



AARON SULLIVAN

the houghton STAR

Houghton College's Student Newspaper Since 1909

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Name Change Delayed for Houghton Coffee House

HOPE: A New Office for Service and Outreach

ASHLEY CARTWRIGHT



The current coffee house remains nameless.

LUKE LAUER

SAVANNAH DOVIAK

When a school-wide vote resulted in the name "The Taco Shack" for the new Houghton College coffee house, the college deemed it inappropriate and turned the issue over to the SGA.

After Java 101, a small business previously owned by Greg Bish, closed this summer, Sodexo took over opening a new coffee house on campus. To decide on a name, Tina Powers, general manager for Sodexo and Houghton Dining Services, sug-

gested the students have a say in the process. Sodexo and the college then created a school wide competition, allowing students to submit potential names for the coffee house room and then vote on those submissions, promising the winner \$250.00 in Big Al's money.

According to the SGA and Sodexo there were flaws in the vote, resulting in more votes for "The Taco Shack" than there are Houghton students -- another reason why the winning name will not be chosen.

SGA held a meeting Tuesday, October 8, 2013, to discuss a potential solution. The outcome now stands that if an agreement cannot be made to keep the name Java 101, Cool Beans is next in line, followed by Boom Roasted, explained Dr. Pool, Vice President of Student Life.

"I just want it understood it's due to the fact that it wasn't taken seriously," said Powers when speaking on why the room is still unnamed. Real-

To encourage dedication of service amongst Houghton students towards the community and surrounding areas, the college has created a new office for Houghton Outreach Programs & Education, or as it is also known as, HOPE. This new office will provide a centralized space on campus where students can learn and participate in upcoming community service opportunities.

The HOPE office, which will be located in the basement of the Campus Center, will offer resources to a current database listing needs of services to students, faculty, and staff.

It will provide students with the chance to discover service opportunities that will accompany their passions in life and study. Gregory Bish, Director of Student Programs said, "I think that one of the key things for the office is actually just to help us better understand and recognize what students are already doing. But I also think that as students, they are look-

See COFFEE HOUSE page 3

See OUTREACH page 1

Our Common Ground Currently on Hiatus

SHELBY WEIL

Due to a shortage of time commitment and funding, events and other happenings at Our Common Ground has diminished in quantity.

What is Our Common Ground? Brian Webb, Houghton College's Sustainability Coordinator who runs Our Common Ground, explained that the facility "is a community resource center" located on the second floor of the Allegany Harvest Cooperative Market off of Route 19. In the past, OCG has hosted workshops that "were meant to be educational experiences that promoted community sustainability and environmental and social awareness," said Anna Dibble, previous assistant to Brian Webb. Some previous workshops included instruction in gardening, wildcrafting (medicinal herbs), and jelly-making. Webb stated that even though these workshops had great intentions, there would be times when no one would show up to them. "It was most often that we would get ten or fewer. Even five or fewer."

Some struggles that Webb faced for the workshops were in advertising. Marketing to both college stu-

dents and the community resulted in unknown preferences. Webb would hang posters at the community library and grocery store, as well as send out emails to the Houghton students. Looking back, he understands that this was not the most effective approach to advertising.

Because of the small amount of participation in workshops as compared to the extensive planning and preparation that goes into them, Webb plans to focus more on what he can do at the college for this school year. This does not mean that OCG is closed, Webb ensured; the recycling program as well as the lending-library are still happening. Also, the location is still open for renting. The workshops, however, "are indefinitely put on hold."

Bryn Pearson, junior, an intern for Brian Webb this year, said, "I'm sad that the workshops won't be happening, but I also think it is the logical choice. Even with my own work times as an intern, I would rather put forth my hours each week towards making big structural changes to how the college functions and towards

See OCG page 3

Dryden Fracking Ban to be Tried in NY Court of Appeals



INHABIT.COM

The Town of Dryden is the site of the latest conflict over fracking.

GRETCHEN REEVES

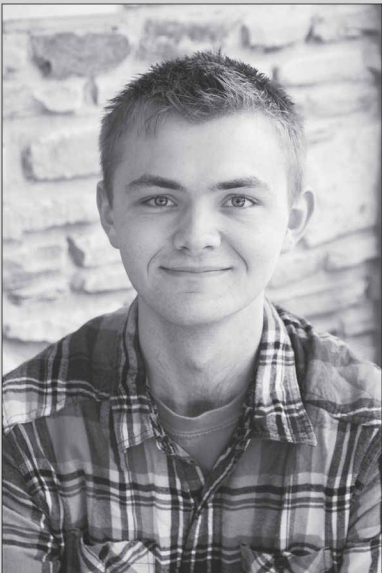
A recent amendment to zoning legislation in the town of Dryden, NY has propelled the town of 15,000 up to New York State's highest court and to the forefront of the anti-fracking cause.

