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## Pearse and East Meets West Program to Retire

JOHANNA FLOREZ

Houghton says goodbye this year to Professor Meic Pearse and, after next year, to the East Meets West honors program he has led since its inception.

Pearse started working at Houghton in 2004, after a decade teaching church history at the London School of Theology. The British native first came in contact with Houghton when students of its London semester (a precursor to the London Honors program as it now exists) would visit his school for classes. Impressed with his teaching, students suggested that he be invited to campus to give Staley Lectures. Pearse accepted a position as a professor of history at Houghton and promptly went to work with other professors to develop the East Meets West (EMW) honors program, which launched a year after his arrival.

The EMW program has taken first-year honors students through two semesters of classes on campus, studying the history of the Balkans region, where Eastern Europe meets the Middle East. The program's study abroad component is a two-week Mayterm, which Pearse leads at the end of students' first year.



COURTESY OF ALANNA PARIS

"[East Meets West] culminates in experience that's built around his wealth of expertise and connections in the former Yugoslavia and the Balkan peninsula," says Benjamin Lipscomb, professor of philosophy and director of Honors at Houghton. "Former students of his accompany the group along the way... he speaks the local languages, knows the way around like his own hand." While Pearse has not been the only professor leading EMW, Lipscomb says that he "has a particularly irreplaceable expertise in prepara-

tion for what they're going to be going to see. ... Somebody else could stand at the front of the tour bus and herd people in and out, but he speaks Croatian and he's got friends on every street, and that stuff is irreplaceable."

Pearse's experience in the Balkans area dates back to his gap year before college, during the Cold War. At nineteen years old, he traveled around Europe by train and worked in a German engineering factory alongside two brothers from Croatia. The brothers had violated the border

of a restricted country and so were unable to return to their home. Pearse, with more freedom to cross borders throughout Europe, visited their parents to report that they were doing well. He did not return to the area until decades later, when he was working in London. Pearse says he received a letter from John Stott (whom he calls the "evangelical pope, about as big a name as they get"), who had heard that Pearse might be interested in an opportunity to teach church history for free at to see

See below

### STORIES FROM EAST MEETS WEST

DEVEN BLOWERS

Sydney Jameson and I were walking in downtown Zagreb, Croatia trying to find an overlook of the city we had been to earlier that day with the group. It was night time and we wanted to see the lights of what was becoming our favorite city in the world. I don't consider myself a stubborn person. However while we were walking, Sydney was adamant that we had passed our turn, yet I was certain that it was just ahead. It didn't matter too much because we wanted to walk around the city, realistically. The overlook was merely our preferred destination.

When we arrived at the corner we had turned on that day, we both remembered that we were on the right track. Turning down this lane, we started to hear music. This was not uncommon in the cities we had visited both on and outside of the East Meets West program, but what was uncommon was that we recognized the music, but it was being sung in a different language. As we continued down this road we realized that the song was Oceans

See **EMW** page 2



COURTESY OF ALANNA PARIS

a seminary in Croatia for a few weeks. Pearse accepted the offer, and then "got completely sucked in to not just Croatia but also the Balkans as a whole... So then I spent all my time reading the extremely complicated history of the region." His fascination with the area eventually resulted in his work developing EMW.

Pearse explains his desire to expose students to the region through the EMW program: "This program is designed... to introduce them to two other major cultures alongside their own, the West. So it's by way of comparison, and looking at the historic interactions and the

different patterns of religious thinking; and then we go to somewhere where those three civilizations meet." Pearse says that the area they encounter has a history far more complicated than the development of the United States or England, where the story of the culture can be plotted on a line— not straight or simple, but "there's a line." The development of the Balkans was not linear at all, so students cannot carry the same questions to their study that work in other contexts. The end goal of EMW, Pearse says, is to cultivate "people who know what they need to do when they encounter other

cultures."

"EMW... was a very important introduction to my engagement with the rest of the world," says Deven Blowers, a senior writing major who was part of the program in 2016-2017. "It was an opportunity for me to engage with cultures [and] with stories that I otherwise might not have gotten the chance to learn."

