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Changes Made to Cross Country Course

ASHLEY POPP

This summer Houghton's maintenance crew made significant changes to the cross-country course. Alterations included widening the course path and changing the overall route. The new course aspects will be vital as the college prepares to host nearly 500 athletes for the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Cross Country National Championships on November fifteenth.

Cross-country head coach, Patrick Hager, elaborated on the changes, "They cut out a section by the tree of life and there is a portion that goes through the center of the [soccer] field that is now part of the course as the start and finish." Hager also elaborated on the widening of the course and stated, "It's important because for NCAA the course

See **XC** page 3

Sodexo Monopoly Keeps 5-Bites from KPFH



LUKE LAUER

The Sodexo concession stand, located in the Kerr-Pegulla Field House, Wednesday night during the men's soccer game.

HANNAH ZGRABLICH

Student operated concession stand, 5-Bites, was edged out by a Sodexo-catered concession stand built into the Kerr-Pegulla Field House (KPFH) under the operation's direction.

In addition to the main dining hall, Sandella's, Big Al's, and the coffee house added last summer to replace Java 101, Sodexo now holds a monopoly over every food stop on campus.

Previously, concessions for athletic events were provided by 5-Bites, a stu-

dent operated business that manages small snack oriented concession stands in the dorms and at the fields. Bradley Oliver, president of Houghton Student Enterprises (HSE), said "It has always been our goal to have businesses that are run by students, for students by lis-

tening to what they want, and delivering."

Options typically found at the 5-Bites stands included chips, pretzels, candy, and bottled beverages available for purchase with cash only. One reason for the transi-

See **SODEXO** page 3

Broken Greenway Trail Runs Through Houghton



ANTHONY BURDO

A section of the Genesee Greenway Trail between Houghton and Fillmore.

SARAH SLATER

The Genesee Valley Greenway trail, which runs between Rochester and Hinesdale, south of Cuba, is closed in the section that goes through Houghton. Though students and community members run, walk, and bike on the Houghton section of the Greenway daily the interruptions prevent them from connecting to the rest of the trail.

The Greenway is a park originating from the land formerly occupied by area canals and railroads. Described as "an open space corridor" by the New York State Park Service, it is intended to be used for walking, hiking, and biking, and other outdoor recreation. It also has a crucial role in conservation, allowing organisms to travel on an uninterrupted wild space throughout Western New York.

Kristina Shoepfer, park manager for the Greenway, said

See **GENESE** page 2

WORLD // ISIS Crisis Continues



ANTHONY BURDO

MARY CRONIN

The violent acts being committed by the Sunni-Islam extremist group ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria) has prompted the United States and other nations take military action. ISIS, which has its base in Raqqa, Syria, has taken over large areas of Syria and Iraq.

The group has declared this area to be the “Islamic State,” according to a CNN article. Its oppressive rule and interpretation of Islamic law has been ravaging civilians, including ethnic and Christian minorities. Video of public executions has been released on the internet as ISIS continues to tighten its grip in the Middle East.

According to CNN, the beheading of two American journalists was an impetus to the United States’ military intervention. The offensive has mostly included missile strikes by sea followed by air raids by bombers and fighter jets. According to the US military, training compounds, headquarters, storage facilities, supply trucks, and armed vehicles were hit in the initial strike on Tuesday September 23. The Pentagon also stated that some ISIS operatives were hit, but the number was not specified.

Other nations have joined

the United States, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Bahrain, and Qatar. As stated by a Washington Post article, France has also lent its support to the offensive.

According to Army Gen. Ray Odierno, who was quoted in the Washington Post, there is a possibility that civilians may be at risk as ISIS moves from more open areas with visible targets to urban areas. “We’ll have to determine that, as we go forward, if we can sustain the level of preciseness that is necessary to limit civilian casualties,” he cautioned.

Another complication threatening progress in the fight against ISIS may arise. Though there has been much cooperation in the Arab world with the West on this matter, the fact that ISIS is technically a Sunni Muslim group may be problematic for some governments. As stated in a CNN article, some governments may

face dissent from their people, and they disagree with Sunnis fighting against other Sunnis.

Furthermore, Syria has cited disregard of its sovereignty, according to the New York Times. The nation has complained that American military actions on its soil without its cooperation is a violation of sovereign rights. President Obama and other US officials, on the other hand, insist this is not the case. Civil war in Syria helped extremist movements like ISIS to take root and spread, and Obama contends that by striking only ISIS and not “Mr. Assad”, the United States is helping Syria, thus the nation’s sovereignty is still intact.

Recent action involved the US-led air strikes targeting ISIS positions in northeastern Syria while the Syrian government aimed at other insurgents near its capital, Damascus this past Saturday.

Meanwhile, ISIS attacked a Kurdish village near the Turkish border, according to the New York Times. At roughly the same time, two car bombs were detonated in the Syrian city of Homs, killing at least 45 people, including 41 children. The group has not taken official responsibility for this, though it is likely that it is responsible because of their recently increased presence in Homs. This, among other issues, has caused even more civilians to flee to Turkey, joining more than 150,000 refugees already there, the New York Times reported.