Despite being banned in over 50

towns in New York State, few have been as strategic or promising for natural gas extraction as Dryden, which is situated on more than 141 trillion cubic feet of gas protected by the Marcellus Shale formation. The

See FRACKING page 3

WORLD // Saudi Arabia Refuses Security Council Seat



CALEB JOHNSON

For the first time in the history of the United Nations, a member has denied an offer to take a Security Council seat. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia bluntly refused its elected position on Friday, October 18, citing its frustrations with what

it perceives as the U.N.’s inability to resolve conflicts such as the Syrian civil war. According to Al-Jazeera, the Saudi Foreign Ministry stated that “[a]llowing the ruling regime in Syria to kill its people and burn them with chemical weapons in front of the entire world and without any deterrent or punishment is clear proof and evidence of the U.N. Security Council’s inability to perform its duties and shoulder its responsibilities.” Saudi Arabia is an active supporter of Sunni Muslim rebels attempting to overthrow the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, a member of the Alawites, an offshoot of Shi’a Islam. The Kingdom has also expressed its frustrations regarding the international community not punishing Assad’s regime enough after a chemical weapons attack killed over 1,400 civilians last August. Reuters reports that the director of Saudi intelligence, Prince Turki al-Faisal, finds an agreement made by both the United States and Russia that requires Syria to destroy its chemical weapons stockpile to avoid punishment militarily “lam-

enable.” This agreement was approved unanimously by the Security Council. Because no country has ever refused an offer to sit on the Security Council, the U.N. is unsure on how to resolve this predicament. The Washington Post quotes Gerard Araud, France’s U.N. Ambassador as saying “there is no agreed procedure, because it is the first time that it happens.” Currently, it is thought that the Asia group, a group in the U.N. that selects the Arab member to the Security Council, will have to select a new candidate for approval by the 193-member U.N. General Assembly to take the seat. This scenario, however, will only happen once Saudi Arabia sends an official notification to U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. Though Saudi Arabia has been boisterous in denying its Security Council offer, Ban has yet to receive an official rejection notification from the Kingdom. Thus, the current view of the U.N. is that Saudi Arabia, despite its rhetoric, has taken its seat on the Security Council for the next two years until an official rejection state-

ment is sent. The Security Council is a 15-member body that decides the fate of U.N. resolutions regarding issues around the world. There are five permanent members that hold veto power over any and all resolutions: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China. There must be no vetoes from any of the permanent members in order for a resolution to be approved. The ten other members are elected for two year terms. Although they do not hold veto power, these members can influence debates and offer insight on the benefits and flaws of a resolution. After their terms are over, these countries step down from the Security Council and new members are elected. Besides Saudi Arabia, other newly selected members of the Security Council include Lithuania, Nigeria, Chile, and Chad. ★

Caleb is a senior international relations and history major.

Admissions Adopts New Recruitment Strategies



Fancher Hall houses the college’s admissions office. WWW.MATCHCOLLEGE.COM

LEAH WILLIAMS

As the new recruiting season has begun, the admissions department has adopted new strategies to reach new students. This past year enrollment fell just below the standard estab-

lished by the college, resulting in some changes in the admissions department. The challenge this year will be to bring in more students previous years. Both the vice president and director of admissions are working on new strategies to reach the desired number of students for the start of the

next fall semester. “One of our fundamentals is in building strong relationships with applicants to tell the Houghton story and communicate the value of the experience they will have here,” said Director of Admissions, Ryan Spear. Throughout the past years Houghton has struggled with low enrollment numbers, thereby putting pressure on Admissions to develop new strategies which will draw new students into the college. “We will be using strategic emails and telecounselors will be calling all interested applicants for events,” said Vice President for Admissions, Eric Currie. Currie also added that their travel reps would be on the road visiting over 300 high schools and over 150 fairs with the admissions counselors picking up the rest of the schools. According to Spear, a typical day for an admissions counselor at Houghton involves focusing on encouraging applications from prospective students and working with students who have already applied. They accomplish this with conducting admission interviews as well as communication through emails, hand-written notes and calls via telephone. Traveling admissions counselors, on the other hand, spend most of their time on the road visiting high schools.

Depending on in which region they are traveling, these counselors will visit three to four high schools a day and usually a college fair at night. Stephen Zacchigna, traveling admissions counselor said, “I mostly work in New York State but Houghton covers the entire region from Indiana to Virginia to New England and most places in between.” Current senior, Jennifer Newcombe said “My admissions counselor did a really good job of making me feel like Houghton really wanted me. I didn’t feel like I would be lost in the crowd.” Newcombe also said that, unlike other colleges, she felt a personal connection to Houghton through the emails and phone calls. She was also impressed with the way in which her acceptance letter arrived. “It came in a cool tube and the acceptance letter was very personalized.” As well as trying more ways to reach out to potential students, the admissions office is also trying new ideas for visiting days. Spear said, “We are pushing back the start time for visitors so that a family could leave from a one- to two-hour radius of Houghton and arrive the morning of at a reasonable hour.” Spear also said they are focusing on running fewer visiting days while improving the efficiency and quality of the visits in general. ★

