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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

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Update on Soulforce-inspired "safe spaces"

Student Life, Jacob's Well, SGA Consider Student-Led "Creative Tension Groups"

BY KATHERINE BAKER

Last spring, when Soulforce came to Houghton, its members met with the SGA to discuss the creation of what was termed as "safe spaces." The SGA wrote a resolution near the end of the semester last spring recommending "an inclusion in the first-year orientation program of discussion pertaining to issues of sexuality on campus. In it students would consider why, when, and how to establish safe spaces for opening up about issues of sexual orientation and other sensitive topics without fear of hatred or immediate condemnation."

Sharra Hynes, Vice President for Student Life, responded to the SGA's resolution with a memo on how to continue the conversation on sexuality at Houghton. In the memo, Hynes did

not agree with the suggestion from SGA that the proper venue for discussion of sexuality would be the FYI program.

"First year students are going through extensive developmental work during the first several weeks of their first semester on campus. Adding the complexity of discussing issues of sexuality in an in-depth way may only serve to exacerbate their transition to college and to the Houghton community," Hynes said. "Designating some spaces as 'safe' on the campus would only serve to send the message that other parts of the campus are not safe," she added.

Hynes instead offered some other suggestions for how to create a healthy environment for listening and discussion in Houghton. She recommended that Houghton continue to utilize Jacob's Well, train student leaders on engaging

in discussions of sexuality, and work with programming entities on campus to include the topic of sexuality.

The original purpose of Jacob's Well was to unify students and faculty to deal with sexual issues. "Jacob's Well shifts to an educational mode, using panel discussions, forums, magazines, and individual brochures," said Dr. Paul Young, who served on the original Jacob's Well committee. "The goal is to make sexuality something we can talk about and discuss as a community, acknowledging that more than one person struggles with these issues. Through discussion we can come up with better and more inclusive answers."

"Jacob's Well is a great group to look to for help with this process because the members are personally invested in creating an environment in which to openly discuss sexuality," said Hynes.

Jacob's Well has already held a preliminary meeting this semester to discuss what ideas to focus on this year. It was tentatively decided that Jacob's Well would further look into the issues of "safe spaces" and "creative tension groups," an idea from Andrew Marin, a recent lecturer.

"Jacob's Well would like to present opportunities for Houghton to engage in discussions as a community and with others from the outside," said Michael Lastoria, Director of Counseling Services.

While Soulforce was advocating an official program or space that the administration would set up, Andrew Marin shared some different ideas with the SGA when he visited the Houghton

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Wendy Shalit Addresses Shift in Modern Modesty

BY SHARON LAMPMAN

Tuesday Nov. 2, Wendy Shalit spoke on "The New Sexual Revolution" as part of the Houghton College Lecture Series. Her lecture covered the cultural impact of the first sexual revolution and documents the beginning of what she considers to be a backlash against easy promiscuity and a return to the traditional values of modesty and dignity.

Shalit, who graduated from Williams College in 1997 with a degree in philosophy, became interested in concepts of modesty while dealing with Williams' policy of co-ed bathrooms. After writing a simple article on shared bathrooms, modesty, and mystery, Shalit discovered a growing chorus of agreement from many women who had believed they were alone in their longings for modesty. Encouraged by this, she began to further research modesty and society, and her findings resulted in her first book, *A Return to Modesty*. Since then, she has continued to write and speak on related topics, publishing her second book, *Girls Gone Mild*, in 2007.

In many ways, Shalit's lecture echoed the message seen in *A Return to Modesty*. She addressed the failures of the first sexual revolution, a movement that did away with the old rules and expectations and replacing them with new ones.