Military officials, including General Odierno, have dismally predicted that this conflict could endure much longer than previously anticipated. ★

Mary is a Sophomore and a Political Science and Theology major.

GENESEE from page 1

that the land passed through several hands before becoming a state park. “The Genesee Valley Greenway follows the old Genesee Valley Canal and later, the Rochester Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The railroad eventually sold the property to RG&E [Rochester Gas and Electric], who later sold the property to New York State for use as a recreational trail.” Because of the long history of the property, the Greenway runs past pieces of regional history, including ruins of stone locks, culverts, and historic inns such as the Yard of Ale and the National

Hotel. One section near Black Creek, NY runs past areas of the canal which are still full of water, allowing trail users to imagine the canal in its heyday.

The Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway (FOGVG), a local nonprofit organization, in partnership with the state park system, attempts to promote and care for the Greenway to users of the trail. The Friends have brought more than \$4 million in grants to the Greenway to develop it further, and often run events to promote and care for the trail. They also provide information about the length of the trail for potential users.

According to FOGVG there are several areas of the

trail that are currently closed for use. One of the areas that is currently closed, according to the trail guide found on the FOGVG website, includes the section that goes through Houghton. Shoepfer pointed out that the trail nearest Houghton has a few obstacles that prevent it from connecting it to the rest of the trail. North of Houghton, “a bridge is needed to cross the creek adjacent to the Houghton soccer fields” while to the south, “there is a RG&E substation located on what used to be the old rail bed (and what would have been the path of the Greenway),” she said. Beyond these interruptions, the trail is maintained as it continues north to Rochester and south

past Cuba.

“Having the Greenway connected in Houghton would be an asset to the college and community” for several reasons, Shoepfer said, as it would provide increased recreational opportunities over the length of the trail for activities including hiking, biking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding. Shoepfer also suggested that for students who currently run along Route 19, having the Greenway connected would allow for a safer alternative to running along the road.

The RVER Group, or Regional Ventures in Economic Revitalization, stated that one of its goals for the near future is to refurbish the park in the

town of Houghton. Helping to connect the section of the Genesee Valley Greenway that runs through Houghton to the rest of the path would be a related goal worth pursuing.

The Greenway is a feature of Houghton that deserves to be more well-known and utilized. With a few improvements, the Genesee Valley Greenway could “stimulate business and tourism for the local community and benefit the community as a whole,” Shoepfer said.

For more information, including trail maps and updates on events, visit the Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway website at fogvg.org, or the New York State Park website at nysparks.com ★

WORD ON THE STREET



“One issue that should be discussed on campus is the lack of male role models in younger children’s lives, especially in single parent households or even in the education system as a whole.”

-Jaclyn Algier, Senior



“I would really like to see people emphasize the uniqueness of this campus and not just the seclusion of the area but the readiness of the Christian faith towards building each other up in community.”

- Brad Dickey, Sophomore



“Gender equality and grace in the church.”

-Rachel Wright, Junior



“I know a lot of people joke about Sodexo, eating up at the cafe, and how there’s never anything good. Honestly I feel like we kinda had more variety last year. This year, I’ve not been super impressed. I mean, the food is still okay, but in the future I might want a little bit more of the variety we had last year.”

-Jackson Wheeler, Sophomore

What are some of the issues you would like to see discussed on campus this semester?

“One of the things I’d like to hear about on campus more is feminism, like what it really is, how it’s about men and women having equal rights, not beating down men or anything, but showing that they have equal rights.”

-Kaitlyn McKinney, Sophomore



“I think the issue I’d really like to see discussed is to make sure that we have Fair Trade Cocoa in the dining hall.”

-Elizabeth Clarke, Freshman



“An issue I’d say that I’ve seen is that Sodexo might have lowered the bar in what they’re making and producing for the students.”

-Marshall Brady, Sophomore



“I’d be really interested in a discussion on the issue that I see a lot... I feel like decisions that are made by administration and such are not necessary made with prayerful consideration. I don’t hear the language of ‘we’ve been praying about this, we’ve been prayerfully considering this.’”

-Clayton Danner, Senior



Look for Word on the Street on the Star’s YouTube account.

SODEXO *from page 1*

tion from 5-Bites to Sodexo, General Manager of Houghton Dining Services, Tina Powers explained, was “the college wanted the ability to serve full hot meals as concessions from the new facility,” not just packaged snacks.

The KPFH has a full sized kitchen located on the northwest corner of the building specifically designed to meet Sodexo’s culinary needs. Catering Manager, James Ward said, “There are a variety of health codes that have to be upheld when serving hot food. Maintaining food during the course of service and keeping it at a certain temperature requires a certain facility and the work of the certified dining staff.”

“Since the project’s inception it became clear that 5-Bites could not handle all of what the college expected from their new facility,” said Oliver. “Meetings between Skip Lord [executive director of athletics], Robert Pool [vice president of student life], Sodexo, and 5-Bites to discuss how to keep HSE involved in running the new facility ultimately determined that Sodexo would be running the facility without our collaboration.” Oliver also mentioned that this result would cut HSE’s total profits by 50 percent.