OUTREACH from page 1

ing for opportunities that will be a mechanism for them to find places that are the best fit for them and help their college to be more effective.” While this new office is meant to provide information and opportunities for community service, Dr. Robert Pool, Vice President of Student Life, explained there is more to what the office can offer students. He said, “The students are learning about themselves, how much they learn about the world in which they live, how they learn to coordinate efforts around needs. There is a lot of learning that goes on that’s very transfer-

able to the outside world when you engage in thought for service.” Before HOPE, there had never been a coordinated report of the services volunteered by Houghton students. With this new office, the college will be able to obtain that information by reporting data of the volunteer services taking place. This will allow the office to evaluate its programs and services. “Internally, we want to know how we are meeting the needs of the community” said Pool. Miriam Griffith, a senior student, expressed her opinion about the new HOPE office, saying, “Service is a pivotal aspect of Houghton College; it seems as though Houghton would

not be the same if it did not have a deep love of giving back to those in need. I feel as though having an on-campus office dedicated to providing service opportunities for Houghton students is a great thing and I cannot wait to be a part of what this office is planning.” At the moment the new office is at the stage of research and development, students and staff currently working together to find out the needs of the community. Currently, Jina Libby, senior, is part of this student staff. Part of her duties include going to areas in need of service, finding what their volunteer needs are, and determining how the college can better prepare the students to address

those needs through service. The HOPE office has identified three places on which they aim to work as their pilot projects. “We are working with the Fillmore Powerhouse, the Houghton nursing home, and Wellspring Ministries in Belfast,” Bish elaborated. Students will be able to start volunteering as soon as this spring. Pool said “There’s really no centralized place where anyone can say, ‘how can I serve,’ ‘what is available,’ ‘who needs me,’ ‘what are my talents’ and ‘how can I explore those talents by serving others in a volunteer capacity.’” HOPE’s goal is to change that. “That’s what this office is all about” said Pool. ★

FRACKING *from page 1*

main group to attempt to seize on this opportunity has been Norse Energy Corporation USA, originally based in Norway, who is being represented as a plaintiff in the case to be tried at the New York State Court of Appeals.

The State of New York is currently under a five-year moratorium on fracking that was enacted by former Governor David Patterson in 2008 and extended indefinitely by current Governor Andrew Cuomo until further research by the State Health Department concludes. The moratorium also prohibits any lower-level activity which would interfere with state jurisdiction over the extraction process. While Norse Energy alleges that Dryden’s zoning changes intersects with state law, town residents state that the legislation merely prohibits “heavy industrial development” on land within the town and does not attempt to regulate

the oil, gas, and mining industries. In addition to the nature of the changes, Dryden residents point out that the town’s decisions have been upheld by multiple lower-level courts in the state.

Aside from issues of jurisdiction, the consideration of a fracking ban involves careful weighting of environmental and economic consequences. Fracking involves the use of high-pressure water and chemicals to drill through deep rock formations and access deposits of natural gas, a process which brings the possibility of contamination of water supplies and other public infrastructure, as well as destruction of farmland. However, the approval of fracking activities in Dryden would open up to 18,000 wells for drilling, bring thousands of new jobs in the industry to the area, and promote energy independence.

Dryden’s case with Norse Energy is not the town’s first on the matter of fracking. 2012 saw a lawsuit with Anschutz Exploration Corp., in which Cortland County Court upheld the town’s zoning ban. Another case was resolved similarly in the same month, with Middlefield, another town west of Dryden, maintaining its anti-fracking activities in a case against a dairy farmer in the area who had contracted with Elexco Land Services, Inc. to seek out natural gas resources on her property.

Fracking, with its array of benefits and detriments, remains a polarized issue. A recent poll conducted by Siena College showed a 43 percent opposition to the drilling, while 38 percent expressed approval. ★



Fracking opponents

COGC *from page 1*

sustainability in that way rather than trying to do little workshops where three to five people show up.” Dibble adds that, while sad that the workshops have ended, “I understand that there may be other more pressing matters to focus on right now.”

Webb’s current “priorities are the projects on campus that he has running,” said Pearson. Webb stated that “what seems to be the wisest use of any time and money resources is to

focus on the things that I do at the college. I believe in the mission of Our Common Ground. I just don’t think with the current resources, we are able to prioritize it.” Projects on campus that Webb is currently devoting to include Creation Care, reducing energy usage on campus, composting, and other projects.

Webb stated that no matter what project he is working on, he strives to “honor God by taking care of His creation.” ★

COFFEE HOUSE *from page 1*

izing the issue of naming was left to a group of students still unhappy in the change of ownership and overall feel of the coffee house, James Ward, Sodexo manager said, “In the long run it is probably best that Student Life and SGA make the decision.”

Long before Sodexo, Starbucks, The Taco Shack, and even Java 101, the room was used as a campus radio station. By student demand, SGA worked and raised the funds to open an on-campus coffee house which birthed the original Java 101. Since then the room has been in use by Houghton students, faculty, and community members, serving as a place not only to get their morning cup of coffee but also a place for studies, socializing, and numerous student-run events.

“I think having a coffee house on campus is a critical piece for students today,” said previous Java 101 owner

Greg Bish. When talking with Bish, his main concern, given the fact the only reason there is a coffee house is by student demand, is “that students still feel ownership to the space, proud of the space and have a voice in its future.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of it for so many years and help give it direction,” said Bish.

As weeks go by and the room remains unnamed, students and faculty are faced with many questions. What will the name be? Who gets the prize money? When will the name be announced? As the issue of naming the room gets passed from students to SGA back to student life and so forth, there are no definite answers.