Libby Best, a junior music major who was also in the program in 2016-2017, credits the program with not just broadening her cultural understanding but also making her a better learner. She says that the on-campus preparation for the Mayterm instilled her with a good work ethic and time management skills, and that the program "changed how you read things. You're not just reading for content in that program, you're reading for understanding."

The Mayterm travel has had unforgettable impacts on program alums. Blowers recalls exploring Zagreb, Croatia one evening to find an overlook view of the city he had seen earlier in the day. After a wrong turn, he found a group of worshipers singing Hillsong

See **PEARSE** page 2



The bridge on the Drina

COURTESY OF ALANNA PARIS



Sarajevo, Bosnia: The divide between East and West

COURTESY OF ALANNA PARIS



# International // World War One

## AGGRESSIVE GERMANY---INDOLENT AMERICA

G. B. S.

*This rerun column features a Houghton STAR article from our archives. These articles do not contain current information, but are meant to show the past culture and events on Houghton Campus throughout the College's history. This particular article is from Volume 10 Issue 13 of the STAR published on May 1st, 1918.*

We have been at war a year, last April 6,-and during that time we have suffered disillusionment in many ways.

The chief way however, has been that those who thought if America would enter the war the enemy would at once “incontinently drop its guns and raise the white flag of unconditional surrender.” However such was not the case, for Germany did not become greatly alarmed with our advent into the war but rather treated it contemptuously.

In another respect we have suffered disillusionment. We have been forever under the impression of an adequate preparation for war, yet it has been officially announced that we were “grossly and grotesquely

unprepared,” and even now could not hold more than a sector of that huge battlefield. Furthermore. if we have good luck we may, if there are no more strikes and the weather is clement, build half as much tonnage as the German U-boats will destroy. This has been our failure but what has happened in the camps of our enemies? Has Germany been asleep?

Germany has immensely augmented her position, “from both the military and diplomatic point of view.” True, she has not been able to gain any considerable portion of territory in

the west altho nothing has been definitely decided. Everywhere else she has gained ground. Germany has driven the Italians out of Austria and has invaded Italy. She has made the rich country of Roumania her vassel. She has, by her subtle and intrepid system of diplomacy, caused Russia to withdraw from the war and annexed her western provinces which are so abundantly replete with prodigious stores of oil. Germany has further opened, for her “Ally, the Unspeakable Turk,” a route to Persia, to Afghanistan, and to the borders of British India. All

of these gains have been territory and J what of a commercial gain? She has gained access to the chief granaries of Europe and Asia, “to inexhaustible mines of copper and platinum,” she has gained immensely by the addition “of great subject peoples” who will add greatly to her financial and military purposes. She has, at the same time, remained unmolested at home. The great “wedge” of which we formerly heard so much has never been driven and the enemy was never in a more propitious position to prosecute the war than she is now.

These are not pleasant facts still we must face them. Now is the time to begin to tighten the iron-band around Germany. Now is the time to push her back on her own territory and to shorten the war by so doing. We can do this by purchasing Liberty Bonds, Thrift Stamps and War Saving stamps. We must do it or by this time next year Germany will be a bigger gainer than she was this past year. We must sacrifice and toil. If we do all we can victory for “God and man” will prevail against the Devil and the Hun.”★



photo courtesy of PicsWe



photo courtesy of cfr.org

**EMW** from page 1

by Hillsong United. Then we realized where we were headed. Earlier that day, before we got to the overlook we passed through a Marian Shrine called Stone Gate. When we arrived back at the shrine, there were about 50 worshipers singing songs and performing call and response liturgy. In addition people would pass by nonchalantly paying no attention to the crowd. Some would even cross themselves as they passed the shrine.

What struck me and Sydney was that this is something that we stumbled upon. It brought tears to my eyes and I felt that God was there with us, in our uncertainty of where to turn and in guiding us back to the Stone Gate. ★

ELIANNA CHRONIGER

While overseas I met an inspiring man. He was an imam in the local mosque. We went to visit, he came and told us the plan. Took us inside and shared from his heart.

We learned what is needed for a mosque to be right. The names of Allah, and Muham-mad in script. The beauty of artwork was such a cool sight. To see where he worships was powerful too.

Young ladies wore headscarves out of respect. Young men wore long pants and removed their hats. He sang us a prayer from the Holy

Quran. To bless all our travels as we carried on.