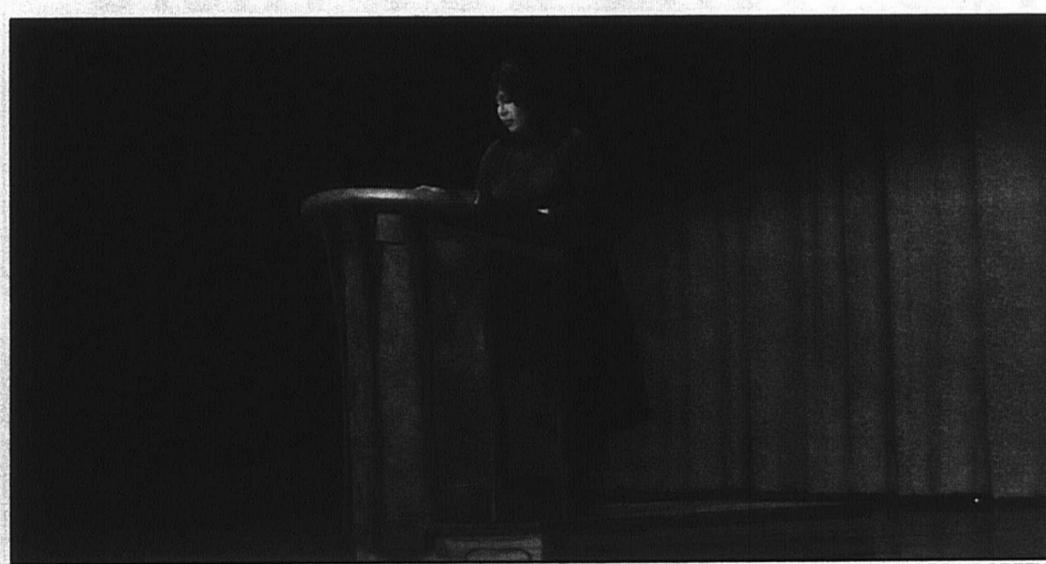


PHOTO BY JORDAN GREEN

Lecture series speaker Wendy Shalit speaks about the impact of the first sexual revolution and her prediction that society is beginning to return to its traditional values of modesty.

The change in which behaviors are stigmatized, Shalit maintained, took away the protection of privacy and dignity and left women as enslaved to expectations as before. Worth is placed in appearance alone, a fickle foundation. As women are judged physically, they are, in turn, seen as objects and property.

Shalit also spoke of the growing tide of discontent she has found, especially among the younger

generation. These young people, Shalit's new revolutionaries, have become disillusioned with the sexual freedom handed to them, or rather forced upon them, by society. Looking at the results of the first revolution they find nothing desirable, only emptiness. Thus they have chosen instead to return to higher standards of modesty, affirming a dignity and worth that is more than physical. Their strongest opponents, Shalit

has found, are members of the older generation: the first revolutionaries who are still enamored with their ideas of liberation.

However, the lecture seemed more call to action than argument. Shalit presented eight points for practical application, from speaking out without fear to redefining

Shalit cont'd on page 2

Engaging the World

Secret Money at the Core of 2010 Elections



PHOTO BY DANIEL PEIXOTO

BY ANDREW BONANNO

Throughout the mid-term election we learned many things. We learned, if we were paying attention, that Republican Senate candidate Rand Paul of Kentucky does not really worship Aqua Buddha as his opponent claimed. We also learned that when Democrat Senate candidate Joe Manchin of West Virginia says he wants to take "dead aim" at his own party's Cap and Trade Bill (an attempt to curb greenhouse gas emissions), he literally means he is going to shoot the actual text of the bill with a rifle. These partial anecdotes were actually, believe it or not, relevant aspects of this past election cycle.

thanks to televised campaign ads. These ads were just two of the many political advertisements that ran during this past election cycle, and such ads were in turn part of the larger picture of campaign spending.

According to CQ Politics, groups other than political parties spent \$294.4 million in the run-up to Election Day, more than every other midterm cycle since 1990 combined." The US Chamber of Commerce reportedly spent over \$30 million in congressional races, while a labor union, Service Employees International, spent as much as \$15.7 million in political advertisements. In contrast to these entities, political parties spent just about \$115 million, according to ABC.

This increase in campaign spending by Political Action Committees, not linked to specific political parties, can be traced to the recent Supreme Court decision, *Citizens United vs. Federal Elections Commission*, in which aspects of campaign-finance legislation were ruled unconstitutional. This decision removed restrictions on political advertisements by private groups during an election, as well as requirements that such groups fully disclose their sources of funding. On the one hand, this could be seen as a victory for freedom of speech as well as for the right of individuals to freely associate and to act as a group without

permission from the government. On the other hand, it is feared that groups with definite biases toward one candidate may be able to distort the political process, especially if voters are not aware of the biases that a group portraying seemingly factual information may possess. At least voters generally know where political parties are coming from, whereas the agenda of neutrally named, non-profit political or advocacy groups may be hidden from public view.