Pool expressed that a name should be finalized soon after October break along with a solution about what to do with the prize. ★



Last year’s coffee house, formerly known as Java 101

LUKE LAUER

DAILY CALENDAR

25 / FRIDAY

Joint Phiharmonia and Symphonic Winds Concert

7:30 PM

26 / SATURDAY

Athletics

11 AM | FH @ Hartwick College

2 PM | MS @ Elmira College

1:30 PM | WS @ U of R

Make a Difference Day

Soul Food Night

5PM

28 / MONDAY

Student Recital: Rachael Anacker, voice

6:30 PM

29 / TUESDAY

Athletics

7 PM | VB @ Roberts Wesleyan

Science and Math Colloquium

11:45AM

30 / WEDNESDAY

Athletics

7 PM | FH vs. SUNY Brockport

31 / THURSDAY

“The Drowsy Chaperone”

7:30 PM | Houghton Musical Theatre Players

CAB Halloween Party

8 PM Location TBD

Have an opinion on today’s news stories?



Send a letter to the editor to:
editor@houghtonstar.com

“Newts, Salamanders, and Toads, Oh My!” Houghton Profs Study Amphibians

ZAC PARSONS

“I have a passion, an interest, and an excitement about them, that’s the bottom line,” Professor David Huth, communications, said about his research about amphibians, slapping the table with both hands for emphasis.

Hydrofracking and clearcutting are causing a large-scale destruction of amphibian populations. Huth’s work attempts to understand what is causing the decline, and also what the implications of such a decline will be. Huth said, leaning forward and touching the tips of his fingers together, “My daughter might not have any amphibians to show her daughter. Populations are crashing around the world.”

Professor Sullivan, biology, has also seen the deterioration of world-wide populations in the last ten years. Regarding the impact of such a decline Sullivan said, “It’s huge; they play a very important role in keeping ecosystems functional.” Amphibians have very thin skin, and potential toxins can cause drastic effects to their health. This can warn of potential danger to humans, like a “canary in a mine shaft,” Sullivan cautioned.

Amphibians represent a whole level of the food chain, and disruption could have massive and unforeseen consequences. Huth said, “There may be other repercussions too. It may mean that what is killing the amphibians will come for us next.”

Huth, Assistant Professor of Visual Communications and Media Arts, used the resources provided from a grant to begin working on an enhanced e-book, based primarily on photography and video.

“I want to use some of my communication skills to do some kind of



Spring Peeper DAVE HUTH



Eastern Newt

DAVE HUTH

public educational, communication-technology kind of thing about how awesome amphibians are,” Huth explained excitedly. During the almost two years he has been working on this project, it has since developed into a collection of web-based electronic materials containing a vast array of information. Huth grinned, “Basically, the project keeps getting bigger and bigger the more I work on it.”

Professor Aaron Sullivan focuses on biological research, specifically predator-prey interactions in amphibians. His reserved, thoughtful manner is a contrast to Huth’s enthusiasm, yet there is an undercurrent of dry humor just under the surface of his speech. “I’m interested in how natural selection shapes behavior of organisms. My area of expertise would be how chemical information in an environment influences antipredator behavior in amphibians, primarily salamanders,” he said quietly.

Sullivan described how he has studied amphibians and reptiles since 1997 for two reasons. The first is very practical: they’re relatively easy to find and maintain in a lab. The second reason

he is interested in amphibians is due to their complex behaviors, interesting sensory abilities, and because he “just likes them.”

Huth says amphibians are “self-evidently spectacular.” He explained how amphibians are the longest-living order of land animals and his fascination with their evolutionary history and adaptations. They secrete some of the most powerful neurotoxins known

from their skin and a whole category freeze during the winter to thaw and continue living in the spring.

Huth said, “All the things I’ve described so far [about amphibians] are within, I don’t know, a hundred yards of where I’m sitting talking to you.”

Sullivan smiled lightly and confirmed regarding his research, “I’m having fun.” ★



American Toad

DAVE HUTH

Recommended Reads: Mary Doria Russell “The Sparrow”

LYDIA WILSON

In the late nineties when Mary Doria Russell’s first novel *The Sparrow* and its sequel *Children of God* were published, they and their author were highly acclaimed hits within the science fiction world, with *The Sparrow* winning the Arthur C. Clarke Award and *Children of God* being nominated for the Hugo Award. Movie adaptations were in the works for *The Sparrow* twice—once with Universal starring Antonio Banderas, and once with Warner Bros. starring Brad Pitt—but both times, the studios eventually halted production. Since then, *The Sparrow* seems to have fallen off the grid a bit. I picked it up a few years ago from my step-mother’s book-

shelf, and it has since been my favorite novel. But I have yet to meet another person who has read or even heard of it. Perhaps this is because Russell’s novels were thrust too wholeheartedly into the relatively small world of science fiction readers, a world that their themes, characters, and sweeping narratives are entirely too significant to be held to.

The Sparrow opens in Rome, on the desolate life of Emilio Sandoz: priest, whore, child killer. Emilio has just returned from a Jesuit mission to the newly-discovered planet of Rakhat, of which he is the only survivor. The Father General, Vincenzo Giuliani, along with a team of other priests, attempt to piece together the series of events on Rakhat and the reasons that the mission went bad, their efforts constantly

slowed by the bitterness and despairing rigidity of the disgraced Father Sandoz.