We took photos and left all respectfully dressed. We weren't disrespectful, didn't make a mess. The imam shared with us, outside of the place. What hurts him about all the stigmas he's faced.

First he shared the real words for Jihad. A troublesome journey to to fulfil one's purpose. A father's Jihad is to raise his child. A child's Jihad is to do well in school.

The conversation we had with this man Is the reason why I'm hurt by our land. People who act radically aren't tied to a faith No matter their color or ethnicity.

They simply are radicals who fight for themselves. Muslims won't support them and neither do we. To blame a whole faith for the terror of a few Is simply, so stupid there's not much to say.

The imam that I met is a Muslim, that's true But he has no intentions to hurt me or you.

He blessed my friends, myself, and our journey He's human and hurts just like you and me.

His heart breaks when people misunderstand. He's overjoyed when it finally makes sense. He loves sharing and discussing his faith. Disagreements were peaceful and not filled by shame.

As a foreigner there in his place of worship I learned to respect what he had to say I learned that he and I aren't all that different. There's just an ocean that separates us.

My life was forever changed by this man Who willingly taught us and took us by hand. He prayed without fear and set our minds straight To the imam I say thank you and give Romans 8:28. ★

**PEARSE** from page 1

in Croatian and reciting Catholic call and response liturgy, an experience that moved him to tears. When he told Pearse about this, Pearse responded, “That’s why we bring you guys on the program. To see things like that. To interact with individuals and stumble upon things.”

After one final class (of incoming freshman) complete the East Meets West experience they committed to this spring, Houghton will operate with only London Honors and Science Honors. During the coming spring and fall semesters, Pearse will return to New York to visit the students

in class a few times and help prepare them for the Mayterm, which he will still lead. “I think with Professor [Peter] Meilaender and Professor [Christian] Esh and Professor [Jonathan] Case pulling together, we’re going to be able to do a nice job of giving the students in EMW the rich background that they need in order to go and see with understanding the things that they’ll encounter in the Balkans in May,” says Lipscomb.

There are no official plans in place for replacing EMW in future years. Best is hopeful that another honors program will develop that is similarly travel-based and includes “intensive study about a place and then going there.” Blowers also wants to see attention on “other areas of the world that are so crucial to Christianity [and] to other religions as well, and to other sects of Christianity.”

Best says she is “crushed” to see East Meets West come to an end. Lipscomb says, “We’re going to lose things in losing EMW,” while adding that he and other leaders of honors hesitate to “slap something together and put it out there for the sake of having it.” Within this sense of loss, members of the Houghton community who have been part of EMW and known Pearse remember them fondly. “I feel privileged to have been a part of East Meets West and to have had the experience of being taught by Dr. Pearse,” says Blowers.

Pearse may be best-known on campus for his sassy remarks, a reputation confirmed by Lipscomb, Blowers, and Best, but all of them insist on his heart

for his students. “He really does care about us,” Best says. “He wouldn’t prepare us as he does and he wouldn’t be as hard... if he didn’t want us to be safe and comfortable in this foreign country.” Blowers describes expressions of continued care after the program’s end: invitations to Pearse’s house for movies, mince pie and Turkish coffee, or trips to Buffalo for Lebanese food, obscure cheeses and haircuts. “He jokes around all the time,” Blowers says, “he’s so sassy, it’s great, and it seems like there’s this willingness in him to open his door to students.” Prodded on the topic of the sass, Pearse insisted, “I just abuse them and they like it! Because they think I’m joking! I’m serious!”-- following his comment with hearty laughter. Pearse leaves, too, with fondness for the students he has interacted with during his time at Houghton: “As I look back at some of my former students over the years, I could probably tear up. There’s some real good ones.”

Leaving Houghton with a legacy of curiosity and truly seeking to understand other cultures on their own terms, Pearse has a few projects planned for his retirement. He is in the process of writing two books: one a history book on the secularization of Europe since the mid-nineteenth century (including some of the material presented in his April 11 valedictory lecture), the other a humorous novel about an “entirely imaginary Christian college in the snow belt.” He says his writing “might even make some money”-- and, “I’ll spend the interim spearing out snark.” ★



# STAR Rerun

## The Purpose of Spring

*This rerun column features various Houghton STAR articles from our archives. These articles do not contain current information, but are meant to show the past culture and events on Houghton Campus throughout the College's history This particular article is from Volume 10 Issue 15 of the STAR published on June 1st, 1918.*

June has come home with all her verdant glory, apple blossoms and orioles are here, unspeakable joy pulsates every throat and radiates from every flower face,

crystal hills keep rippling their own version of happiness. Everything that makes our little domain of Houghton a new edition of Heaven is blended in harmony with everything God has made for mortals.