Sodexo provided concessions at preliminary sporting events hosted by the KPFH

this summer, but last weekend’s homecoming marked the official kick-off of its newest dining option. A variety of hot concessions were available throughout the day and were available for purchase with cash, credit, or flex dollars.

“We want to partner with the campus to ensure that there will always be a good meal there,” said Powers. “We want to show great hospitality to those who come here.”

Sophomore, Elizabeth Houseman, said, “I think they should make it a little more simple, I mean they had beef on weck ,yet no hamburgers.” “Another Sodexo take-over means even less options—there is so little variety to their food already,” said Graduate student Sean Douglas.

Sodexo’s service at the KPFH continued late into homecoming evening providing concessions for the 2,500 guests attending the Tenth Avenue North Concert. “There was always a giant line to buy anything, but the popcorn was delicious.” said Junior, Leah Shadbol.

Sodexo’s concession services in the KPFH will be open for all of Highlander Athletics’ home matches.

“We do not like the monopoly power that Sodexo has on the campus, but as a creative group we will come up with new ways to serve the student body.” Oliver said on behalf of 5-Bites and HSE. ★



Java 101, previously a locally owned business, was aquired by Sodexo last summer.

LUKE LAUER

XC *from page 1*

needs to be 110 meters wide, so the widening of the course was necessary to make that happen.”

The widening of the course will also allow runners to be better able to pass one another in competition and reduce the chances of contestants cutting corners or running outside the lined course to gain position.

Senior cross-country member, Jonathan Lewis, appreciates the changes made to the course, but was disappointed with some aspects. Lewis said, “I personally don’t like the course as much. The previous course took us down a path that was scenic and that part is no longer in the current course.”

Lewis also commented on the versatility of the course, and the college’s ability to now hold larger meets and invitational events. He said, “It

will allow us to host nationals which is a great incentive.”

This benefit of hosting larger meets and events is something Coach Hager is very excited about. From a recruiting perspective, Hager stated, “I think it’s going to be big because of the exposure from hosting the National Championship.”

He explained the surface of the course is nicer and recognized Houghton College employee, Dan Wolcott, as a necessary part of the process. Hager said, “He has been instrumental in this whole thing of providing a quality training surface.” Hager feels he and his team are being taken care of here, and there is a community that cares about how the team is doing and wants to see them succeed.

While Hagar thinks the course will benefit the future of the college, Lewis is unsure, he said, “Honestly I don’t know if the course change will

benefit the college, yet in the long run it will allow us to hold larger meets.” This ability, he said, “Is good for the college.”

The course alterations provide a greater opportunity for the course to receive more exposure from hosting different events. Recently, on October 4, the course was used for the homecoming 5k fun run.

Ashley Schenk, junior, and participant in the run, reflected on the race and the changes she noticed. “I definitely enjoyed running on the new course,” she said. “It felt like we were backtracking less with the new course than last year when I ran the race.” According to Schenk the most noticeable change was in the end of the course, she said, “There was a longer straight away where we were running toward the people, which made it more fun.” ★

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and story ideas to
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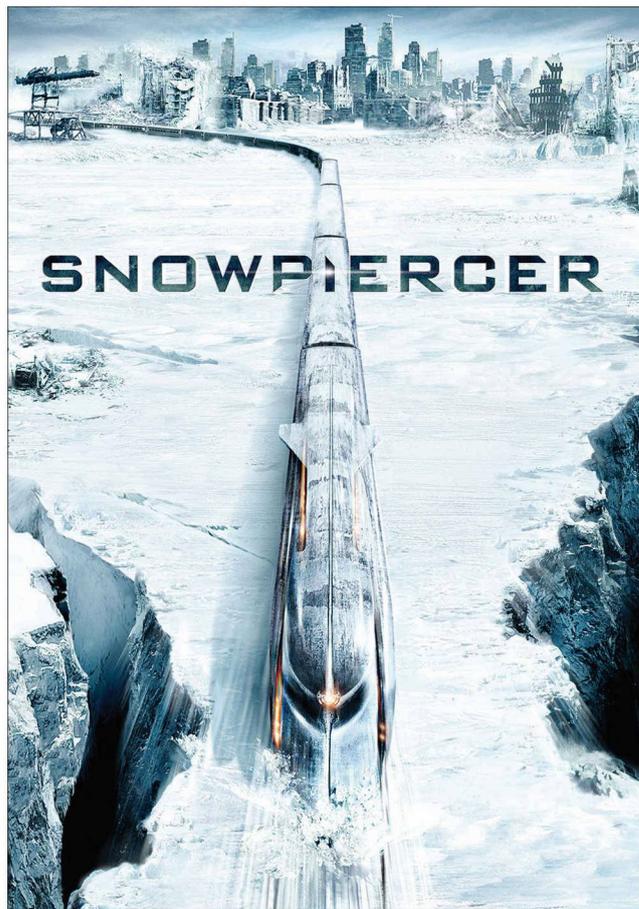
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Snowpiercer: A Metaphor of our Broken Society



Movie poster for Joon-ho Bong's film, *Snowpiercer*.

