



THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

# THE HOUGHTON STAR

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## Faculty Members Pursue Tenure

BY JOELLA EPPEHIMER

As students are plunging into papers, reports, readings, equations, and other aspects of college education, many Houghton faculty are also in the midst of a heavy workload as they complete a step in the seven-year tenure process.

Tenure is defined in Houghton College's faculty handbook as a "mutual covenant between the college and the faculty member," in which the college "aims to protect academic freedom" and the faculty member commits to "the mission of the college and the maintenance of quality educational instruction."

In a professor's first seven years following appointment at Houghton, there are four benchmarks for attaining tenure. These reviews occur after the second, fourth, sixth, and seventh years, or initial, intermediate, final review, and final decision, respectively.

In the 2010-2011 academic year, there are five faculty members completing the initial stage, six in intermediate, one in the final review, and two seeking final decision. The process involves a multiplicity of steps, including compiling course

evaluations, an interview by the Rank and Tenure Committee, and completing self, peer, and department chair evaluations.

While not all colleges choose to offer tenure to their faculty, there are a number of reasons Houghton is among those institutions that do.

"Houghton College affirms the tenure process as a mutually beneficial way of building a faculty who are committed to the mission of the College, have demonstrated their excellence as teacher-scholars, are engaged in broader service to the College and the surrounding communities, and demonstrate both the desire and ability to integrate their Christian faith with their academic discipline," said Ron Mahurin, Academic Dean.

According to one Houghton faculty member, earning tenure can be empowering to teachers who have ideas about innovative ways to work with students that they may feel hesitant to express without the protection of tenure. However, having this security also raises questions of accountability regarding how proactive professors will be in engaging their students after attaining tenured status.

Peter Meilaender, Chair of the

History and Political Science department, believes that many institutions of higher education do not offer tenure to their educators because of the cultural stereotype of the tenured professor sitting at a desk doing nothing. This view, however, he believes, is inaccurate, and he expresses that there is value in being skeptical about this idea.

Another reason Meilaender said that he sees for the decrease in number of schools offering tenure is the politicization of higher education. Many parents, he said, send their children to college with the concern that the values they were taught at home will be destroyed. This leads to a call for accountability from the outside, which is answered by not offering the security of tenure to professors. Without tenure, professors are less likely to express unpopular academic viewpoints and critical opinions regarding administration. However, this limits "free inquiry," according to Meilaender, and said this as important in an academic field.

Houghton also has standards

*Tenure cont'd on page 3*

## Career Services Hosts Summer Internship and Employment Fair

BY COLLEEN JENNINGS

On Wednesday, Career Services held an Internship and Summer Employment Day in the Campus Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. During this time, students had the opportunity to get information and applications from 38 to 40 different camps and businesses.

February 2 may seem too soon to start looking for a summer job, especially with all this snow. However, Career Services Coordinator Brian Reitnour acknowledged that this is when businesses and camps start hiring, making now the best time for students to get involved to see what jobs are available.

Although the majority of the employers were from New York and Pennsylvania, there were also some from Maryland, Colorado and Wyoming. About 80 percent of the employers were summer camps, but there were also internships and jobs available at various businesses and organizations. For example, A Christian Ministry in the National Parks (Denver, CO) was looking for a ministry leader, while the Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce was looking for summer interns specializing in marketing. There was even a local summer baseball team—the Jamestown Jammers—looking for interns to do PR and marketing.

Reitnour noted that Career Services was trying to expand the summer job fair to include more than just camps so that it would be more accessible to a "wider range of students." For most students, summer employment means making money; however, Reitnour suggested, it is also a great opportunity to gain experience in the field of their choice. "It's a great opportunity for a lot of different students to gain experience and to do something over the summer that relates to what they want to do," said Reitnour.

Reitnour also recognized that summer camps offer experience for students of all different majors; for Education majors it is working with children, for Music majors it is with worship services, for Business or Communication majors it is with marketing and PR.

*Fair cont'd on page 3*

## CAB Works to Kick it up a Notch

BY KRISTEN PALMER

Pop-tarts' birthday party, Friends marathon, Scene-it game night, Blue Monday, Tropical Day, and paintball. These are the events the Campus Activities Board (CAB) has hosted so far this spring and the semester has been in full-swing for less than a month. That is, on top of last semester's popular Hoedown and Homecoming dance. It may seem as though CAB, in comparison to recent years, has organized an abnormal amount of events this year, and that is because it has.

"CAB has been fast-paced and exciting as we bring on the new semester with many different events," said CAB staff member Kristen Beck.

According to Jocelyn Matuszkiewicz, CAB director, the increase in events does not have to do with a surplus of money, but rather a dedicated staff.

"We, as a student body and specific individuals who applied for the CAB staff wanted to take more initiative after last year," she said. "We wanted to come up with creative ideas, make



PHOTO BY MIKI KANEKO

*Students play shuffle board during Tropical Day, one of the many events hosted by CAB so far this Spring semester.*

sure there is more to do, and have options, which is a big contributor."

Greg Bish, Director of Student Programs, added that the group set goals and made clear priorities about what this year's activities would entail from the get go.

"We started the year with a goal of having one event every two weeks," he said. "We recognized that not every event has to be huge, so we wanted to do more random 'fun days.'"

Matuszkiewicz spent time evaluating what happened with CAB last year and how the group could learn from the rights and wrongs, changing some things and learning to do them more effectively. She chose her 2010-2011 staff carefully, and once it was assembled, asked them a series of questions, including what did you like about CAB last year and what would you change?

"The most popular answer was that they would like to see more things happen," said Matuszkiewicz.

*CAB cont'd on page 3*



## Engaging the World

## Intelligence in Politics: Vice or Virtue?

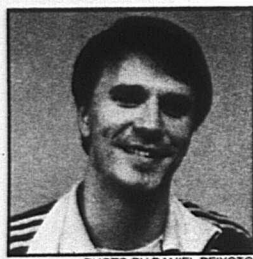


PHOTO BY DANIEL PEIXOTO

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

On Jan. 21, Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann gave a speech to an organization called Iowans for Tax Relief in which she commented on the existence of slavery at the time of the American founding, and said that the Constitution referred to slavery as a "scourge and a blot and a stain upon our history." If she had stopped there, acknowledged the evils of the institution of slavery, and praised individuals like Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass who actually fought to end that scourge on American history we probably wouldn't be talking about this speech.

But unfortunately, that is not what she did. She followed up her accurate statement about the evils of slavery by stating that "the very founders that wrote those documents worked tirelessly until slavery was no more in the United States." Thank God our founding fathers were blessed with the gift of prolonged life; if they hadn't been able to live to 150, slavery might still be around today. Are the historically inaccurate ramblings

of a Minnesota Congresswoman actually important and worth talking about? You betcha (insert Minnesota accent).