Flashback forty years, and we encounter Sandoz again: humanitarian, wise-cracker, avid baseball fan. He is surrounded by close and loving friends. Anne and George Edwards: physician, engineer, spirited agnostics; Jimmy Quinn: astronomer, discoverer of worlds, redheaded Irish Catholic; D.W. Yarborough: Texan, pilot, homosexual; Sofia Mendes: rationalist, Sephardic Jew, former child prostitute. By luck, or chance, or fate, their lives are brought together as they embark on a groundbreaking journey into space.

The events that mark the transformation from a lively band of adventurers to a small, ruined man in a hospital in Italy are trivial, however, compared

to the theological and emotional milestones that the novel itself tackles through whip-smart dialogue and tender moments between friends. The respect Russell has for the lives of her characters goes beyond the expected, and each individual is made memorable by poignant realism, honesty, and eloquence. They come up against philosophical as well as personal conflicts. “I do what I do without hope of reward or fear of punishment. I do not require Heaven or Hell to bribe or scare me into acting decently,” exclaims a frustrated Anne, faced with the implication that a person without religion would consequently be without morals, and each of the characters deal with everything from faith and morality to mas-

See **READS** on page 5

Worship: A New Vision for Chapel

DAVID SMITH

“I’m very intentional about talking about worship as rooting us in a bigger story,” Dean Michael Jordan said after settling into his office chair. This story is the larger Christian story, but it is also Houghton’s story.”

Although the morning was quite chilly, Jordan wore flip-flops with his suit coat, adding to the informal, yet intimate nature of the conversation. “It really occurred to me how lonely people are in general,” Jordan said, going on to talk about the pressure on students at a Christian college and how they feel the need to find God’s will for their lives and to be confident in their spiritual walks when, quite frankly, some are not. Jordan said, “Chapel is about connecting students and helping them see you’re not alone.” Therefore, Jordan hopes that chapel will serve the function of binding people together in a Christian community through worship.

One of the ways the community comes together is through music. After praising the Philadelphia Eagles in one of his recent chapel talks, Jordan mentioned his desire for the college to be fluent in three forms of worship: hymns, contemporary Christian songs, and Gospel music. In doing so, Jordan said his ultimate goal is to help students “love a breadth of Christian music and to be a grateful participant [as] one.”

His plan seems to be successful judging by the ovation the Gospel choir regularly receives, and the heartfelt singing accompanying hymns such as “Be Thou My Vision.”

“We should ask questions about worship and how each contributes to the service”, he stated. In this way, Jordan believes we can see the value in each form of worship and how all are used to bring God praise by the various church backgrounds represented by Houghton students.

In addition to music, chapel speakers and their messages are an important topic of discussion on chapel days. As he leaned back in his desk chair, Jordan explained that he chooses chapel speakers in collaboration with the Spiritual Life Committee; they select speakers by looking for people who will share topics they believe are important to the community and ones that will build connections to the outside world. For example, Dr. Lenny Luchetti who spoke in early October came from Wesley Seminary,

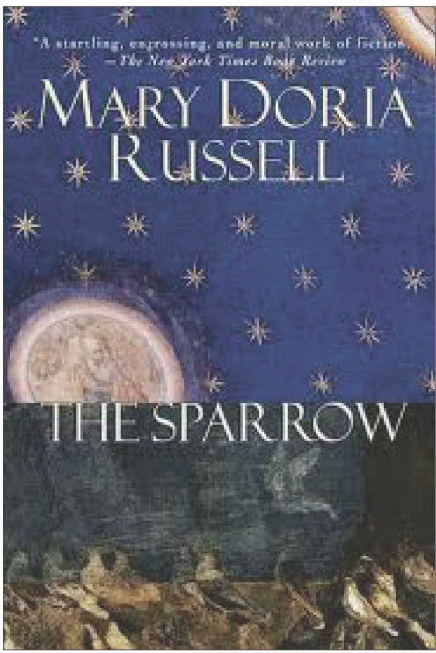


Dean Michael Jordan

LUKE LAUER

representing both one of Houghton’s sister schools and a reputable seminary for graduate work. Also vital to picking chapel speakers is finding people Jordan referred to as understanding the difference between teaching and preaching. He elaborated on this distinction as the knowledge of when to present facts and when to realize the urgency of a message, and his or her need to make their intent clear and accessible to the audience, in this case, the Houghton community. One of Jordan’s regrets from his time as a Houghton student is that the speakers sometimes lacked this urgency, so he hopes that now chapel speakers will be able to provide that clarity. On days when Jordan speaks in chapel, the passion he has in presenting God’s word and drawing people together in Christ is palpable, evidenced by post-chapel conversations around campus.