LIANA WOOL
MIRIAM GRIFFITH

In a world decimated by the effects of climate change, amidst the snow of the now frozen world, there remains one source of refuge for humanity: Wilford's train.

On board this self-sustaining train, the people are segregated into classes: wealthy in the front, poor in the back. Chris Evans, known for his role as the superhero heartthrob Captain America, now takes on the role of a poor, back-of-the-train, unlikely leader, Curtis. Faced with food scarcity, fleeting memories of what earth was like, and a desire to help the poor, Evans becomes a revolutionist, determined to reach the front of the train and restore equality to the classes. Filled with plot twists, action, and a bit of blood, *Snowpiercer* brings about a deeper question: is modern society really any different than the broken system portrayed in this film?

The majority of the population, residing in the back of the train, sits in squalor, resorting to

desperate means to acquire food. In contrast, the minority of the people live comfortable, posh lives, ignorant to the atrocities being implemented by the man in power.

As Curtis fights his way towards the front of the train, he is lambasted by the reality of the frivolity shown by the fortunate few in the front. Car by car, the shift is made; engineering cars with water and food in the back separate the haves from the have-nots. Proceeding towards the front is the fine dining car and then the wild party cars. A new aspect of a potential lifestyle is brought to light as Curtis and a loyal few battle their way to power.

This eye-opening metaphor brings into question how the world today is run and maintained, and what our responsibility on our "train" may be. If given the seat of power, would Curtis take that opportunity to bring justice to the back by destroying the front? Beyond the revolution, what will become of the earth? Will the climate ever be bearable for mankind? Will polar bears never be seen again? What will become of humanity in this deso-

late, post-apocalyptic world?

Directed and written by Korean director Joon-ho Bong, renowned for his socially and politically charged films, this film effectively encompasses pressing social issues while maintaining an action-packed plot. The film was released in 2013, but did not come to American theaters until this past summer. Although this film was independently produced, it is star-studded with world-renowned actors such as Tilda Swinton (*The Chronicles of Narnia*), Ed Harris (*Gravity* and *A Beautiful Mind*), John Hurt (*V for Vendetta*), and Jamie Bell (*The Fantastic Four*).

While this film may not be the best choice for family movie night, as it does live up to its R rating for violence, language, and minor drug content, it is certainly worth the time investment. The action, plot, and character development go beyond simple entertainment. Thought provoking and intriguing concepts are undeniably evident in the film, and bring into question innumerable aspects of the social systems we live in today. ★

Photo of the Week

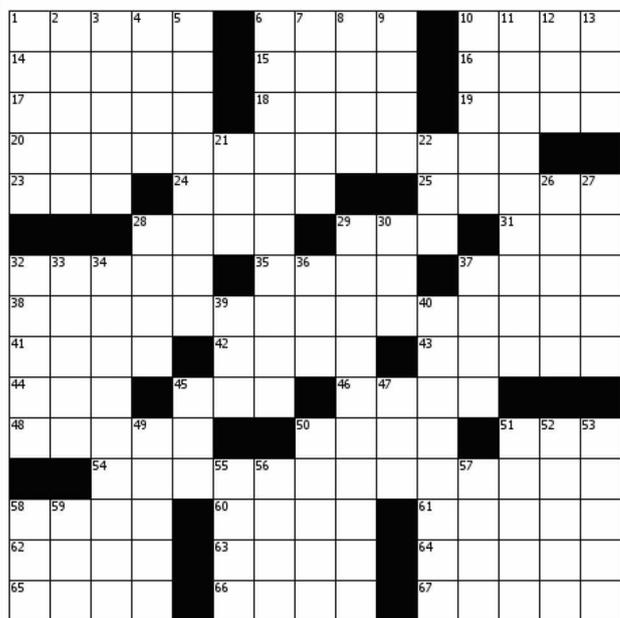


Barn on Rice Road in Fillmore, New York.

WINNER //
Derek Brooker '16



October 10, 2014 Crossword



ONLINECROSSWORDS.NET

Across

- 1. Reads superficially
- 6. Hadrian's defense
- 10. Top-drawer
- 14. Gownlike garment
- 15. Natural soother
- 16. Muffin ingredient
- 17. Fictional bell town
- 18. Corn Belt state
- 19. Medium for some NFL games
- 20. Float down an Arctic river?
- 23. Nationality suffix
- 24. Role for Carrie
- 25. Spanish rice
- 28. Babe in the woods
- 29. Nudge, as one's memory
- 31. Not to
- 32. Oil industry honcho
- 35. Vibrant look
- 37. Number for one
- 38. When psychics take aspirin?
- 41. 1994 Jodie Foster title role
- 42. Type of loser
- 43. Weak and ineffectual
- 44. ___ alai
- 45. Flat's need
- 46. Trotsky of Russia
- 48. Columns with notable slants