The Congresswoman's faux pas is a perfect representation of a disturbing trend in American politics: the dumbing-down of Conservatism. Bachmann is a leader, and one of the most popular figures, of the Tea-Party Movement, a grassroots campaign to return America to its fundamental principles of constitutionalism and financial restraint. While the principles behind the Tea-Party are legitimate foundations of conservatism, the way in which they have been pursued—aided by the leadership of Bachmann and Sarah Palin among others—has resulted in a sense of reverse superiority. Conservatives, with Tea-Partiers leading the way, believe they are more equipped to lead because they are not members of the intellectual elite; they are "real" Americans.

It started with Palin's interview with Katie Couric; she was asked what newspapers she read and could not name one. She was asked what Supreme Court decisions she disagreed with and could not name one. Her answer to a question about the economic stimulus bill was so disjointed and disastrous that Saturday Night Live's Tina Fey did a parody in which she recited the answer word for word.

And who can forget Delaware Senate candidate Christine O'Donnell. During a debate against Democrat Chris Coons, who won the election in November, the issue of the separation of church and state was raised. When Coons stated that the First Amendment bars Congress from

making laws respected the establishment of religion, O'Donnell responded with "You're telling me that's in the First Amendment?" I may not be an expert, but I've heard the First Amendment is pretty important; that might be something we want our leaders to know.

It has continued with the actions of Tea Party members across the country who claim President Obama is a socialist, is African, is the anti-Christ, it equal to Hitler, is a monkey, is a Muslim, is a racist, is a baby killer. It goes on and on. It is astounding how little grasp some of these people have on reality and history; but what is even more astounding and deplorable is that leaders of the Tea Party have failed to admonish statements, such as those mentioned, which have absolutely no relationship with reality.

Since when are intelligence and erudition a vice? There is a sense among the Tea Party, one that is slowly seeping into the Republican Party as a whole, that being intellectual means you are incapable of relating to the American people and as a result, incapable of leading the American people. This is a misconception with dangerous consequences.

Our leaders are facing an unprecedented number of issues on a daily basis: our education system is facing serious economic shortfalls and declining standardized test scores, our economy is at a turning point which will decide the future of our nation, we are fighting two wars in the Middle East, supporting Democratic leaders throughout the world, and trying to stop the spread of nuclear weapons to North Korea and Iran, just

to name a few. I would prefer that our leaders are the highest educated, the most intellectual, and the most erudite people in the country. But what the Tea Party offers us is a folksy charm and can-do attitude; no need to understand history, no need to understand important Court decisions, no need to understand the First Amendment. As long as you care about "the folks", you're qualified to lead our districts, states, nation.

This is the problem with the current Republican Party and Conservative movement. Whether or not most or any of the elected officials in the GOP actually feel this way is irrelevant. Their failure to correct or admonish leaders who are ill-equipped and citizens who are ill-informed is a criminal oversight. Government should be a place where our leaders raise the level of public debate, not reduce public debate to its lowest common denominator. If we care about the future of this country and the future of Conservatism, we must demand more out of our leaders than the ahistorical ramblings of Congresswoman Bachmann, the oversimplified ramblings of former Governor Palin, and constitutionally inaccurate ramblings of Christine O'Donnell. We must demand leaders with strength, intelligence and gravitas; the history of our nation depends on it.

Ronald Reagan once said "There are no easy answers but there are simple answers." Unfortunately, all we get from figures such as Bachmann, Palin and O'Donnell are ignorant answers by simple people. If we expect and demand success, that just won't do.

## The World OUT There

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

## Healthcare Reform Bill Deemed Unconstitutional

On Monday, a second federal judge ruled that President Obama's healthcare reform bill was unconstitutional. Judge Roger Vinson of the Federal District Court in Pensacola, Florida, went further than the recent decision by the Virginia Federal District Court by saying that not only is the individual mandate unconstitutional, the entire law should be invalidated. The individual mandate is a provision in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which mandates that everyone buy health insurance or pay a fee. This Florida challenge is one of 26 states that have challenged the constitutionality of the bill. So far, two have decided in favor of the law and two have ruled it unconstitutional.

## Obama Urges Mubarak to Step Down

Since the demonstrations in Egypt, a central question in the current Egyptian election was: would Mubarak step down? On Tuesday, President Obama issued a statement saying "I urge President Mubarak to step down before then." Obama's statement was responded by Mubarak with a statement of deception. This is a person who wants to let you know what he is like, what the people want. And they are trying to play tricks." Mubarak was urged by President Obama to step down as the United States seeks to position itself in support of the Democratic uprising.

## Abdullah Fires Government and Names New Prime Minister

Abdullah II of Jordan fired his government and asked a new prime minister to lead the country. The new prime minister, Marouf al-Bakhit, who served as prime minister from 2005 to 2007, the new prime minister and asked him to undertake "quick and tangible steps toward political reform, which reflect our vision for comprehensive modernization and development in Jordan." The Muslim Brotherhood, which had led protests in Amman, Jordan, in the change as cosmetic and said "we reject the new prime minister and we will continue our protests until our demands are met." The demands of the Muslim Brotherhood are a reflection of the Democratic movement sweeping across the Muslim world.



photos courtesy of newyorkdailynews.com, 24-7israel.com, and truthprovider.com



## College becomes member of the AASHE

## Houghton Climate Action Plan Comes to Life

BY HANNAH JENNINGS

As a new member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), Houghton College is stepping into action by composing a Climate Action Plan.

The AASHE is a supporting organization of the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) that sets the target of "no net greenhouse gas emissions" for member institutions. Its mission is to "accelerate progress towards climate neutrality and sustainability by empowering the higher education sector to educate students, create solutions, and provide leadership-by-example for the rest of society."

In order to reach this goal, the Creation Care Committee has created several sub-committees to examine and improve upon different aspects of life

within the Houghton community, and to eventually organize a Climate Action Plan to establish climate neutrality. The different sub-groups include: Food/Solid Waste, Communications, Curriculum and Research, Energy, and the Transportation Committee. Seniors Olivia Butz and Colleen White both serve as student members on the Creation Care Committee, as well as serving on the Communications and Food/Solid Waste working groups, respectively. Student Senate named Senator Gordon Brown, Senator Austin Rudd, and Mr. Adam Reinhardt to serve as student representatives to the other three groups during the January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

In addition to changes in Houghton policy, the plan is also aimed at creating awareness on campus. Olivia Butz says of student's involvement: "I think it will be beneficial if students are also willing to take their part - doing simple things like making

sure to recycle while on campus, in common buildings and in campus housing, to make sure lights are used only when they need to be used, and in perhaps, more challenging ways—to make it a point to compost food off campus, to be willing to use less water when showering, and to being willing and open to have 'sustainability' incorporated in some measure into Houghton's curriculum."

"Really what this project is aiming to do is to trim and shape parts of the college that are in excess, making things more efficient and using our money better. It's about using our resources more wisely. I hope that everyone will be flexible and keep an open mind about some of the things that will be happening, because I believe the changes will be important and worth any small sacrifices in the long run," says Colleen White.