No more vivid expression of divinity exists than the revelation of a blossoming, singing, ecstatic outdoors. God must have loved the bluebirds. He tuned their melodies to praise Him. It must have taken hours of time before creation to plan the wonderful black and gold wings of one butterfly; no earthly genius has ever

fashioned anything half as exquisite.Music masters never learned to transcribe the call of the whip-poor-will or the message of larks and cedar waxwings into nocturnes, nd revilles. For a wise purpose all of His own, God's wonders in His realm of everywhere have been spoken into existence, As we ponder about it we will come to understand.

The civilized world is an arena of conflict, a fury-maddened field of torture, a universal military pageant. Each cannon report is an echo of one more life paying the supreme depth of devotion, each bugie call accents the reality of a thousand more home circles with a loved one lost. Yet

Freedom smiles upon Death and kills her "Emancipator". Just as a prisoned bird exults to see bleeding hand reached to rescue it. To reconstruct we must devastate, to redeem we must kill, to liberate we must subjugate. to champion a century veiled by tile for-distant future our century must suffer and die. Peace and human brotherhood will come. These are the ideals for which we fight.

Yet the scar is left. As Pilate taught Jesus men can crucify, so nineteen eighteen has taught enlightenment that crucifixions are not mere words men talked about when weird tales of ancient martyrdom are told. Humanity's

heart is a throbbing ache, too sensitive to trust to verbal mutilation. But out of every Gethsemane's lone garden has risen a supplication, like incense rising from an altar to the skies.

And God has answered with a gift, of healing sympathy. He sends His archangel, Springtide, to tell creation that He has not forgotten. On the margin of every heart's winter lie opens the portals of gladness and the Eterna, in guise of nature, comes to earth once more to wipe away tears Bnd heal broken hearts. And what is the purpose of Spring, the miracle of His wise design revealed to humankind. ★

## THE HOUGHTON STAR HAS A RIGHT TO EXIST. THEREFORE LET'S MAKE IT BOOM.

*This particular article is from Volume 10 Issue 12of the STAR published on April 15th, 1918.*

This is an age of conservation, conservation of food supplies and natural resources.

Every housewife has felt the effects of the time. We have our meatless and wheatless days, we have the Red Cross to support, we are expected to buy Liberty Bonds and to invest our extra nickels and dimes in Thrift Stamps. Is it not then in order that one should challenge any institution, industry or association existing in our United States, to give an account for itself? May not one ask of any organization what its purpose is, what good it is doing or is it merely existing because it was there in the past? Is not one justified in enquiring from the Union Literary Society of Houghton Seminary what right

it has to expend so much energy in putting forth the Houghton Star? Perhaps young men may be so tied down by the responsibility for its success that they cannot leave school for farm work. Perhaps young ladies are spending hours working on its staff that might otherwise be spent in Red Cross work and in knitting for the soldiers. In fact if the Star has not a legitimate mision to fulfill it has no right to the precious paper and work required for its printing.

A great many people seem convinced that it is best that the Star of Houghton should continue to shine. Many old students anticipate its arrival and welcome its coming like as if it were an intimate friend. In a measure it attains that to watch it aspires and to that degree is comparable to the star of the East. it guides out thoughts from afar back to cherished

memories of Houghton. It still bears forth in its humble way the inspiration of this noble institution. The inducement this paper affords for writing, results in profitable literacy development for students. The training the members of the staff receive is also very beneficial. It is the voice of the institution, it is the Seminary's representative going ot -f,mong her sons and daughters and those interested in Houghton's welfare. The Star weighed in the balance will not be found wanting, except that it wants to be boosted. The Star is not merely a worthy organ at our school but is an indispensable one.