With the complexity of laws and regulations regarding campaign spending and the nuances between freedom of speech and the distortion of the political process, it seems unlikely that we can arrive at any sure solution that will provide an ideal playing field on which political discourse can occur. As the problem is not easily solved in the public policy arena, one can at least, if they care at all, try not to be part of the problem — that is, make at least some effort to be informed on the candidates and issues of governance. In this way, you will make yourself less susceptible to potential propaganda while at the same time making the most of your freedom of speech by empowering yourself to contribute positively to the public discourse in our ever-shrinking world.

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empowerment; from creating new ideals to letting go of selfishness. By putting these ideas into action, Shalit said she hoped to present the alternative option of modesty to young people trapped in our culture's sexual expectations—an option which the media prefers to overlook and ignore. She maintained that it is not enough simply to argue, but that modesty must be shown as a viable alternative. Shalit also stressed the need for relationships and role models and the need for people to care about and support their friends, siblings, cousins, etc. This, she claimed, is the key to modesty. Both modesty and dignity rise from a foundation of confidence in one's own worth and a sure knowledge that one is loved.

Sophomore Alice Browning agreed, noting that "women empower themselves by acting with dignity and seeking to demand dignity from others."

Audience reaction to Shalit's lecture during the official question and answer time was slow but gained momentum with a significant number staying afterward for the more informal question and answer period and book signing. It was during that time that private questions could be broached in the quietness they deserved. Shalit took full advantage of this time to encourage individual students and to again emphasize the importance of relationships.

Student responses to the lecture were on the whole positive, and most attendees came away thoughtful. First year student Alyssa Figueroa called the lecture "eye-opening," while sophomore Austin Rudd termed Shalit's viewpoint as "refreshing."

"I deeply appreciated, as a whole, Wendy Shalit's insights into the nature of America's approach to female modesty/sexuality and offering correctives," said Olivia Butz, senior. "I especially appreciated her discussion of the nature of love, as that which seeks the good of the other, and not the satisfaction of the self, love as something that stretches individuals beyond their initial capacities for care and commitment." *

The World OUT There

BY DEREK SCHWABE

Republicans Sweep House

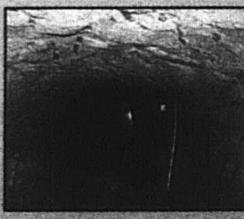
As a sign of widespread dissatisfaction with President Obama's agenda, Americans have given back the House of Representatives to the Republican Party. In a historic victory, Republicans gained 65 seats, far exceeding the 39 needed to gain the majority. Riding the waves of conservative protest movements including the tea party, GOP candidates framed their campaigns as antonyms of the Obama agenda, characterized by bailouts, a \$787 billion stimulus plan, sweeping health-care reform, and Wall Street regulation. Network exit polls signaled widely felt voter concern over jobs and the economy, as revenues remain level. Expected new speaker of the House, Rep. John Boehner (R) of Ohio summarized his perception of national opinion: "We're witnessing a repudiation of Washington, a repudiation of big government, and a repudiation of politicians who refuse to listen to the people."

Border Patrol Officials Discover 30 Tons of Marijuana, Tunnel

U.S. Border Patrol officials have intercepted 30 tons of marijuana at the California/Mexico border with the discovery of 600 yard smuggling tunnel. The tunnel equipped with lighting, ventilation, and a mini-rail transportation system, connected a warehouse in Tijuana, Mexico, with one in the San Diego area. The discovery is considered significant by U.S. and Mexican authorities in spite of the 105 tons of marijuana taken in Tijuana last month, the largest Mexican bust in recent years. Border drug cartels have grown so powerful in recent years that many Mexican communities along the border are known as patches of uncontrollable violence, experts have said.

Germany Prosecutes Neo-Nazi Broadcasters

German police this week made arrests of more than 23 people who were charged with involvement in a far-right internet radio station. The arrests involved about 270 officers and more than 20 raids across 10 German states. Using a server based in the U.S., Widerstand Radio (Resistance Radio) had been broadcasting music and ideology reflecting neo-Nazi views—deemed illegal in Germany since the end of World War II. Prosecutors are holding the offenders on charges of forming a criminal organization and inciting racial hatred. "[The] investigations are a strong hint to people running other extreme-right internet radio stations that dissemination of songs with extreme-right wing and xenophobic lyrics, even on the internet, will be pursued," said a Federal Crime Office Official.