What makes Houghton's Climate Action Plan unique is its

commitment to 'Creation Care', or the "responsibility of stewarding and nurturing the marvelous gift of God's creation." President Shirley Mullen reflects the connection with our Christian conviction in saying: "This program encourages us to explore the variety of ways in which our particular institution can most appropriately honor God's call to steward the Creation. It is an opportunity to cooperate with other colleges and universities in a cause where, together, we really can make a difference."

Olivia Butz also explains the call to action in similar terms: "Change in policy doesn't necessarily imply a change in consideration or affection, so I am hoping that there is a renewal among Houghton students who desire to honor God and God's creation by taking responsible care of it in our current context and broader community." ★

## Learning Commons Update

BY EMILY RINEHART

Despite the hope that the newly renovated Learning Commons would have been completed last week, the delayed arrival of some software continues to keep the "Coming Soon!" signs on the covered doors. According to Professor Gaerte, Communications, only part of the software has arrived. For convenience, "we want to be

able to load all of the software at one time on the machines rather than...having to go back and re-do it all again," he said. Classes using the lab continue to meet, using the old equipment set up in a temporary location. For those working on the Learning Commons, the delays are simply an unfortunate but common part of construction projects and, in Gaerte's words, "may help teach us all patience."

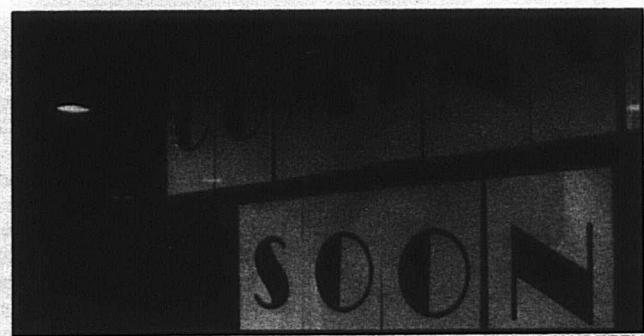


PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

Tenure cont'd from page 1

in place that provide a degree of accountability after tenure has been achieved. Following tenure being granted, professors are subjected to seven-year post-tenure reviews. According to Meilaender, these assess teaching and scholarship to ensure that faculty are not simply meeting expectations, but are continuing to grow as educators. While a professor cannot be fired on the basis of these reviews, Meilaender believes that most Houghton faculty members are conscientious of wanting to be good teachers.

Announcements regarding this academic year's decisions will be made by President Shirley Mullen after the Board of Trustees meeting in February. ★

Fair cont'd from page 1

Sophomore Laura White, a student worker at Career Services who focuses on graphic arts, noted that the event in the Campus Center was great because "It's a great opportunity to meet employers you wouldn't meet otherwise."

The main goal of the event was "to connect as many students with summer employment as possible so students have the best opportunity to make money and gain experience during the summer," said White. According to Reitnour, a lot of the employers share similar qualities and beliefs to Houghton, so the jobs are "good for now and for later."

Contact Brian Reitnour if you were not able to make it to the event or if you would like more information. ★

CAB cont'd from page 1

Matuszkiewicz and her team began to reach out to different audiences, like last weekend when they organized an afternoon trip to play paintball in Angelica.

Matuszkiewicz and Bish also changed the structure of the group.

"Instead of the entire CAB staff working together on every event, we chose to focus on one or two staff members and encouraging them to get other students [outside of CAB] involved as well," said Bish.

Matuszkiewicz and Bish said they think that especially because of Houghton's location and also the age range of students here at the College, it is important to have things happening, even if that means low-key events. Some of the low-key events have turned out more successful than anticipated, though.

"Pop-tarts' birthday party started out as a very small thing, but we ended up giving away a lot of Pop-tarts memorabilia, including 50 T-shirts and over 1000 Pop-tarts," said Matuszkiewicz. "It was the first time we had done anything like that, and it

went off really well."

Matuszkiewicz is especially dedicated because of her perspective as a Houghton student.

"I personally want to remember my college experience as not in a snowy tundra but by creating fun memories and being able to fellowship with other students," she said.

"The College has made a historical commitment that we are going to have events for our greater community," said Bish. "Due to our location, we have been working extra hard to make sure things are going on, and it's also about bringing the whole campus together."

This year's CAB staff's goals have been to make sure there is fun on campus and to provide the experiences one can only have at college.

"CAB is fab," said Bish.

CAB events students have to look forward to this semester are Purple and Gold week, the Film Festival, roller-skating, a bus trip to Washington D.C., and a trip to a Sabres game.

"We are ready to have a year packed with parties, games, and entertainment that we will try to cater to everyone on campus," said Beck. ★

## Purple and Gold Week 2011

Monday (7 to 9 p.m.)- Comedy Sportz

Tuesday (8 to 10 p.m.)- YouTube Coffeehouse

Wednesday (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.)- Game Day Challenge

Thursday (9 to 11 p.m.)- Minute to Win It Game Show

Friday (8 to 10:30 p.m.)- Dodgeball Tournament

Saturday (10 to 11:30 p.m.)- SPOT



## Tonight: Beijing Guitar Duo Plays Wesley Chapel

BY JOIA OTTO

Described as having outstanding technique and artistic musicality, the Beijing Guitar Duo will be performing at Houghton College for the first Artist Series Concert this semester.

This dynamic duo is comprised of Meng Su and Yameng Wang, who met at Central Conservatory in Beijing, China while studying under Chen Zhi, the leading guitar professor in China. Maestro Manuel Barrueco, their mentor at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, Maryland, encouraged the two young women to formally establish the duo in 2008. As recipients of the "Solomon H. Snyder Award," they had a New York debut in Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in April of 2010, and have also performed in Denmark, China, Germany, among other locations.

Meng Su started playing guitar at a very young age and began studying with Chen Zhi when she was nine. Su quickly began gaining renown as a young performer, and had already won several awards and competitions by the time she graduated from Central Conservatory. She has also performed solo and in ensembles across the world. Currently, Su is finishing her graduate studies with Manuel Barrueco.

Yameng Wang also began very young, just ten years old when she started playing alongside Su. In addition to studying with Barrueco at Peabody, she has released three solo albums—the first when she was 16—and contributed to a

classical guitar anthology as well as performing solo and in ensembles internationally.

Both women greatly appreciate the work they have done with their mentor. In an interview, Wang spoke highly of Barrueco and said, "He has helped us find the most natural way of playing, the most natural hand movement. We now think more about the way we play and practice." Su also spoke about the importance of working on one's tone. "What do you want from the tone? You want [to be] clean, beautiful, natural—not too sharp or dull. The most important thing is what you have in your own ear."