Since we are satisfied that this paper should continue its bi-monthly visits, let every one of its friends boost it. You can help by your suggestions and advice. Let the staff know what feature of the Star pleases you and what feature displeases you. However, of all things do not criticize and condemn anything unless you can show how it may be improved. Anybody can pick flaws but few have anything

constructive to offer.

One of the very finest conditions that will enable the staff to publish a better paper is an enlarged number of subscriptions. We should like to know why there should not be five hundred subscriptions to the Star. What is more, we have determined to find out why and unless some very strong arguments are presented to us we shall not be at all happy until we have that many. That means just about a doubling of our present subscription list. That should not be so difficult, Houghton people. Houghton people when supporting a worthy cause, as a unit have ever proved invincible. This will be made an easy matter if one and all resolve to put it through. You may as mentioned before offer suggestions and advice to the staff but do not fail to solicit subscriptions among your friends who are or should be interested in Houghton. Send to us addresses of those who might be interested in subscribing to the Star. Many students who have attended these halls are not at present subscribers,

many old subscribers seem to have lost interest and have not continued their subscriptions. Then too, we would remind those whose subscription have run behind to avail themselves of an early opportunity to remedy the condition.

It seems reasonable that everyone who has ever attended this school should retain a sufficient amount of loyalty to his Alma Mater to subscribe to the Star. It takes such a little more work to put out a good paper than it does to publish a poor one. It takes more money though and the only way to get more money is to get to subscribers

There is virtue in the Star so let's boost it. Let us take our eyes off from the mistakes and failures of the past but partaking of the measure of its success press forward to a better future. We can have five hundred subscribers by June 1 and have a June issue that is worth the price of a whole year's subscription if we do our part. Let the subscriptions come! ★

## Meditation

C. Lawrence Hill  
An hour of musing holds me bound.  
I think of LIFE with joy and cares,  
And ask myself the question:  
Is it vain?  
E'en here in God's creation  
Men are held in sway.  
By evil power.  
Why? may I ask of things  
Innumerable. Does God still reign?  
The battle's roar; the disappointment;  
Shame; and failure to attain  
To heights of good--these,  
Who knows and understand. but God?

*(This particular article is from Volume 10 Issue 13 of the STAR published on May 1st, 1918.)*

I fain would know the way  
To victory. Is there no other path  
But strife and fighting long,  
The heights to gain?  
O, messenger of peace. I pray thee  
Tell me why the bitter cup of grief,  
Is there no hope for man?  
Or, is there path to glory yet untried?  
Where is the Sovereign Power  
That moulds a life, and makes it true  
To virtue and to right?

Far in the distance do I see  
A ray of hope. It is a cross.  
Hid from it streams a flow  
Of crimson tide. 'Christ'?  
Did you say? 'The man of Galilee'?  
Ah, yes! "I am the way, the Truth,  
The Life," He said. But did he mean  
That I might 'taste and see'?  
And will he come and break  
The chain, and set me free?  
I seek his touch divine.  
Oh, faith, reach out and take  
The proffered gift of Life. ★

## The Parting Hour

L .K .H  
Still eventide has come once more,  
The west is all aflame;  
Today resigns her sovereignty  
To surer nighttime claim.  
With a brighter constellation far,  
Than that in yonder sky.  
The hour of parting hours has come--  
Dear Houghton Star, Good Bye.

*(This particular article is from Volume 10 Issue 16 of the STAR published on June 15th, 1918.)*

If thru some sincere sacrifice,  
Or thru some effort spent,  
The sum of all has gone to make  
Your cheer more radiant,  
And if that radiancy, Oh Star.  
In wiser Providence  
Has made the world a brighter place  
That shall be recompense.