- 50. Some toothpastes
- 51. Part of ERA: Abbr.
- 54. Caviar at a keg party?
- 58. City in Arizona
- 60. Verve
- 61. Golfer's feat
- 62. Author Dinesen
- 63. Brand for a boxer
- 64. Cabal activities
- 65. Mane area
- 66. Insightful
- 67. Have a feeling

Down

- 1. Rocket section
- 2. Praise
- 3. Really impressed
- 4. '60s skirt
- 5. Balmoral Castle site
- 6. Anticipating
- 7. Lei bearer's word
- 8. Rob of "Masquerade"
- 9. Fall floater
- 10. Find repugnant
- 11. Detachable catalog item
- 12. Jazz cornetist Adderley
- 13. 36-Down holder
- 21. Chop down
- 22. Response time
- 26. Lowest deck on a ship

- 27. J.D. Salinger's "Franny and ..."
- 28. Stable delivery
- 29. Only Beatle who never appeared on "Saturday Night Live"
- 30. Run a deficit
- 32. Earl Scruggs's instrument
- 33. Oodles
- 34. It shows the lay of the land
- 36. USPS unit
- 37. Tibia
- 39. ___-Wan Kenobi of "Star Wars"
- 40. Basic dances
- 45. Light-feather link
- 47. Certain Ivy Leaguer
- 49. Circumnavigator on the Golden Hind
- 50. Chardonnay, for one
- 51. A noble gas
- 52. Battery units
- 53. Gaggle group
- 55. Weather-resistant wood
- 56. Couture magazine
- 57. Taft's alma mater
- 58. Dark principle
- 59. Neighbor of Mex.

Patrick Ishimwe, Giving Non-Traditional Students a Voice

RACHEL ZIMMERMAN

Senior Patrick Ishimwe, executive officer of nontraditional students, grew up wanting to help people.

Born in Rwanda, moving from there to Congo, to Kenya, and eventually to Togo, where he lived for ten years, Ishimwe grew up in what he described as an “unstable environment.” Yet, he said, “there was always someone to help,” and through that, his family got “all the help we needed.”

Having moved to Buffalo, where he went to City Honors School for two years, Ishimwe eventually arrived at Houghton looking for a Christian environment and a good soccer program. Ishimwe initially did not consider SGA, but during his sophomore year, a friend, Ben Hardy, convinced him to go to a meeting. Ishimwe was intrigued, and by his junior year, he ran for the Senate and became part of the SGA. The SGA, he realized, was an opportunity to be a helpful voice on campus.

However, among the changes the 2014-2015 year brought was the elimination of the Senate. Again Ishimwe made the decision to participate in SGA, this time becoming the Executive Officer of Nontraditional Students. In

this role, Ishimwe deals with reaching out to the students of Buffalo who do not have the opportunity to go to traditional college.

Placing great value on education, Ishimwe is personally invested in the programs. “Education is just the key to success,” he said. In a recent Facebook post, Ishimwe wrote, “Jesus did not die on the cross just for us to live an average life.” He said, “Education showed me you don’t have to lead that life.” In his SGA position, Ishimwe is able to share this opportunity with students who otherwise would have no access to it. “They’re no different from us,” said Ishimwe, “We’re just fortunate enough to be able to afford to go here.”

Having attended school in Buffalo, Ishimwe has a personal understanding of the purpose and value of the programs for nontraditional students. He discovered that one of the students in the program was a good friend, and was able to see the positive effects. He noticed that his “friends from high school struggle with staying in college and getting a degree.” Ishimwe, in his position, is now able to see the tangible results of the programs.

Ishimwe describes his office as giving Buffalo students



Patrick Ishimwe writing at his desk.

ANTHONY BURDO

in the program “a voice on campus.” He keeps the SGA informed on how the programs are going, but also is responsible for sharing opportunities for involvement with other Houghton students. He and SGA president, Katharine Labrecque, have formed a committee that will be

bringing in lecturers and possibly Buffalo residing Houghton alumni, who will inform Houghton students of opportunities to serve in Buffalo.

Patrick Ishimwe is a political science major, minoring in business and French. His desire to help people, to make a difference, is the root

for his ultimate dream of going to law school and working with the United Nations. For now, he speaks for himself and reminds Houghton students, “Buffalo is a mission.” Although there is much to address for the rest of the world, for now “it’s preparation for future experiences.”★

Have you been thinking about studying abroad?

Discover where you can go and what you can study!

Off-Campus Studies Opportunities Fair

Tuesday, October 14

10:30am - 1:30pm

In the Van Dyk Lounge

Opportunity to talk to:

- Program reps
- Faculty
- Students



The Culture Andy Crouch Wants To Make



ANTHONY BURDO

MATT YOUNG

The 2014 Houghton Reads book is *Culture Making: Rediscovering Our Creative Calling*, by Andy Crouch, the Executive Editor of *Christianity Today*. This book is being read by many groups around campus. Overall, it is not a bad book (yes, I have read the whole thing).