As a duo, the two have released one album, called "Maracaibe," and have plans for more. The recording features the premiere recording of "Maracaibe," written by the famous composer and guitarist Sergio Assad specifically for the Beijing Guitar Duo. The duo has premiered other pieces as well, including Tan Dun's "Eight Memories in Watercolor," in a new version also arranged for them.

Their repertoire is greatly varied and includes guitar concerti and South American pieces by composers like Radamés Gnattali and Astor Piazzolla, as well as the typical classical guitar selections from the Renaissance to the present. The two are also working on integrating more music from their culturally rich Chinese heritage. In a review of the duo in Acoustic Guitar magazine, Su is quoted saying, "We want to present our own transcriptions of Chinese folk and



Photo courtesy of www.beijingguitarduo.com

The Beijing Guitar Duo is composed of classical guitarists Meng Su (left) and Yameng Wang (right).

piano music."

Having such promising musicians perform at Houghton is a privilege for music majors and non-music majors alike. Classical guitar grad student Hannah Duggins said she looked to their performance with excitement, and added that their mentor is "one of the best guitarists in America."

The Beijing Guitar Duo is sure to live

up to all expectations and give a brilliant and nuanced performance.

Their performance will be held in Wesley Chapel tonight at 8:00 p.m. Tickets for Houghton students are free of charge and may be picked up at meal times in the Campus Center. No free tickets will be available at the door. Tickets for faculty and community members are \$15. ★

## Two Great Football Franchises Go Head-to-Head



Photo courtesy of badumblog.blogspot.com

BY ANDREW BONANNO

Super Bowl XLV. The Pittsburgh Steelers vs. The Green Bay Packers. Victors of the most Super Bowls vs. Victors of the first two Super Bowls. Towels vs. Cheese. No matter how you bill it, Super Bowl XLV promises to be an epic battle between two of the National Football League's most storied franchises. As one who proudly wears cheese on my head, allow me to offer you the Top 4 reasons the Packers should win the Super Bowl this year.

1. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers is a Jedi. At least he must be, or why else would announcer Joe Buck proclaim, "He can score with his arm; he can score with his legs; he can score with his mind!" Hyperbole? Maybe... or maybe not... you be the judge.

2. The Prodigal Running Game has returned. After having a very mediocre running game throughout the regular

season, rookie running back James Starks has emerged in the playoffs as a difference maker. If Master Rodgers is unable to defeat Darth Polamalu and his Death Steel (terrible pun, I know), Starks and his wookie side-kick (i.e. fellow RB), John Kuhn, can allow the Packers to still move the ball in good-ole-fashioned smash-mouth style.

3. Greg Jennings, Donald Driver, James Jones, and Jordy Nelson are the Justice League of Wide Receivers. Just like Superman, Batman, Green Lantern, and Flash are all epic heroes on their own, but even *more epic* together, the same can be said about the Pack's receiving corp. Even the third and fourth receiver could probably be starters, if not stars, on any other team in the league; together, they are in a league of their own.

4. Linebacker Clay Matthews is a beast. Just google "Clay Matthews muscles" to see what I mean. If I had to fight either Clay Matthews or a grizzly bear, I would fight the grizzly bear. And I bet the quarterbacks he has sacked a total of 14 times this season would agree. To be fair though, it is not just Clay Matthews one must fear. There are AJ Hawk, Charles Woodson, Tramon Williams, Cullen Jenkins and B.J. Raji, who is arguably the most athletic fat man in the world.

At the end of the day, only one team will hoist the Lombardi Trophy (named, of course, in honor of Packer coach Vince

Lombardi, winner of the first two Super Bowls). In the paraphrased words of Paul McCartney, "Let it be... the Packers." Go Pack Go! ★

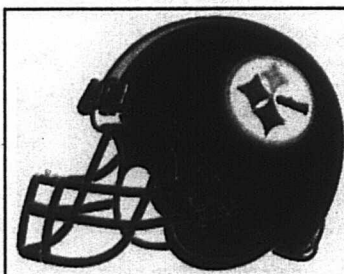


Photo courtesy of www.sportslogos.net

BY DEWAYNE MOORE

Much like the Green Bay Packers, the Pittsburgh Steelers are one of the most historic franchises in the NFL. However, there is one factor that separates the Steelers from the Packers and the rest of the league: their six Super Bowl wins. The Steelers made themselves known in the 1970s for their dominant defense nicknamed the "Steel Curtain." They became the first team to win three Super Bowls, all in the '70s, after only making their first Super Bowl appearance in 1974.

This year at Super Bowl XLV in Dallas, Texas, the Steelers attempt to break their own record by winning a seventh Super Bowl. The Steelers posted a 12-4 record this year, even though they were without

starting quarterback Ben Roethlisberger for the first four games of the season. They did this with a stingy defense that was a league best in points allowed per game, rushing yards allowed, sacks, as well as other defensive categories.

The defense is led by 2009 Defensive Player of the Year linebacker James Harrison, newly named 2010 Defensive Player of the Year Troy Polamalu, and linebacker LaMarr Woodley. Polamalu may be the most recognizable out of the three, thanks to his iconic long hair that cascades out of the back of his helmet on game day. On the offensive end, Hines Ward is one of their most influential veterans, as he has played with Pittsburgh for all of his 13 years in the league, and is known as one of the toughest and best run blocking wide receivers in the game. Standout rookie Mike Wallace has also been a great asset to Pittsburgh at wide receiver after the loss of Santonio Holmes who was traded to the NY Jets.

I see experience playing a very big factor in this game as almost half of the Steelers have played in and won Super Bowls in the past. There are only a handful of Packers that have played and only one who has won – and that man won while on the Pittsburgh Steelers practice squad. This should be a great game with both teams showing their stuff, but Pittsburgh will prove that they continue to be one of the best teams in the league and win the Super Bowl. ★



## Sokso Exhibits Prints with Kevin Shook in Wellsville

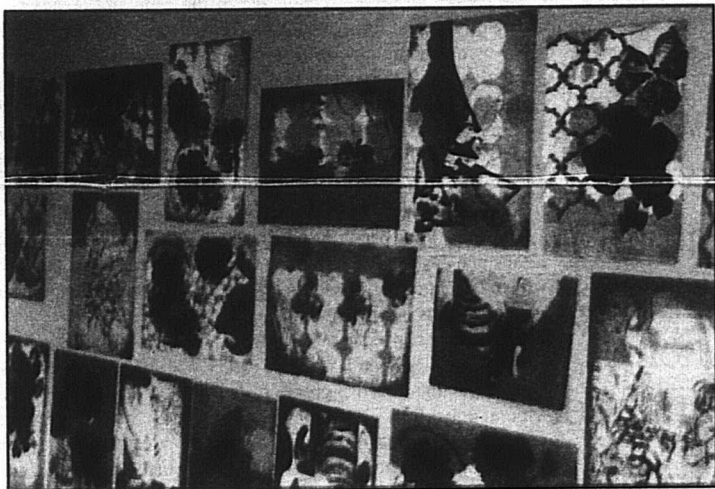


PHOTO BY JILLIAN SOKSO

Art professor Jillian Sokso's most recent collaboration with grad school friend Kevin Shook began in 2009.