But till life's mysteries all are solved,  
We'll leave the rest to One  
Who sets his Mispah over all,  
When every day is done.  
When other suns and stars are set  
And other dreams come true,  
We'll not forget the parting hour,  
The yesterdays and you. ★



# Artists of the Week

## Emily Conn

// senior intercultural studies and communications major and art minor

In order to make sure we showcase all our senior art majors before they graduate, we've chosen two Artists of the Week for this issue.



photograph by Katlyn Heverly



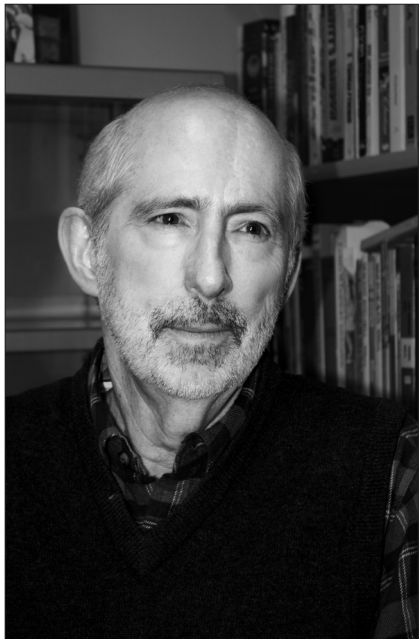
"What even are you anyway?," pencil sketch



Voice, photography



Blonde Haired Wood Nymph: 4/24/17, photography



Listen Between the Lines, photography

“Art has always been a fluid but constant concept in my life. My aunt is a professional artist, and to me, no one could ever measure up to her unique style and skill. I started out thinking I would never be good enough and hated everything that I created. My sister quickly picked up an eye for photography and I became a constant practicing model. Little did I know that this would train my eye and lead me to pursue photography from behind the camera as well. Along the way I got pulled into the beauty and symbolic meanings behind tattoos and started designing. The journey is the destination. Believe in yourself and make your own path!”



The Roles Reverse, photography



Homestay, calligraphy pen



Jicho La Tembo: Wisdom, photography



# Photo of the Week



Submitted by Andrew Hutton '18 on February 6, 2018



Chester, Maine; submitted by Celine Diong '20 on January 16, 2018



Houghton Creek; submitted by Emily Allen '20 on Febraury 13, 2018

While doing some spring cleaning in the STAR email inbox, we stumbled upon these gems submitted for Photo of the Week. We decided to feature these as the last Photos of the Week for the semester.



Mukaa, Kenya; submitted Ellenore Tarr '18 on January 16, 2018



Submitted by Joseph Cilento on February 6, 2018



Submitted by Lisbeth Crompton '21 on February 6, 2018



# CO<sub>2</sub> and You



ANNA SCHILKE

JOSH ELLIS

I love steak. A lot. And I lik it rare (which is admittedly kind of gross but here we are). I even get excited when it is served in the dining hall and chewing that is dedication. I mean, meat in general is my absolute favorite form of protein. However, my love of beef was heavily impacting something else that’s really important to me: my carbon footprint. But how can beef and carbon footprints be related?

First off, it’s important to know what a carbon footprint

is. An individual’s carbon footprint is a measurement of how much carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) they are responsible for releasing into the atmosphere. Next, we need to know why the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> we release is important. The problem with too much CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is that it acts like insulation in a house. The thicker the insulation, the more heat that the house can retain. As we release more and more insulating CO<sub>2</sub> into the air, more heat is retained within our atmosphere. Yes, that brings us to a topic that is constantly ignored or only lightly acknowledged in the U.S: global warming. This

The coral reefs off the coast of Florida alone have decreased in size by 80-90% from just a two degree shift in the ocean’s temperature and up to a fifth of the world’s coral reefs are already dead.

So what does beef have to do with all this? Every oxygen-breathing animal has a carbon footprint. The carbon dioxide expended by the cow and the resources needed to raise it to maturity make beef one of the most CO<sub>2</sub>-heavy sources of protein out there. In fact, a study by the Washington Post showed that swapping out a five-ounce steak with chicken once a week for a year can save on 266 kilograms of

pounds). The study also looked at other sources of protein such as beans which could save as much as 331 kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub> (almost 730 pounds). The same goes for foods like wheat, lentils, rice and cauliflower.

However, I have some good news! That doesn’t extend to all sources of beef. When cattle are let to graze in a field, carbon is stored in the ground through a process called sequestration. Because of the amounts of carbon that are taken out of the atmosphere from sequestration, it is possible to find beef that has no carbon footprint. There’s a good chance that this doesn’t include a burger at your favorite chain but it would include meat from a local farmer and most farmers’ markets.

consignment shops. There are also clothing companies that make a conscious effort to keep their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at a minimum during production in an effort to conserve on their footprint like Patagonia, Todd Shelton, and Fair Trade Winds.