Crouch presents his case that Christians should be “makers of culture.” I could not agree more. Christians are to be a community, united in love, forming a counter-culture that displays the radical love, grace, and forgiveness of Jesus. This culture we

are making together, and are to invite others into, is the Kingdom of God. But it is not this idea of culture making that I’ve got a problem with. No, my problem is with the real-life way that Crouch tried to “make culture” this summer.

In the book, Crouch talks about four postures that American Christians have taken in regard to culture. These are: Condemning (think of a fundamentalist who rants about the evils of culture while keeping a safe distance), Critiquing (a Christian who engages with culture for the sake of pointing out its flaws), Copying (picture the way Contemporary Christian Music took the form and style of secular music and inserted God into it), and finally

“make culture” instead. No problem here. I agree that Christians have, far too often, engaged in one of these postures instead of being the countercultural Kingdom of God. So how do we make this culture?

According to Crouch, if we want to change/make a culture, we must start small. He says that we make culture by creating cultural “goods.” These can be things like songs, books, legislation, computers, etc. A cultural good is anything we create that has the

potential to change the culture around us.

Again, no problem here. We all need to reclaim the transformative power of creative acts. If we see the smallest things we do as a part of making our culture and world a better place, we will find our lives invested with meaning like never before. Now onto what Crouch did this summer.

On July 1st of this year, Andy Crouch, along with 13 other Christian leaders, signed

and sent a letter to President Obama. The President had announced that he planned to make an Executive Order banning all federal contractors

with that, but be permitted to discriminate based on certain people’s sexual orientation. This is where I have a big problem with the way in which

Crouch wants to make culture.

In his attempt to “make culture” Crouch introduces a “cultural good” in the form of a letter. His idea of making culture is to create a world where it is legal to discriminate and reject certain members of society, not because these people are criminals or harmful to others, but because of who they choose to love (and make love to).

As I’ve already said, I’m all for making culture. The Christian story invites us to become a part of a community that shares the love, grace, and forgiveness of God with others; but I’m not for a culture that is accepting of discrimination. I don’t see room for discrimination in the loving, graceful, forgiving way of Jesus. ★

Matt is a first year student.

We all need to reclaim the transformative power of creative acts.

Consuming (leaving God out of the picture and embracing the secular as default). He goes on to say that rather than embracing one of these four postures, Christians should

Your Vote, Your Voice



ANTHONY BURDO

KATHARINE LABRECQUE

Election season has become a monotonous time that typically has lacked the interest of many college students. But why? Why do students fail to exercise this Constitutional right as a United States citizen? Maybe it’s because students don’t think it affects them? Or perhaps they think their voice won’t be heard? Either way, when

voting time comes, students remain unengaged and uninformed.

A statewide survey released by the California Voter Foundation (CVF) found that 23% of unregistered voters say they’re too busy to vote. While two-thirds of those surveyed noted that they didn’t turn out to vote because they believed that elections are controlled by special interest groups. In addition, the foundation found that 76% of nonvoters have no more than a high school diploma.

Based on a 2012 survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, young adults have been found to vote more often in Presidential elections than in congressional election years. Voting rates have been historically low, especially between

among young adults have seen a dramatic increase. It appears that students are often drawn

to particular parties based on single issues or interests. For example many individuals, and not solely students, are attracted to parties that have issues on their agenda such as climate change, the economy and social welfare, and bioethics.

Yet despite these daunting facts, voting is arguably one of the most important civic opportunities available to United States citizens.

Voting *does* matter. Not just in presidential elections, but in local and state elections. Elected individuals represent the interests of the people. Our country was formed on the premise that we were to have a government “for the people [and] by the people.” We have a civic responsibility to ex-

ercise this right. You have a voice. You have a vote.

Alexander Buska, a senior

Voting is arguably one of the most important civic opportunities available to United States citizens. Voting does matter. Not just in presidential elections, but in local and state elections.

Moreover, these decisions and legislations made at the local, state, and federal level have a major impact on our lives. When asked, “Why don’t you vote?” responses included: “I’ll care when I pay my own bills,” or “I’ll register [to vote] eventually when I settle down.” The problem with *waiting* is that your vote counts now. Voting on elected officials affects not just the present, but the future. Your voice matters. Your vote matters, and it matters **now**.

So when is your next opportunity to vote? Midterm elections are

political science major encourages students: “Vote local. Elected officials only respond to those who vote. State and town officials will be much more interested in what you have to say, and better able to accurately represent your point of view. Look at how they came out to Houghton for the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex - they are plenty interested in what is going on.”

November 4. You can pick up registration forms at your local county elections office, post office, library, DMV, or print out a registration form online at your state and local board of elections website. Also, be sure to request an Absentee Ballot. This can be requested by state for midterm elections at yourvoteyourvoice.org. ★

Katharine is a senior political science major.

Sexual Security and a Bike Lock



LUKE LAUER

WYNN HORTON

In a recent interview with a senior at Stanford University, a key issue in the continuation of violence against women was revealed for the world to see.