BY EMILY RINEHART

Last week a collection of prints, titled "Both Sides," was installed in the art gallery at the Wellsville Creative Arts Center as a part of their 2011 Artist Series. The collection is the result of a collaboration between art professor Jillian Sokso and Kevin Shook, assistant professor of art and art history at Birmingham-Southern College. Sokso and Shook met while attending graduate school together at the University of Delaware and have been friends and colleagues for the past ten years. The two collaborated while studying in Delaware, and as they moved on to the professional world they have continued their work.

The seventeen prints were selected from a group of forty lithographic monotypes that Sokso and Shook began in 2009. Because the distance made constant travel difficult, they chose a more creative solution. Sokso created four drawings on drafting film, which she mailed to Shook, who added drawing of his own; Shook did the same. According to Sokso, the two kept their thoughts and experiences working with the drawings in a journal

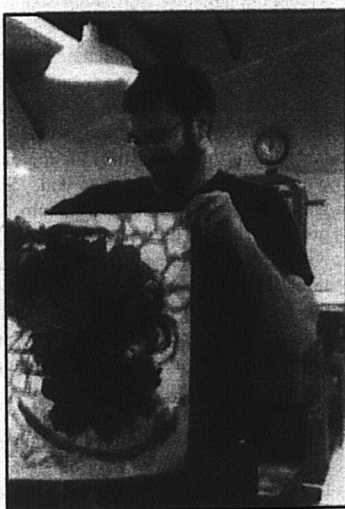


PHOTO BY JILLIAN SOKSO

Assistant professor Kevin Shook of Birmingham-Southern College.

which they also sent back and forth as the work progressed.

Later, the film was exposed to lithographic plates, made and printed at Houghton during the third week of August 2010, when Shook traveled from Alabama to finish the work with Sokso. Each plate was printed several times, giving a total of forty prints. Afterwards both Shook and Sokso wrote what they "thought and felt about the work," and allowed the pieces to sit for a while. No changes were made to the work during that time.

Eventually, Sokso and Shook chose the seventeen pieces they planned to exhibit. They asked Jeff McMullen, director of exhibits at Wellsville Creative Arts Center, to photograph the collection for catalogue purposes. It was during this time that McMullen, who was already familiar with Sokso's solo work, expressed his interest in showing "Both Sides."

Senior art major Sally Murphy said that the collection ranges from architectural to organic forms and would likely be called abstract; however, the work is unified through a clearly organic base that is a part of every piece. Each print contains a litho of images from different plants; patterns, shapes, or abstract images are layered under and over. Murphy described a few of the prints as having more "solid" layers, adding that others are "left to more organic fine lines. These prints feel more like an overgrown surreal garden..." She praised the collection, saying "each print, after all, has its own flavor" and calling it a "wonderful example of what happens when two artist work together."

Sokso sees the ideas behind the prints as thoughts of time and place, particularly "how the landscape of life lays itself out" and the ways in which physical place can affect the more intangible parts of life. She pointed out similarities between the two: both Shook and Sokso are the same age, married, and each has two young daughters. Both live in places that have significantly wrestled with equality — Shook lives in Birmingham,

## "Positive" Response to OCG

BY ADAM KNEELAND

Our Common Ground (OCG), Houghton's new center for sustainability and community outreach situated on Rt. 19 opposite Subway, is still in its first year of operation. Created to offer the college and surrounding community "opportunities to put faith into action

and move learning from theory to praxis," OCG has offered different workshops and opportunities that range from Red Cross first aid training and babysitter certification to bicycling for beginners and community garden workshops. And while sustainability coordinator Ginny Routhie says that OCG is still figuring out its exact role in the life of the college and Allegany County, the response has been positive.

Routhie said that Our Common Ground is "still trying to get a gauge on ... what the niche is here." She admitted that there have been a few events that no one has attended.

"On the no-show nights, we try to figure out why...that's why we're starting to ask for RSVP and figure out the ebb and flow of when people are busy." The numbers of people attending vary, but some of the most popular events have been the films, remarks Routhie, as well as summer gardening workshops. She made a "rough guesstimate" that generally fifteen percent of participants have no connection with the College. However, she added that some "come from as far as Alfred, and we regularly get people who come from Wellsville for events." Some events, too, have drawn a crowd of mostly non-students. Routhie enjoyed seeing one event in which "there were maybe four heads without grey hair."

Emily Rinehart, senior, said she believes that OCG is an opportunity for bringing people together in a unique way.

"This summer I lived in Houghton and had a plot in the community garden," Rinehart said. "Tilling the ground together, planting food that we shared with each other, all of those things really gave me a unique and beautiful view of people I see often during the school year — professors, their wives, their husbands, their children, secretaries to various departments — I saw all of those people in common with me, which is something special I think."

Occasional OCG participant Nora Kahler, sophomore, agreed.

"I think it's great that the Houghton community has a place like Our Common Ground. I'm especially looking forward to the potential food

co-op."

OCG has had a significant response from local organizations as well. Concerned Citizens of Allegany County, a local environmental watchdog, holds regular meetings in the building to discuss issues like hydrofracking. OCG also allows locals to sell products such as fresh eggs and goats' milk lotions and

soap. They have also recently applied for a government grant through Cornell Cooperative Extension, hoping to use space on the second floor for a "commercial kitchen for the community," which would allow locals to sell processed goods like jam which need to be prepared in a commercially certified area. OCG also hopes to host a community-initiated natural food co-operative selling only local products.

Other efforts that the center has made toward sustainability include the community garden during the summer and a lending library of movies and literature dealing with environmental issues.

There are other, quieter ways as well. The furniture in OCG is comprised of rejected or donated college items. An old lab table from Paine serves as a desk, and several painted and sanded tree stumps given by art professor Gary Baxter are in use as end tables.

The college provides all of OCG's funds.

Routhie said, "Our budget is extremely small, and it's all taken from the sustainability budget which was already in place." Roughly two-thirds of the amount is given for student wages; OCG employs six students for a small number of hours per week, paid out of money from work-study government grants. The rest of the money, Routhie stated, goes toward "additions to the lending library, boring things like office paper [and] battery recycling, and events... the movies that we host, that sort of thing. We don't pay for workshop speakers, they're all volunteer."

Our Common Ground's events are planned and suggested by members of an advisory board comprised of college students and faculty as well as members of partner organizations who meet annually for what Routhie called "a big brainstorm session of what we could offer the community." It is this partnership of so many different parts of the Allegany County community that best embodies what OCG is about.

Rinehart said that OCG is intended to "not only teach us about each other, but about how to live well, in joy, health, and fellowship."

Alabama, a site historically known for the fight for civil rights, while Sokso lives in western New York, a place where gender equality was fought for at Seneca Falls. Sokso expressed their shared interest in "the landscape of people," the ways in which people overlap, and considered what the physicality of a place means for a person's psyche.