The point of this article is not to shame the reader into a “better” lifestyle but rather to give food for thought. As functioning humans in American society, it’s impossible to live without a carbon footprint. Every time you eat or drive or even breathe, you are adding to the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. Does my lifestyle have a massive CO<sub>2</sub> footprint? Yes, of course. But I have been making small changes that are within my ability as a broke college student to curve the numbers.

★

“...The point of this article is...to give the reader food for thought... every time you eat or drive or breathe you are adding to the amount of CO<sub>2</sub>...”

leads to rising sea levels, change in weather patterns, and disruption of habitats. CO<sub>2</sub> (around 586 pounds) and swapping with pork could save 270 kilograms (around 595

*Josh is a Sophomore majoring in Music*

# The World Needs More Garbage Men



ANNA SCHILKE

CONNOR SWAN

Growing up, my mother told me the world will always need garbage men. There will always be a need for the jobs that we may not strive for or the jobs that we have been told to stay away from because we are better than that kind of work. That said, blue-collar jobs can be just as beneficial as white collar ones. As someone who is studying biochemistry here at Houghton, I have been in the white collared lab and, over the summers, I have worked the blue collared labouring on a bridge crew. Over the last 5 years I had been part of a labouring crew for a

bridge construction company in Northern Ontario where I have learned that working with one’s hands can be as refreshing as working with one’s mind..

As a culture, we need to end the stigma that working in the trades or a position that does not require formal education is a position only for those who have failed. Not everyone is destined to be the CEO of a company or to discover the cure for a disease. Tradespeople work in unfavourable conditions to make life easier for everyone else. Every workspace will have a janitor/maintenance worker keeping up with the housekeeping of the building, creating a better environment for their co-workers. When you get down to it, both the guy cleaning the toilet and the group of people closing a sale have a common goal of making life easier for everyone and should be treated

“...As a culture we need to end the stigma that working in a position that...does not require formal education is a position only for those who have failed...”

with the same level of respect as the other workers in the company.

Everyone wants to make the world a better place; we just all have our own ways of doing so. In my 5 years in the trades, I have refurbished 5 bridges and worked on numerous highways. With an orange vest instead of a business suit, I have indirectly helped millions of people get from point A to point B to visit family, get to work or even travel

for pleasure. Road workers may not be currently in a lab discovering a cure for a disease but we are building a safer route for a small town, allowing for more jobs and so medications to be more easily accessible. Since most trade work does not require formal education and a degree it is open to everyone and with schools currently being over packed with people trying to become lawyers and doctors, there has been a steady decline in the trade industry. The current average age of a welder is 55 with fewer than 20% under the age of 35. If this trend were to continue there may not be any more specialized blue-collar workers. I think the upbringing of high schools and families that convince their kids that they are

‘better than’ the people who work with their hands are to blame.

Now I’m not telling you to intentionally fail out of college, join the trades and life will be great. If you’re passionate about business, music or psychology, do that. What I am trying to say is that tradesmen and women are as important as those in the high-rise buildings they constructed. Not everyone will be able to get into Harvard. The world will always need garbagemen. There will always be work for those who are looking and if you can be the best you can in everything you do, to be engaged and curious in your work, the world becomes a lot more fun.. Blue-collared garbage men and white-collared salesmen need to be respected as both people and workers; no one life is more important than that another.

★

*Connor is a Junior majoring in Biochemistry*

“...Everyone wants to make the world a better place; we just all have our own ways of doing so ...”



# Justice or Revenge?



EMILY VANDENBOSCH

TYLER STETSON

Since I have been a very young boy, I have always loved reading for its ability to expand my mind and transform me as a person. In particular, I enjoy reading about economics, history and philosophy; but these are not the books that have had the most impact on me. The books that have most changed me as a person and have catalyzed my maturation were not enjoyable. Rather they made me sick, physically ill. These are books like *The Rape of Nanking* by Iris Chang, *The Gulag Archipelago* by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, *The Girl Nobody Wants* by Lilly O'Brien, and *If This is a Man* by Primo Levi. In these books are records of the most horrific and dastardly acts imaginable, some of which are so repugnant that I will not repeat them here in The Star.