In between his duties as chaplain, SPOT engagements, and family dinners in the cafeteria, Jordan works hard to make chapel the spiritual center of campus life. He hopes that students will stop thinking of chapel as a duty someone has forced them to fulfill; rather, over time chapel will form and shape student if they give themselves to it, he said before taking a sip from his coffee mug. If one does this, Jordan said, one will realize that “taking that time really helped me to look at God differently and understand myself differently and to root me in a community that I wouldn’t have been otherwise.” ★



“The Sparrow” book cover

nitude of the human heart. ★

Movie Review: “Carrie”

SALLY MURPHY

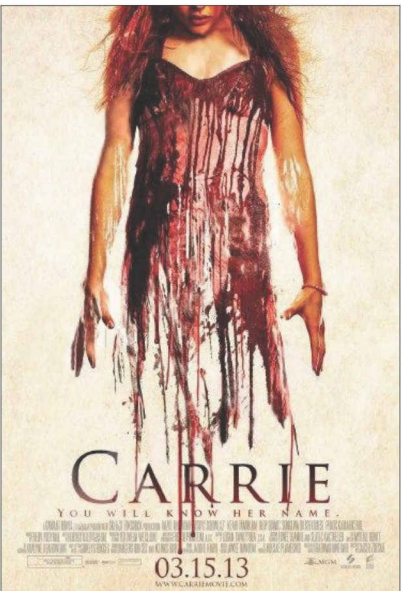
Though Gravity is topping the charts for new releases at the moment it is decidedly the season for a good horror flick. For that reason I took off my space helmet and headed past its theater to the room at the end of the hall to see the newly imagined Carrie.

Carrie, based off the novel by Stephen King, follows the story of young teenage Carrie White who lives with her mother in smalltown USA. Her mother, a rather unstable and abusive religious zealot, has homeschooled Carrie much of her growing up until the state forced her to put Carrie into public school. Here we find Carrie - an outcast and a loner, wandering the halls of her unfriendly educational institution. After a brutal taunting by her fellow gym-mates, she finds herself the center of controversy. One of her bullies, Chris, is to be banned from prom while the others remain on probation. However, because of a growing guilt complex, one attacker, Sue Snell, arranges what she hopes will be an appropriate apology towards Carrie: she has her boyfriend Tommy ask Carrie to the prom. Excited and nervous Carrie eventually agrees (against her mother’s wishes) and her kind date shows her a magical night. This culminates when the two are crowned king and queen of the dance. But just as the crown hits her head, a bucket of pig blood, set in place by the expelled tormentor, pours from the ceiling, drenching her hair and handmade dress. As she stands silently, her anger begins to swell and her previously underdeveloped telekinetic powers wreak havoc on all those present.

Carrie was first adapted to the silver screen in 1976 by director Brian De Palma. Though now somewhat outdated and dramatically overacted, the film has become a cult classic. The famous lines of Carrie’s deranged mother, “They’re all gonna laugh at you,” has echoed in the heads of every viewer since and Sissy Spacek’s crazed wide-eyed stare is iconic. For these reasons it is hard to imagine what a remake would do.

The answer is not a lot, though it was fully enjoyed. Chloe Grace Moretz plays an admittedly dull version of Carrie in comparison to Sissy Spacek’s strange, otherworldly features. Though her acting is solid, she falls victim to the Hollywood bland beauty, and it is just that much harder to imagine her as truly the outcast the role of Carrie requires. The real improvement on the film is instead found in the role of her mother, Margaret White, played by Julianne Moore. Moore’s character is more fully developed which makes her that much more terrifying. Moore also fully embraces the idea that Carrie’s mother is a masochist and plays it with perfect subtlety, scratching of her wrists and gouging her thighs with a seam-ripper while talking to those around her.

Overall the film is simply modernized.



“Carrie” movie poster.

WWW.JOBLO.COM

Gone are the dramatic swells, slow scene builds, and wide-eyed overacting of the 70s, only to be replaced by dry cruelty and lots of texting. This makes for a less exciting and less inventive, but also probably more accessible version.

The final iconic scene in which Carrie destroys the prom and all those with it does not, however, disappoint. With some believable CGI and a broad range of death traps, the whole scene is a masterpiece of horror. Though Moretz lacks the luster of Spacek, she helps make up for some of it simply though her range of destruction. And here is possibly the most interesting difference between the two films--while the original implies that Carrie’s gift is unmanageable, something that will take her over, and destroy everything it’s wake--the new film seems to imply that she can control it enough to only punish the deserved. Surprisingly we see Carrie actually save those she has made connections with and insistently tortures those she sees as her worst enemies. This calls into question one of the major themes of the story- is Carrie in control of her power or is her power fully her? It also speaks to what modernization has done to the story. It seems we don’t mind witnessing the murder of a pig, but unsolicited death is not acceptable. Certainly an interesting twist to the plot and an asset to the new adaptation, at least from a conversation standpoint.

All in all, I do believe this new Carrie will largely be forgotten in a broad sense, though I would deem it a necessary watch for any horror fan. It is well made, but lacks the star power and intrigue of a true cult classic. Watch it, enjoy it, and then go to the library (yes, the Houghton library) and rent the original. Between the two you will get an eyeful of blood, a few jumps, and perhaps even a few laughs. Halloween is right around the corner after all. ★

Introducing FEATURES

This new section of *The Star* will allow more diversity in articles, expanding the scope of the stories from about only the arts and sports here at Houghton to more creative pieces featuring faculty, staff, students, and other human interest stories.

I Dare You



LUKE LAUER

CORY BRAUTIGAM

Truth or dare? Truth. That was always my answer. I was afraid of the dare. Who knew what one of my friends' little 14-year-old-minds could come up with? I knew what I could come up with and that scared me enough to keep me from ever answering with "dare." The unknown is wild and exciting, but more than that it is quite frightening. Whenever one of my friends was feeling more courageous and answered "dare," there followed a collective and sustained "OOHHH!" We all became excited, and even nervous, for this heroic, young risk-taker.