Sokso and Shook plan to collaborate for "as long as it makes sense" and continue passing work back and forth. Sokso said they plan to publish a

catalogue, apply for an international print residency, and focus further on issues of gender and racial equality for all peoples, along with their love of landscapes and how those things interact.

An opening reception for "Both Sides" is being held tonight at 7 PM at the Wellsville Creative Arts Center and the pieces will be on display through Feb. 28. ★



## Servanthood and Scholarship: A Houghton Student's Priorities



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY ALEX VITALE

Several weeks ago during a College Choir devotional, I was challenged by a long-time friend to rethink my approach regarding how we engage this world with a Houghton College education. Speaking on the idea of service to others, he proposed that we have an attitude of "servant-scholar" rather than "scholar-servant." Now, this minor swap in syntax may seem rather unnecessary, and at first I was dismissive and thought his point to be rather picky and of no consequence. But the more I dwell on that switch, the more I come to agree with it and understand its implications. Although I do not believe the college should make any radical adjustments to its marketing message regarding this phrase in particular, I do however recognize the benefit in considering what it might actually mean.

The denotative meanings of these

words are simple. However, the connotative implications of these two words are hard to define, especially within a Christian context. They each have so many varying and wide-reaching applications.

Just look at how many departments, majors, and concentrations we have on campus, and you'll begin to see how divergent we can be with our 'scholarly' training: music, history, communication, math, physics, business, intercultural studies – the list is long. And within those, there are any number of career paths. We can examine 'servant' in a very similar fashion, realizing that different people are called to serve in very different ways. Some are far better at instructing, teaching and guiding; some are better at listening; speaking in public; leading worship; etc.

As students of Houghton College, in positions of good fortune and opportunity, we find ourselves blessed in ways we often don't even realize. The chance

to take classes from professors of incredible caliber, participate in musicals, book clubs, student life, and sports; all these and more make us some of the most fortunate members of our own generation.

**We should approach any and all situations with a manner of service and aid, first.**

But along with those blessings, comes the responsibility to give back; a responsibility that comes from God our Father; to serve others, and perhaps one day to give them the opportunity to shine. This is why I feel the concept of Servant-Scholar becomes that much more powerful. We should approach any and all situations with a manner of service and aid,

first. With that in mind, it is only then that we can apply our scholarly training and incorporate what we've learned into helping those who need it most. My point is this: that we not focus on the authority or power gained by some position; not become absorbed in how much we know; not compare one's calling to another's. No; our intent should always be one of helping others, in ways that

are unique to us. My calling as a thespian or a Physician's Assistant will be conducive to the gifts and talents with which God has blessed me. My brothers will serve in their own ways as a minister or a college professor. In no way are my examples exhaustive either. They exist only to show that being a servant can mean endless possibilities. The attitude of "servanthood" should be more important than what we are actually doing. We, as educated emergent adults can use our training in academia to aid in our ability to lift others up. Servant first, scholar second.

Spiderman's uncle, the late Ben Parker, once said, "With great power, comes great responsibility." As Christians, though, we might say, "with the greatest power, comes the greatest responsibility." Our Heavenly Father is the holder of that power, and He has already taken up the greatest responsibility, to release us from our sin. We, as followers, must live each and every day with that responsibility in the front of our minds. And what better way to live than to use the God-given gifts, talents and abilities to share His love with those around us?

Alex is a senior Communications and Pre-med major

### The Penultimate Word

## Putting Apocalyptic Predictions in Context



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY ELISA SHEARER

Let's talk about the end of the world. A couple of Mayan enthusiasts did some math, and the wealthy modern upper class feels disconnected with reality and a vague reverence for all things old and prophetic. Combine these factors with the internet and all of the insaner-when-anonymous people therein, and you get, among other things, a movie that mainly consists of John Cusack running away from things.

But before we even consider the logic behind ancient Mesoamerican apocalyptic predictions, I think that we, as young members of a recently prosperous society, need to continuously remind ourselves that the fall of Western Civilization does not equal the end of the world. There have been a large amount of other enormous civilizations that were – like ours – technologically advanced, culturally rich, extremely prosperous, and impressively corrupted. We are not the culmination of history, but many of us are still holding onto the subtle, unconscious, usually unarticulated idea that we are.

Western civilization might peter out – another civilization might be built on

top of our rusting I-beams – our Facebook profiles might be lost forever – and that still won't necessarily be the end of the world. It's happened already – to Rome, Mongolia, Egypt, Maya, Inca – and it will probably happen again.

This is what I'm suggesting: you probably shouldn't care about the end of the world any more than you worry about your own death. You are going to die at some point, and you probably don't know when. The world is probably going to end at some point, and you probably don't know when. This reminder of our mortality can be unsettling, yes, but it should not be a surprise.

And to anyone who believes that death is the end of our existence and consciousness, the end of life on Earth should not affect you more than your own death. Dead is dead, right? If your consciousness ends at death, the events after should have no bearing on you.

And Christians who believe in the afterlife should remember that the God of the New Testament is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent; the God of the New Testament is not going to be taken by surprise by the "end of the world," whatever that means, nor will the God of the New Testament be any less the ideal of Goodness and Justice and Love when the finite dimensions express their finity.

Dangerous is the supposition that since the world is ending, our responsibility to our environment and society is any less. Also dangerous, I think, is the idea that because of the possibility of the near ending of time (or our lives), we should act differently. Dangerous is

the suggestion that we need to be extra good this year because we think of Jesus as some sort of divine Santa Claus. Dangerous is the idea that when we find out that the world didn't end the night we expected it to, we can be more lax and go back to denying our mortality. Dangerous is the hedonism that grows from existential nihilism, and the alternate paralyzing of our will to act and live and create. Dangerous is the devotional that begins with the phrase "It's clear that the end times are upon us, so we should..."

In response to such thinking I like to quote Martin Luther (a famous alcoholic and anti-semitic): "If I knew I was going to die tomorrow, I would plant a tree today".

This world is finite. Your life here is finite. This has been and will always be true, no matter what happens.

And when you read nearly-conclusive evidence that Jesus is returning on some significant event (the winter solstice, the passing of universal health care, Justin Bieber's voice dropping), consider Matthew 26: 35-36 (and ignore, for now, that confusing part about Jesus' limited knowledge): "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."

Stop worrying. Or at least, stop allowing yourself to think that your worrying is useful. Go plant a tree.

Elisa is a junior Psychology and English major

### Letters to the Editor

Send to

houghtonstar@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

As a member of the Marketing & Communications team, I take issue with the recent poll in the Star.

