extremely wealthy and no one else. The use of the free speech defense in a case which undermines the influence of

individual voters made the decision all the more distasteful.

As of February 27, \$130,334,342 has been raised by Super PACs supporting individual candidates.

The infusion of PAC money into the 2012 Republican primary, especially, is unprecedented; this includes \$36 million raised by the pro-Romney Restore Our Future, \$13 million by the pro-Gingrich Winning Our Future, and \$23 million raised by unaffiliated conservative PAC American Crossroads.

The track records of the Super PACs paint a disheartening picture of the Citizens United ruling and its contribution to political discourse. Restore Our Future alone has (supporting Romney) already spent \$25 million on this election cycle. Of that money, however, only \$800,000 has been used to fund positive ads arguing for Romney as a candidate; \$7 million has been spent on negative ads against Rick Santorum and the PAC spent \$17 million on ads attacking Newt Gingrich, famously credited for ruining Gingrich's chances in the Iowa and Florida primaries.

With the power of a well-funded campaign clearly seen in Romney's case, it is discouraging to know that such a campaign could be funded by a few or even one ambitious and opinionated billionaire. Unlike Restore Our Future, the Gingrich-backed and horribly named Winning Our Future has spent more on positive ads about Gingrich than negative ads about

"I'm against very wealthy people ... influencing elections, but as long as it's doable I'm going to do it."

Part 1 of a 3 part series

other candidates. However, the PAC itself has been almost exclusively funded by Sheldon Adleson, a Las Vegas casino mogul. Adleson has donated \$17 million to Winning Our Future so far and has said that he is willing to spend as much as \$100 million in support of Gingrich. Bizarrely, Adleson himself says that he is opposed to the disproportionate influence of wealthy individuals in politics: "I'm against very wealthy people attempting to or influencing elections," Adleson said, "but as long as it's doable I'm going to do it. Because I know that guys like Soros [George Soros, billionaire and supporter of liberal political organizations] have been doing it for years, if not decades."

It's true that the fundraising marathon is not limited to the Republican Party: since the Obama campaign's highly successful fundraising in 2008, it has been speculated that Obama in 2012 may raise as much as \$1 billion in campaign donations and Priorities USA funds. The "Billion Dollar Campaign" prediction may be inflated, but the amount raised will still be significant. In February, for example, Obama went on a 3-day multi-state tour, hosting 8 fundraisers and netting \$8.6 million; one of the fundraising

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Politics has come to resemble legalized bribery

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK / Graduation: The Ability to Look Outwards



by ERIN CARR

Today's college student belongs to a generation raised with the inundation of encouragements that ran pretty much as follows: "You can be anything you want to be"; "Listen to your heart"; "Believe in yourself"; "Follow your dreams" (etcetera, etcetera). In spite of the well-meaning intentions of proud parents, Disney, and whoever it is that sits in an office brainstorming the next great inspirational poster, most of these platitudes are now met with little more than a cynically-raised eyebrow.

We can say with little hesitation that the first bit is unequivocally false: it is literally impossible on both an individual and collective level to do or be anything you choose. All of them, certainly, come with the implication that we can know ourselves and what we want, and, furthermore,

that we are good and we want good and beneficial things. (I take issue with these assumptions.)

When faced with the weight of an unstructured future — when confronted with the entirety of your existence — all of this advice seems laughable. It is simplistic to the point of insult, even.

"You have been told to follow your dreams, but, what if it's a stupid dream?" said Stephen Colbert in a commencement speech at Northwestern University last year. He gets it just about right.

Last spring must have been a good season for graduation advice, because New York Times columnist David Brooks also provided some insight in an article entitled "It's Not About You".

"Today's graduates are also told to find their passion and then pursue their dreams. The implication is that they should find themselves first and then go off and live their quest. But, of course, very few people at age 22 or 24 can take an inward journey and come out having discovered a developed self," he wrote.