Fast-forward a few years and here we are today, still playing that

game, still answering that question. And often we still answer with the all-too-safe "truth." The irony is that we are, whether we know it or not, whether we like it or not, people of the dare. To live is to accept one dare or another. Existence requires it. But ever since we were young we were made to think there was a safe way out. I'm here to say: there's not.

A dare is a call to a particular action. It is obvious (and also obviously suppressed) that our lives are made up of a collection of particular actions over a period of time; and that these actions form us. Our very beings are formed by the dares we take on. It is not my hope that this will make you think about taking on a dare sometime, in fact this wouldn't even make sense for me to hope for. No, my hope is that you realize that you have no choice but to take on dares. So, affirm the dare. Be daring.

Now let us humbly converse with the other option: truth. In all my affirmation of the dare I do not intend to, in any way, eclipse or trivialize truth. I only mean to point out the misunderstanding of truth, this all-too-safe "truth". In *Twilight of the Idols* Nietzsche reminds us that "only thoughts reached by walking have value." He did not mean that we must literally

be walking around to have valuable thoughts (though I do not think this is a bad practice ... maybe classes should have walking routes as opposed to classrooms). I think he was trying

to suggest that as existing individuals the truth and the dare are very much related.

What is this relationship? I'm not going to pretend to know the complexities of it, but I will humbly speculate this: the truth about who

you are is not the truth about who you are unless it motivates the dares that you choose to take on; and the dares you choose to take on will form the truth about who you are. You may be thinking, "Hey, that's super circular though." Well, you're right! That is why there is a need for the gift of Grace in order for existence to take place.

This gift of Grace also happens to be the ultimate example of this relationship between the truth and the dare: that The Truth took on the greatest dare of all; that is, The Truth became a person of the dare. All this time we've been thinking that answering "truth" was the safe option,

but that is only because we have dressed truth up in many costumes and suffocated her, so she is neither recognizable, nor mobile, nor alive. Sounds strangely familiar? Do you recall the historical account of The Truth? The point is this: truth is dangerous!

In the same way that a financial manager acknowledges that there is a certain amount of systematic, non-diversifiable risk involved in any investment, we must acknowledge that there is unavoidable risk that comes along with existence. One basic risk in the relationship of truth and dare is the risk of hypocrisy. Oftentimes I find myself afraid to act because I know I can't live by the all-too-safe truths I hold. But this is hypocritical in the most fundamental sense. It is

a way of living and acting (or not acting) that implies "I don't exist," when the truth is, I do.

We must not be afraid of these risks. We must acknowledge the uncertainty of life. By affirming this, we enable

Oftentimes I find myself afraid to act because I know I can't live by the all-too-safe truths I hold.

ourselves to live more truthfully, to make better decisions about the dares that we take on. So, truth or dare? Dare, you say? I dare you to become a person of the dare. I dare you to exist. ★

Cory is a junior philosophy and business major

Disce aut Discede / Doubt Suspended in Confidence



LUKE LAUER

LYDIA WILSON

Season seven, episode seven of the Fox series *Bones* features a nine-month pregnant Dr. Temperance Brennan wading through a crowded fight in the cafeteria of a men's prison without a care in the world. Her anxious partner, Booth, begs her to have some sense and not over-exert herself, but she casually states that hurting a child is one of the biggest prison taboos, and carries on. And she is right; the prisoners catch sight of her immense belly and fall over themselves to get out of her way. Her path is miraculously cleared in the midst of tackling bodies, headlocks, and thrown punches. She is aware of something cognitively and she fearlessly applies it to her physical life without a second thought. She is confident in her own mind.

I hoard my favorite quotes in notebooks and look over them periodically like a miser counting gemstones. Several oft-read quotes are pulled from Nietzsche's *The Gay Science*. At the risk of being thought delusional, I in all honesty find that Nietzsche, "God is dead" Nietzsche, provides me with as much affirmation in my faith as any Christian writer ever has, if not more. Particularly these lines: "When we hear the news that 'the old god is dead,' as if a new dawn shone on us; our heart overflows with gratitude, amazement, premonitions, expectation. At long last the horizon appears free to us again, even if it should not be bright; at long last our ships may venture out again, venture out to face any danger; all the daring of the lover of knowledge is permitted again; the sea, our sea, lies open again; perhaps there has never yet been such an 'open sea.'" Let me explain. I enter the crowded fight between Nietzsche and God with the knowledge that God is not dead, not anymore. And the crowd parts before me. "The old

god is dead," yes, and the new God has risen, and a new dawn shines on us. We can venture out without fear of sin. We can grow in our knowledge, knowing that the open sea of God's forgiveness lies before us. Few things I have read have given me more hope. Of course, I am blatantly projecting my own personal beliefs and convictions upon the undoubtedly unwilling

Nietzsche. I am being rude, perhaps; I am blaspheming, even. I have a habit of gathering hope from typically barren places such as this. Is it a unique and valuable form of faith, or am I over-confident and foolish? In the wise words of our own Houghton alumnus Gordon Brown, "Bad self-esteem and inflated self-esteem are two sides of the same coin."