The poll questions what Houghton's highest priority should be in finding Sharon Myers' replacement. Online the choices were "Find someone who will build on the marketing foundation Myers implemented during her employment." or "Find someone who will take the marketing campaign in a new direction." This poll indicates a major lack of understanding of the college's marketing initiatives. Sharon was not at the table when the foundation for the current marketing strategy was laid. She was thrown into the mix well into the process, and did the best that she could with what she had been handed. I don't think it is fair or correct to assume that the entire vision of the college's marketing falls on one person. Further, I am puzzled as to why the current student body cares so much about the inner-workings of the marketing campaign or even feels it has the right to be involved in campaign decisions. Bottom line is that the marketing campaign is strategically planned to help support enrollment. That strategic plan is laid by many talented, experienced individuals, many of whom have sacrificed much



## From the Editor's Desk

## Carrying Concealed: Do I Feel Lucky?



PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

BY MONICA SANDRECZKI

As college students we are at the prime age to make the big decision: to pack or not to pack.

That's right. We're talking guns. Rather, handguns.

Now, we know the excitement of watching "Dirty Harry" and looking at the others watching with us, wondering if everyone else is daydreaming about defending a school bus full of children from a deranged maniac, like Dirty Harry with his .44 Mag-

num. If we could, we'd take the law into our own hands like Clint Eastwood, and fight for truth, justice, and the American way.

In all seriousness though, it's prudent that we see through the vigilante romance and consider the implications of such a thing.

Tim Schmidt, the founder of the United States Concealed Carry Association, talks about being "willing to carry a concealed weapon to protect [your] loved ones," referring to carrying a weapon as a sacrifice, not a thrill. Those who carry guns for protection are not chomping at the bit to get a semi-automatic in their hands.

Coming from a family with members who have their concealed carry permits, I have always tended to err on the side of thinking that guns are valuable for defense. And we weren't your stereotypical irresponsible gun owners; if you got your permit, that meant that you had read "Armed and Female,"

took the gun training course, and went to the Bullethole shooting range a couple of times a month to stay in shape. You were trained how to handle a gun, when to use it, how to store it, etc.

So, being from Kansas, where the gun laws are less stringent than in New York, for the past several years I have been anticipating my 21st birthday, when the Kansas state attorney general would finally allow me to get my permit. Strutting around, toting my piece, I'd be confident in my decision to exercise my right as a woman to defend myself. At least, that's what "Armed and Female" told me.

However, of late, I have been thinking about the concept of self-defense as a Christian, not just a female. If I packed, there is a definite possibility that I could kill someone, which, obviously, comes with the territory. When justifying carrying, we often flippantly say, "it's self-defense," as if that is an end-all answer. And yes, it would theoreti-

cally be to keep myself or someone else from being killed or assaulted, but does even that justify the taking of a life? I really don't know. This is a question that should be considered by every potential and current gun owner, but often isn't addressed in avid gunowner discussions.

According to Mark Rogers of christiangunowner.com, "The Christian gun owner believes he/she is to be a servant to humanity but not a doormat to those who refuse to live by the rules of reasonable human behavior."

Honestly, at this point, I think I'd rather be a doormat than have the blood of a human being on my hands.

Monica is a junior French and Intercultural Studies major

more lucrative careers because of their deep care for Houghton. Think about that before making blanket statements and assumptions about the college's marketing.

-Brandon Rush, Staff

Dear Editor,

Reading the Star these past few weeks, I have arrived, once again, at the guilty realization of my total incompetence when faced with matters of Biblical interpretation. On the subject of homosexuality, Nicole Pepe wrote to the editor that, based on scripture, "homosexuality is a conscious choice" and sinful. Forgive the paraphrasing. Prof. Minchen echoed these facts in his letter to the editor, which read, "the Bible is clear in stating that sexual relations between same-sex couples is outside the will of God and therefore sinful." Thank you both for clarifying this issue for me, but there were a few more matters of scriptural interpretation my weak intellect is still navigating with difficulty. Your assistance, and anybody else's, would be greatly appreciated.

Lev. 19:19 (NIV) says, "Do not wear clothing woven of two kinds of material." I have a Houghton College t-shirt that is a cotton-polyester blend. Should someone warn the Admission Office? In the same book and chapter, verse 32 demands that I "stand up in the presence of the aged." Last time I visited my grandma, who I assume would meet the "aged" standard (although a specific range would be helpful), I sat down with her while she ate lunch at the nursing home. I still don't feel convicted by the Holy Spirit about that. Why isn't God more present in my sentiments? If I get married and have children someday, what would a fair price be to charge a slave owner for my daughter (Exodus 21:7)? Furthermore, I've noticed my

flatmate doing homework on Sunday and Saturday, whichever should be considered the Sabbath. Do I have to kill him (Exodus 35:2), or is this matter better left to the Student Life Office?

In the spirit of transparency, I must admit that the previous questions are not completely original. Many readers may recognize them from an episode of "The West Wing" or some internet sites. Nevertheless, I would sincerely appreciate the help of all those who have found unequivocal clarity in their Bible reading. Such insight could hopefully help me get back on the straight and narrow, from which I so ignorantly, and blindly, wandered away.

-Bradley Meyers '12

Dear Editor,

Thanks for several years of serious journalism with news, arts, culture, and of course opinion. But alas you succeeded in evoking a response from me and this is not just the last issue and "7 words" editorial but the whole series of editorials and opinion pieces that I assume have been written by some of Houghton's brightest and best. Yet much, not all, has been saddening at best and often quite simplistic and naive.

All the criticism about Houghton seems to forget Houghton's mission and purpose. Some keep hoping and prying for Houghton to be what it has never wanted to be. That puzzles me. Nearby us are fine institutions that have faced tragedies related to some of the very vices some seem to think would strengthen Houghton.

Most disconcerting is the idea that Houghton students are isolated from the real world and stunted in their potential growth. Most of the students I advise and teach are on the fields of athletics competing in the real world

(and the Empire Eight conference will bring us even closer, perhaps!), on nearby weekly service ventures or in study programs, internships, and other global exposures where they meet real people and wrestle with the deepest global and human realities. These are not folks wasting away in their dorm rooms or dingy student offices looking for things to complain about. These are faculty and students that debate honestly the deepest intellectual and human issues day after day in and out of class. They represent the Houghton I know and we have known for decades. Robust Christian faith wrestles with concerns of justice, poverty, bio-ethics, environmental possibilities, faith, economics, the arts, culture, the whole Gospel, the

global Church, suffering and sacrificing for the Risen Christ in the deepest corners of human need and the highest offices of influence, creating and exposing the beauties of God's world and making a difference for the Kingdom. Seems to me cigars, booze and atheism are not the hope of the world and are way below what the Star and the intellectual "stars" of Houghton ought to be working themselves up over. I call on reporting on the real and robust Houghton. And I welcome the real heroes of Houghton to raise their voices and be heard.