“Some men feel that too much responsibility for preventing sexual assault has been put on their shoulders,” said the student, whose name does not deserve to be printed. “While everyone condemns sexual assault, there seems to be an assumption among female students that they shouldn’t have to protect themselves by avoiding drunkenness and other risky behaviors. Do I deserve to

have my bike stolen if I leave it unlocked on the quad? We have to encourage people not to take on undue risk.” (Bloomberg)

First off, this opinion should not be generalized as the identifiable feeling of all collegiate aged men about women. Seriously, this guy compares a woman’s sexual privacy to a bike on the quad – just violate it if you feel like it! I think that if this man is the best an Ivy-League school has to offer – we all have reason to seriously fear for the future of this country. Not all men (whilst conceding there certainly are some) are sexist, chauvinistic, rude, or the other usual condemnations associated with our sex.

However, the statement from this particular student

I do not think that men are designed in any way that could result in them being deemed as mindless brutes or animals.

does highlight one of the key issues at large in the battle to stop violence against women

– we (men) are still failing to acknowledge our role in the situation at large. Frat houses, for example, are notorious for their high statistics regarding rape and sexual assault. Yet they, and often their respective university presidents, fail to assign responsibility to the men, choosing instead to back up this ridiculous belief that women need to “just not go to the parties then.” Along with these foolish ideas come phrases like: boys will be boys, men shouldn’t be expected to control themselves, she shouldn’t have been wearing that, etc. All of which is trash.

It has been said a million times before and ignored – victims of sexual assault and rape should never be blamed for what happened to them. I am a man and I am saying this, voicing my support for the reevaluation and reshaping of what it means to embrace masculinity in a modern culture for the sake of changing the status quo.

I do not think that men are designed in any way that could result in them being deemed as mindless brutes or animals.

I do not think that masculin-

ity calls us to embody a sense of superiority over women.

I do not think that the responsibility to end violence against women and lead this world into a new realm of equality lies solely in the hands of women. We have a role to

So, men at Houghton, I challenge you – be respectful to the women you see everyday.

play as well!

So, men at Houghton, I challenge you – be respectful to the women you see everyday. Don’t catcall; don’t stare; set an example for your friends and be a role model at home for your brothers or friends. When a friend makes a sexist joke or comments about girls’ clothes or bodily features – shut him (or her) up! For those of you in relationships – think seriously about how you treat your girlfriends, fiancés, or wives. Do you actually believe that you have unfettered physical rights to her and can call upon them whenever the desire arises? You must be joking! What does that say about her dignity as a human being and

her right to be respected? Try to introduce (if you’re in an existing relationship), or commit beforehand to, conversations in which you both agree on mutually self-giving expressions of affection. No-means-no implies the possibility for damaging action before actual communication. Yes-means-yes (from both people) implies a shift in perspective, a conversation with tangible results that ranks respect for one another above personal desires.

Perhaps, in the age of one-night stands, online hookups, and 24-7 access to porn, masculinity has been too often characterized as a 6’2, macho and muscular sex machine who sleeps with women regardless of consequences and wears a phallic symbol on his sleeve (a.k.a. James Bond). If so, then now more than ever there must be a generation of men who spit in the face of Hollywood and strive to be something new. At the end of the day, you and you alone determine how you will act as a man in your friendships and relationships. I challenge you to set an example that emphasizes equality and embraces a new perspective. You can do it. ★

Wynn is a senior political science major.



The mission of the Houghton Star is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have characterized Houghton College since its inception. This will be done by serving as a medium for the expression of student thought and as a quality publication of significant campus news, Houghton area news, and events.