What I have learned from these accounts is that evil is present in all of us. It is not perplexing that there is so much cruelty in the world; instead, it is perplexing that such wicked creatures can be brought together to be so kind and cooperative. We should be constantly grateful for the traditions, beliefs, and institutions that help us to remain so peaceful. We should also constantly look out for how this intrinsic evil shows its ugly head. While there are many ways evil manages to disguise itself, here I would like to discuss how evil can hide itself behind justice.

“..There are many ways that evil manages to disguise itself [;] here I would like to discuss how evil can hide itself behind justice...”

lesser extent in nearly every social justice movement. It is not enough for the poor to become richer - they want the rich to be poorer. It is not enough for a minority race to be recognized - the dominant race must be silenced and delegitimized. It is not enough for women to make substantial progress in every area of

there is a hatred, amongst so many, at the straight white man for being so dominant for 400 years or so and a fear that he will remain dominant if he is not challenged. Does this sound far-fetched? Since coming to Houghton I have been called an evil monster just for my race. I have been told that the traditional masculine virtues that have been handed down to me from my father and grandfather, my cultural inheritance, are inherently threatening and disgusting. I have heard brilliant men with Ph.Ds apologize about making a judgement in their field because, in their words, “What do I know, I’m just an old white man.”

Perhaps this is human justice, to somehow express our innermost violence towards our enemies by engaging in this eternal battle for influence and dominance. There are many modern social theorists that hold this view, that’s it’s all just one big struggle for power. But is this God’s justice? Should Christian justice not look radically different? For the Christian victim can have total certainty in their individual value in Christ and similar certainty that justice

belongs to the only fair and ultimate judge. Are we not called to turn the other cheek, to love our enemies and to end this circle of violence with self-sacrifice and love? This is an entirely different, theologically rich discussion, this debate about what Christian justice consists, but I insist here that if there is a Christian justice, it is not one built around hatred and fear.

Please do not me to be saying that justice movements should stop in their tracks, or that we should cease to be alarmed at and frustrated with the injustices present in our culture. I also hope you do not construe my critique of these justice movements as a call for some countermovement. Rather, I am advocating for a radical rethinking of the concept of justice. What if justice was more than simply re-adjusting the cultural balance of power? What if, instead, it meant abandoning that project to humbly pursue the truth in the hopes of setting things a little more right? Such a reimagining would require us to teach others to listen, rather than silencing them. It would require us to bury a lot of hatchets we would rather put to use. It would require us to be a lot more patient and a lot less angry. Justice is hard; but if pursuing it were easy, we would be living in a much better place. ★

*Tyler is a Junior Majoring in Math and Philosophy*

“...Such a reimagining would require us to teach others to listen, rather than silencing them. It would require us to bury a lot of hatchets we would rather put to use...”

It is my belief that justice is almost always revenge in disguise. I think back to the human catastrophes in the books I mentioned, how the Russian peasants found ways to justify and legitimize the cruelty they inflicted on the kulaks and how the Nazi’s found ways to turn the German people against the Jews by fabricating stories about how they had robbed from society. I see these elements to a much

society - masculinity must be labeled “toxic” and dangerous. What is the similarity between these seemingly benign justice movements and those horrific historical events? A desire, stemming from fear and hatred, to silence and label and eliminate. That is why, on my view, there is a campaign in our culture, particularly in academic culture, to devalue my thoughts and actions as a straight white man. It is because

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# Artist of the Week

## Kara Christy

// senior studio major and psychology minor



*Protea*, watercolor and ink



*Noble*, watercolor



*Sitting and Waiting*, mixed media quilt

"My current art practices are simple studies and moments in the day. When there aren't class assignments or the space to throw ceramics, make paper, etc, I have to create on my own and for my own sake. I've always struggled in starting a piece because I felt like it had to be a great work of art. However, not all work will be a masterpiece and it's ok to leave some unfinished.

But make.



*A New Room*, woven thread and wool



*Wedding Set*, ceramic

I've been trying to make something everyday. It's not always something exciting or a "work of art", but I don't regret taking that time to just create. It's about the act of making and it is a part of me. It is therapy for me. Be true to yourself, make art daily, trust the process."



*We Know They Sting*, oil and thread