For 12+ years, we live with the expectation that we are to identify a passion (no, not a mere job or line of trade; you've got to *love* it!), and then to pursue it wholeheartedly. No wonder college seniors find it difficult to balance even the most mundane of tasks — not to mention the term papers and applications. Yet it's written off as "senioritis" and the paralyzation many young adults experience is trivialized.

The weight of our decisions is unavoidable, and the consequences of even the most attentive planning, for the

most part, remain unpredictable.

"There is no means of testing which decision is better, because there is no basis for comparison," argues Milan Kundera in "The Unbearable Lightness of Being". "We live everything as it comes, without warning, like an actor going on cold."

While Kundera goes on to say that "If we only have one life to live, we might not have lived at all," Colbert made the same comparison, and his conclusion is a bit more encouraging (probably because that is the purpose of a commencement address).

"Thankfully, dreams can change. If we'd all stuck with our first dream, the world would be overrun with cowboys and princesses. So whatever your dream is right now, if you don't achieve it, you haven't failed, and you're not some loser. But just as importantly... if you *do* get your dream, you are not a winner."

The ability for people to change is at once a cause for anxiety and a saving grace. The thing of it is, we are not an entity unto ourselves. The potential to be affected by others is scary — terrifying — because we are at the mercy of a million different interconnected factors; but this also a source of comfort and fulfillment.

As Brooks wrote, "Most people don't form a self and then lead a life. They are called by a problem, and the self is constructed gradually by their calling."

Both Brooks and Colbert denounced an individualistic approach to fulfillment.

"[N]o winning," said Colbert. "Instead, try to love others, and serve others, and hopefully find those who will love and serve you in return."

Brooks denied that the self is the center of life, instead arguing that "Fulfillment is a byproduct of how people engage their tasks, and can't be pursued directly. Most of us are egotistical and most are self-concerned most of the time, but

it's nonetheless true that life comes to a point only in those moments when the self dissolves into some task. The purpose in life is not to find yourself. It's to lose yourself."

While don't pretend to offer an answer any more eloquent or wise than either of these, I would hold that obsessing over one's calling, or lack thereof, is not only a bit egotistical (as if the rest of the world has never had the same doubts and fears, ever) but simply self-defeating. The only response we're left with, I think, is to think less, and do more.

Erin is a senior art major

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dinners charged \$35,800 per guest. Obama recently condoned the support of Priorities USA, the Super PAC unofficially associated with him, and members of the White House administration (though not Obama personally) will be involved with the PAC's fundraising efforts.

Legally, the Citizens United decision disallowed coordination between PACs and candidates, but it created loopholes by which the PACs can use their funds exclusively for one candidate. This essentially lets candidates collect unlimited donations while still technically adhering to campaign finance laws, which limit the amount of money candidates can receive from individual donors and private interests.

Even the founders and staffs of Super PACs are usually previous employees of the candidate the PAC supports. PACs were intended to be a voice for groups of citizens advocating for specific causes, but as a result of the Citizens United ruling they are now used as a tool to subvert the legally proscribed model of campaign funding.

The arms-race style of this monetary power struggle is an unfortunate consequence of the 2011 Citizens United decision. It is also a plausible cause of dissatisfaction among younger voters and the population at large. Colorado Senator Michael Bennet stated: "Allowing corporate influence to flow unfettered into federal campaigns will only undermine the confidence the American people have in their government." His predictions seem to have come true: according to the Pew Research Center, 65% of people believe the Citizens United ruling and the resulting influence of Super PACs are having a negative impact on the presidential campaign. This sentiment is fairly nonpartisan: the Pew results included 60% of registered Republicans, 63% of registered Democrats, and 67% of registered Independents expressing their

dissatisfaction with the increasing role of private money in politics.

Under the guise of free speech, the Citizens United decision unintentionally allowed for an influx of more money into the political process, increasing the power of the wealthy few while decreasing the political influence of the general public. This process, exasperated by the politicization of the media, hyperpartisanship, and a deficit of leadership, has caused disappointment and distrust among younger voters.