In season eight, episode ten of *Bones*, Dr. Brennan enters a ballroom dancing competition while undercover with Booth. She has never danced before, but she observes the other dancers and says with the same assuredness as before that she can translate the same movements that they make to the corresponding parts of her own body. She then proceeds

I can be confident in the fact that I am suspended, that I float on the level with the core tenets of my Christian faith.

to do so... and is dreadful. She believes that she is mimicking their motions exactly, but she does not have the practice that they have, and in actuality has no idea what she herself looks

like in action. This kind of misguided confidence is seen all too often in the efforts of various evangelizers. The desire to appear infallible and have all the answers repeatedly overwhelms

the real need for earnest seeking and authenticity. There is a delicate balance here. My fiancé Andy Nelson writes, "We should question our faith. We should express our views with humility. But we should not adopt a state of constant uncertainty and doubt." Too much, honesty is

replaced by bravado; but just as much, assertiveness is degraded by a kind of shrugging denial of confidence. Neither approach is effective in excess.

There is a poem by Denise Levertov titled "Suspended" that reads, "The 'everlasting arms' my sister loved to remember/ Must have upheld my leaden weight/ From falling, even so,/ For though I claw at empty air and feel/ Nothing, no embrace,/ I have not plummeted." Whether or not complete confidence in every aspect of faith is possible, certainly I can be confident in the fact that I am suspended, that I float on the level with the core tenets of my Christian faith. While some value doubt and others value confidence, each cannot exist without the other. Faith, more than anything else, is a satisfaction in the self. If I, like Dr. Brennan, have confidence in my own mind, then I can feel free to doubt and question, to test my boundaries, to move fearlessly. After all, I have not plummeted. ★

Lydia is a senior art and writing major

FEATURED EDITORIAL/

Be Motivated! Young People and News Engagement



LUKE LAUER

SARAH HUTCHINSON

When I think about news engagement (that is, being defined as how often one watches or reads the daily news), I often think about my grandparents. Every morning of the week or the weekend whenever they would visit my family as a child, the TV monitor would tuned to a local or national news station (and often flipped between several if there were commercial breaks.) It was a ritual for my grandparents to turn on the news station and listen to the reports while they fixed their bacon, eggs, and coffee and got ready to begin the day.

I remember my grandparents because, according to statistics, news engagement, such as reading a

daily printed newspaper or watching a news program, appears to be diminishing with every passing generation. In other words, there has been an alarming occurrence of young people going “news-less” and news engagement habits - such as my grandparents habit of watching morning news programs every day - seem to be disappearing.

According to a 2012 Pew Research report, a full 29% of younger Americans under the age of 25 tend to be “news-less” on a typical day (including digital news) while older Americans are less likely to do so. In addition to this, young people that do pay attention and engage with the news are also less likely to spend much time with it. Pew reports that those younger than 30 spent an average of 45 minutes engaging with the news while older age groups spend a range of 62 to 83 minutes per day.

However, according to another Pew poll, the major audience for “fake” news programs such as Jon Stewart’s “The Daily Show” or Stephen Colbert’s “The Colbert Report” are youth - some of whom even cite those programs as their main source of news.

I have known these frightful statistics to parallel conversations that

I have had with my peers. Some that I have talked with have cited frustration with media in general, specifying concerns about propaganda or bias in major national news networks which causes them to shun media in general. (These are, I expect, people who would watch “The Daily Show” or “The Colbert Report.”) Others do not see the enterprise as very important or relevant to their daily lives and just don’t bother to take the time.

This is worrisome because a well-informed national population often means a strong civic culture. Being informed on current events means that people will be more likely to take action on important issues, whether it be on the local, national, or international level. A father may be encouraged to get involved with the PTO after reading about a decision that his child’s school board makes. A woman may write a letter of concern

to members of Congress following an article covering a political issue important to her. A church group may decide to organize a relief ef-

fort following news of an international disaster. There are many examples of how paying attention to current events can galvanize people to action. When young people do not pay attention to the news, will they be able to take action and contribute to the democratic system that our country prides? Or participate in international affairs?

This requires a huge change in attitude as it does in habit. Read, watch, and listen to the news, young people. Change your habits. Establish a routine - even if it’s as little as looking at the headlines of a front page of a news website each day. Find a way to engage with the news on a frequent basis. Who knows? You may find yourself motivated to make a stand for your beliefs or to do things that contribute to other people’s welfare along the way. Being informed is a good, wonderful, and empowering thing. ★

Sarah is a senior political science major

There has been an alarming occurrence of young people going “news-less.”

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2013-2014

ARTIST OF THE WEEK



Luke Lauer

LACEY
HELMUTH

“As an artist my work is about filling my eyes and, hopefully, the eyes of others. My eyes get hungry, so I make them something to eat.”

Lacey is a senior art major.



Letter Number Three, pen & ink



Winter is Coming, pen & ink



Woodfired, wheelthrown pots, ceramics



First Leg of the Journey, pen & ink

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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Photo of the Week: Fall Edition



The-local-Overlook.

Esther Schow

Last week’s winner was: ANDIANA SIDELL! To enter a drawing for a **\$5 Co-Op giftcard**, bring your finished puzzle, clearly marked with your full name and CPO, to the Star office in the basement of the Campus Center by 6PM on WED 10/30.