-Paul Shea, Associate Professor of Missions

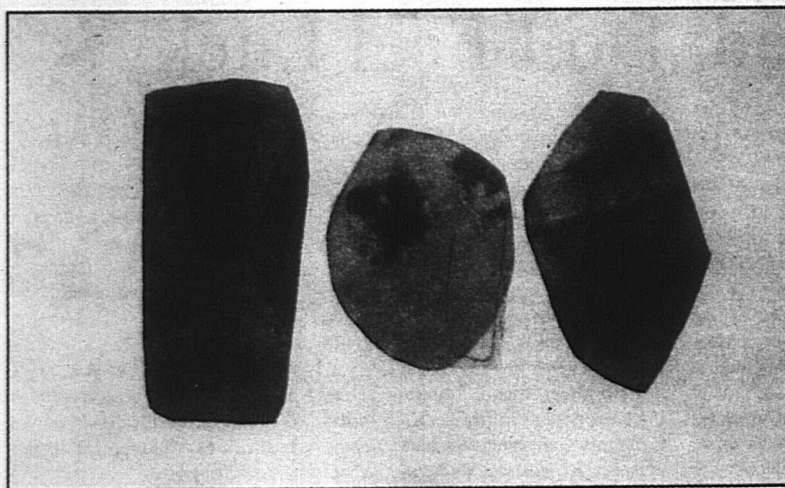
As Houghton searches for Sharon Myers' replacement, what should be their highest priority?

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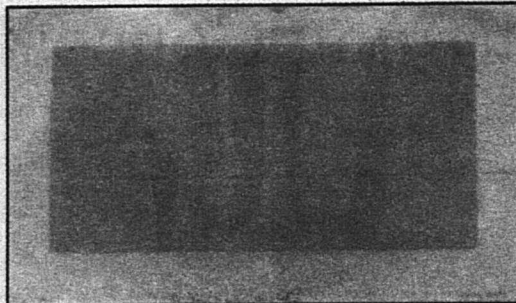
61%

Check out the new poll at [www.houghtonstar.com](http://www.houghtonstar.com)





Everything That Happens In A Life, etching/collograph

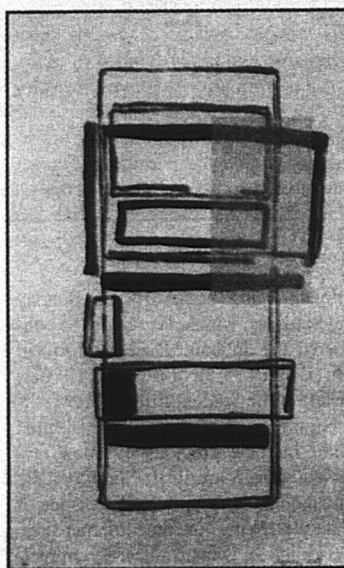


The Four Figures, Revisted, woodcut/graphite

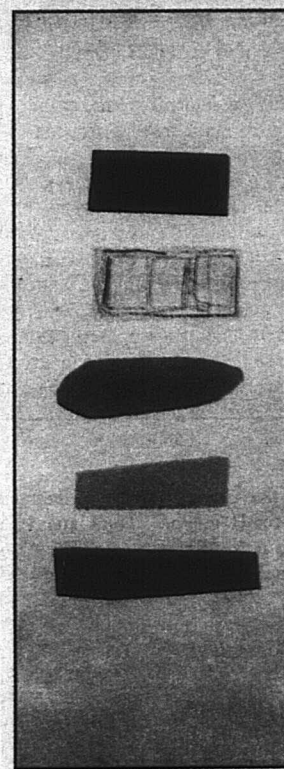
# monica lord

## ARTIST of the WEEK

*A note from the artist:* I spend a lot of time trying to decide what my artwork is about, and while I have not reached one definite conclusion, I've recently discovered it is an expression of the deep undercurrents of emotions and feelings that unite all humanity, regardless of cultural boundaries. There are inner conditions of the human soul that everyone recognizes and understands, such as despair or peace. My current work is attempting to reach an understanding with the viewer, in which he or she will recognize the reaction my work evokes as a legitimate human experience that encompasses all of humankind.



Untitled, lithography/collograph



Untitled, etching/collograph

Solution for Jan. 28 sudoku:

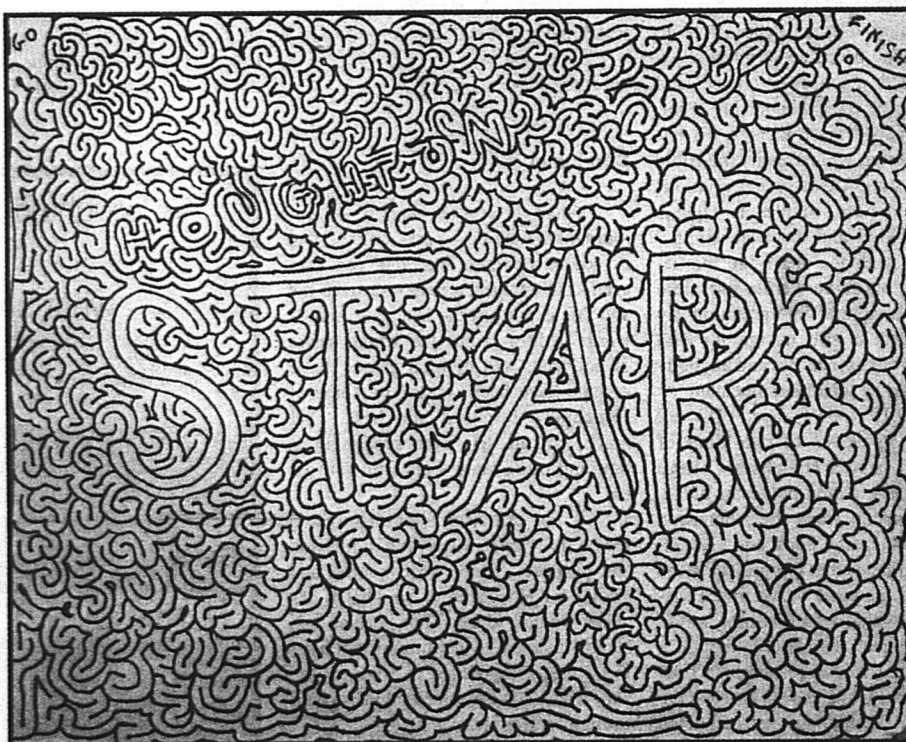
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8	5	4	6	7	3	2	1	9
9	2	3	4	1	8	7	6	5
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3	1	5	8	2	4	9	7	6
4	8	6	1	9	7	3	5	2
5	6	9	7	8	1	4	2	3
7	3	8	2	4	5	6	9	1
1	4	2	3	6	9	5	8	7

### PRIZE:

*Leroy Townes and the Lonestars* album!

Last week's winner of the Sudoku challenge was Alexa Burns! Please come by the Star office to claim your prize.

Bring your finished MAZE to the Star office clearly marked with FULL NAME.



# MAZES [brought to you by ALEX GLOVER]