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2014



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Artist of the Week

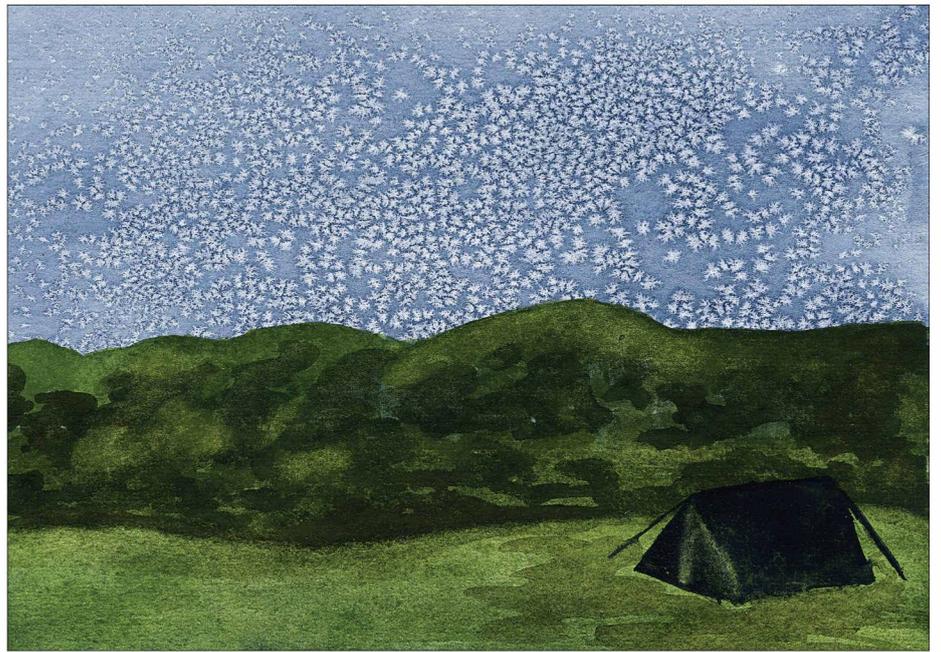
Carrie Parsons

//senior Art major

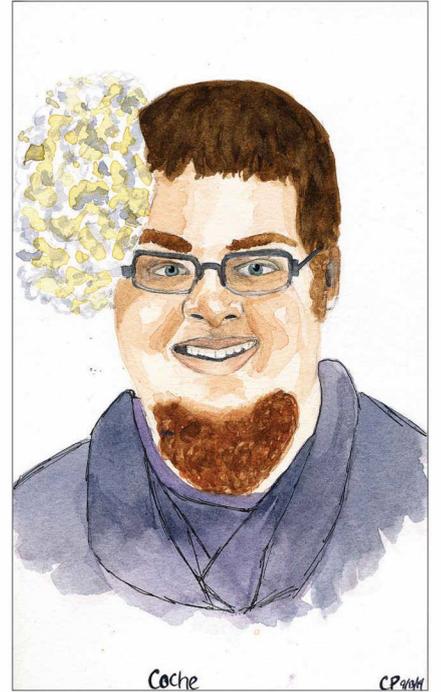
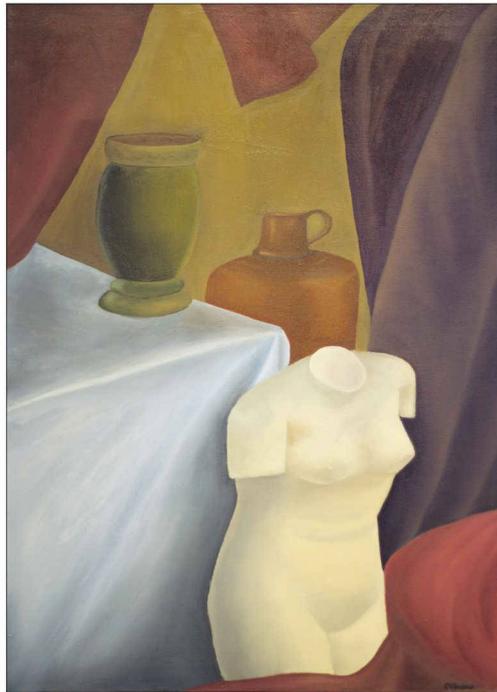
She hopes to practice art therapy after graduating. Her medium is watercolor and oil painting.



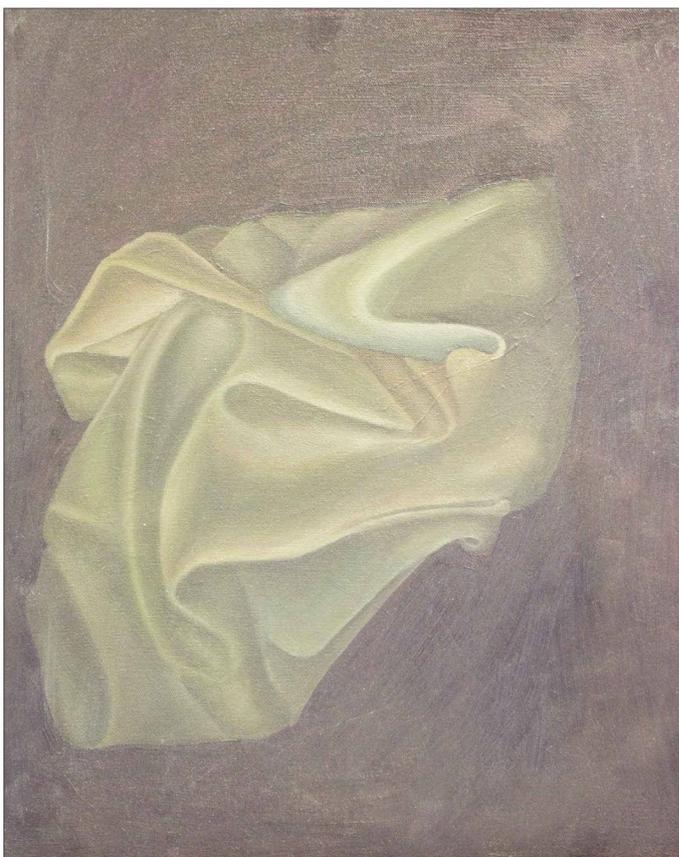
ANTHONY BURDO



CP



9/11/14 CP



Titles & Media

Spiralling clockwise from top right

Camping, watercolor

Mike Carr, watercolor

Grandma's scarf, oil

Mike Carr, watercolor

Derek, watercolor

Feed the Birds, watercolor

When Yellow Ochre Serenades, oil

“I found I could say things with colors that I could not say in any other way, things for which I had no words.”

-Georgia O'Keefe