Letters to the Editor

houghtonstar@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article "Contraception, Controversy, Compromise" which addressed President Obama's compromise of insurance compromise of insurance companies paying for contraceptives rather than religious institutions. The author concluded, "To me this looks like a war being waged, not on religion — since the compromise lets religious institutions off the hook — but on poor women and families who will suffer the most if the president's compromise is rejected."

It is important to note that free contraceptives are already available to poor women and families. Allegany County Department of Social Services in Belmont gives out free contraceptives to students and poor women. I do not agree that suffering will occur if the President's compromise is rejected as contraceptives are already available to low income people.

Women using contraception should understand the potential health dangers. Birth control pills can cause blood clots and other unwanted complications. Contraceptives should be closely monitored by a medical doctor and should not be used in a casual way or as a government mandate for population control. Our

choices have consequences.

The controversy of the contraceptive law is not just a religious issue, but it is a decree that jeopardizes freedom. The Declaration of Independence states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." As a Christian community, how do we explain that contraceptive use is endorsed by our Creator?

The President is using his authority to force everyone to pay for contraceptives that many people believe are morally wrong. The contraceptives will not be free. Health insurance companies will have to raise their premiums in order to offer contraceptive care "free" to everyone. Therefore, even religious people will be forced to help pay for contraceptives under their insurance policies whether they like it or not.

Many people believe that offering free contraceptive care is the compassionate thing to do. Dietrich Bonhoeffer in "The Cost of Discipleship" spoke about cheap grace and costly grace. In his introduction he wrote, "Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like cheapjack's wares. . . Grace without price; grace without cost! The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing" (p. 43). He warns that, "Having laid hold on cheap grace, they were barred for ever from the knowledge of costly grace" (p. 55). As Christ's disciples, it is vital that we do what is right and just in light of His Word so we do not compromise our faith that could bar us forever from our knowledge of God's costly grace.

- Jim Szymanski, community member

Dear Editor,

Stephen Corell's article "Academy Awards: What's on the Cultural Radar"

raises an interesting question. In general I agree — film can indeed be a barometer to our cultural values. "King Kong" (1933) expressed anxiety about the northern migration of African Americans into large urban cities (see Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison). This interpretation would have seemed absurd to the writers of the "King Kong". They would never have suspected their own motives of racism (racists are often surprised to find out they are racist). In film studies this is sometimes referred to as "latent" or "implicit meanings". I like the article's premise of looking at films in this way — just taking film seriously is uncommon to many who expect and want nothing from their film-watching except mere entertainment.

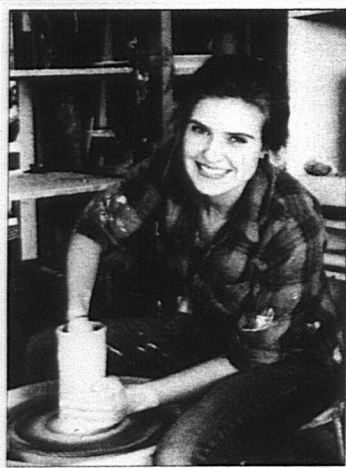
I do wish to take you to task on your one minor observation in which you refer to Max von Sydow as "probably best known for his performance as Lamar Burgess in 'Minority Report'."

Max von Sydow is one of the great iconic symbols of post-war European cinema. He was among Ingmar Bergman's principle actors. He will forever be remembered for his portrayal of Antonius Block in "The Seventh Seal" and as Tore in "Virgin Spring". Max von Sydow is one of a handful of famous actors who are bracketed with a specific great director. Bergman is a central figure in world film — together they defined the notion of the Art House Film. Yes... I cringe when I teach film and students see Alec Guinness in one of the many David Lean masterpieces ("Oliver Twist", "Bridge On The River Kwai", etc.) and say "Isn't that Obi-Wan Kenobi?"

Someday you will be walking along some northern beach and look up and see Death playing chess with a Knight who has just returned from the Crusades... please don't say, "Hey, isn't that Lamar Burgess?"

- Ted Murphy, professor of art

ARTIST OF THE WEEK

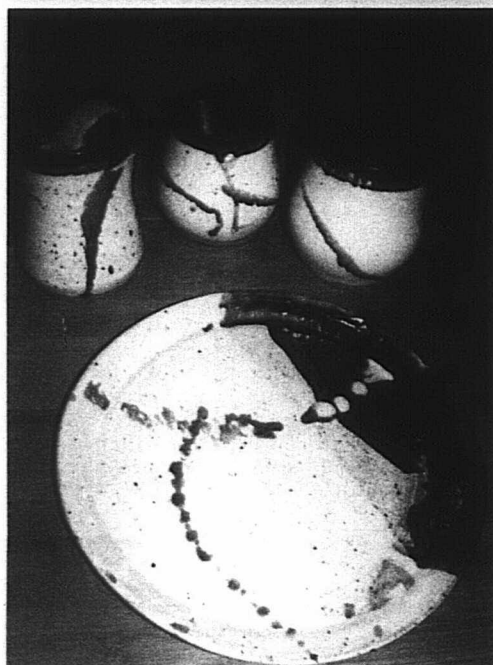
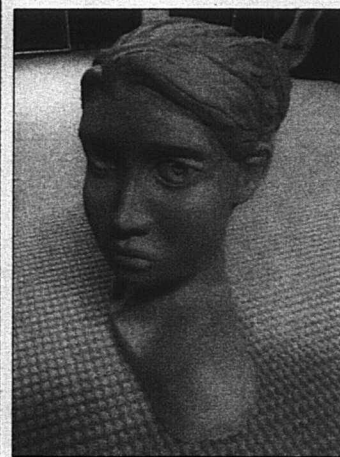
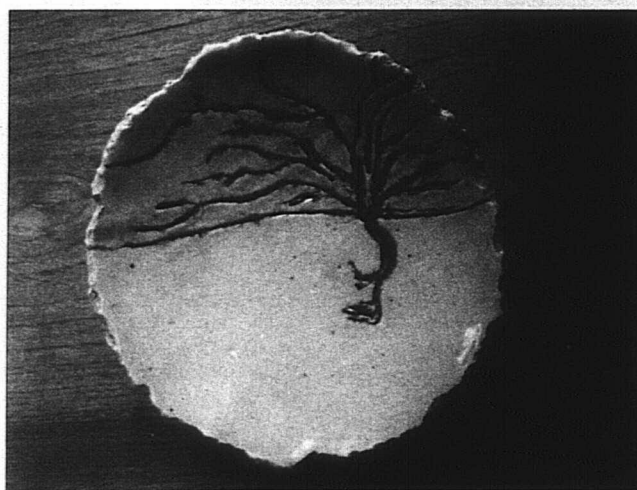


ANDREA PACHECO

REBEKAH HOZJAN

My passion and main major is psychology. Yet, by accident I fell in love with making things. So -- I just added an art major my senior year. I don't have much experience, but I love it. My concentration is ceramics; I'm focusing currently on making table sets and functional pieces, such as vases and jars. Once I have the skillset, I would like to add something unique to my functional ware, such as crystal glazing and engraving. There is still much to learn and I like to think that I can continue on my own after I graduate.

Clockwise from top: Ceramic slab bowl with tree and root system; Earthenware bust carving; Ceramic wheel-thrown tea set glazed with sapphire blue and butter; Earthenware standing figure carving; Ceramic wheel thrown dishware glazed with glick blue and butter



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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 3 | | | | | 9 | |
| | 1 | | 7 | 3 | | 5 | 6 | |
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| 4 | | | 9 | | 3 | | | 1 |
| | | | | 1 | | | | 9 |
| | 4 | | 3 | | | | 5 | 7 |
| | 6 | 9 | | 5 | 7 | | 1 | |
| | 7 | | | | | 2 | | |

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SUDOKU

To win a free Java drink, bring your finished puzzle, clearly marked with your full name and CPO, to the Star office in the basement of the Campus Center (deadline: WED 3/14 by 6PM)

2/24 Sudoku Solution:

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

Last week's winner was ROSA TORRES! Your Java card will be sent to you through campus mail.