photos courtesy of www.johnboehner.house.gov, www.justice.gov, zimbio.com

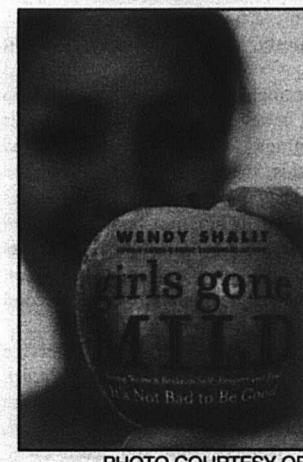


PHOTO COURTESY OF
WWW.IGNORANTHISTORIAN.COM

*Transitioning in the 4-Credit System***Alternatives Offered for Former Western Civ. IS Requirement**

BY MEGAN SPECKSGOOR

Last year Houghton's history and political science departments initiated a new set of objectives for requirement, along with a broadened selection of courses, to the Integrative Studies Committee for approval. Upon consideration, the I.S. Committee passed and recommended the proposal to the Curriculum Review Committee, where deliberation weighed toward the same effect. In January 2010 the entire faculty body was made aware of several varying history classes to be offered as alternatives to meeting the Western Civilization requirement

and the newly adopted changes took action this fall.

"When the faculty approved the change to a four-credit system, there was at the same time some effort to provide for more flexibility in how students can fulfill Integrative Studies requirements," said Director of Integrative Studies, Dr. Mark Hijleh.

To accommodate for the modifications in credit hours and requirements, Hijleh noted the recently approved Transition Rule, effective through August of 2013, which "allows a student to use any course to meet an I.S. requirement that was approved to meet that specific requirement at any time during a

student's career at Houghton."

Hijleh also added, "The hope is that such measures will assist students and faculty in making the transition to the four-credit system with its new I.S. structure" and made the assurance that the I.S. Committee is carefully monitoring the effects of these flexibilities on Houghton's Integrative Studies program.

At a college where students are openly encouraged to broaden their geographical horizons, study in transatlantic or transcontinental settings, diffuse and gather their education from diverse areas of the world, and participate in international learning, it seems as though this active and present tradition is furthered in

a historical sense as well. Students may not only board a plane and spend several months in a foreign country to enrich their liberal arts education, but can also gain knowledge of the dense history of these countries right in the Houghton classroom.

While Hijleh mentioned that the changes might not be in the favor of everyone on campus, he addressed the cross-cultural learning benefits of the additional courses.

"There are some who view the move toward other I.S. history options as positively reflective of more openness to global perspectives and connections," he said. ★

COURSES IN PLACE OF WESTERN CIV.:

These courses meet the Western Civ. requirement of the replaced 3-Credit System

Fall semester

American History Survey
Latin American History since 1800
African History
Europe in the Nineteenth Century
Europe: 1890-1945
History of Rome
Colonial America
Civil War and Industrial America
The Reformation
Medieval Europe

Spring semester

Latin American History to 1800
The Early National Period, and Recent America
Medieval Europe

Mayterm 2011

Professor Doezena intends to offer such an alternative class

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campus this September. Marin instead proposed that Houghton should allow the formation of "creative tension groups" that would be student-led and unofficial.

"Creative tension groups are not the same as the 'safe space' proposal because they do not have a designated

space," said Joel Ernst, sophomore SGA Senator.

Andrew Marin was adamant that the worst thing would be for it to come from the administration down... Because the administration would not be involved [in 'creative tension groups'], students would not need to worry about being convicted," said Joshua Mertzlufft, Vice President of the SGA. "Andrew Marin charged us to

let these groups form and to encourage it, but not in any formal capacity. The SGA would provide interested students with a connection with Andrew Marin to start 'creative tension groups'."

"The beauty of 'creative tension groups' organized by students is that students are more apt to be open and vulnerable with peers than with authority figures," said Hynes. "If we don't have peer environments that invite

vulnerability, that is where 'creative tension groups' could fill a gap. It is a great concept, but I do foresee that it would be challenging since a high level of vulnerability and risk is difficult. I'm not sure that our community is 100% ready, but I am willing to try and to be supportive of the effort," she added.

Young also reacted favorably to Andrew Marin's discussion.

"Soulforce presented a one-size-fits-all approach that works in some settings but not others. With Houghton's sense of community the approach should be more collaborative and engaging," he said.

At Houghton, there is a student who is interested in heading a "creative tension group," and this student is waiting on the startup material from Andrew Marin. "It has a bit more life in it than if the administration would set it up," said Lastoria.

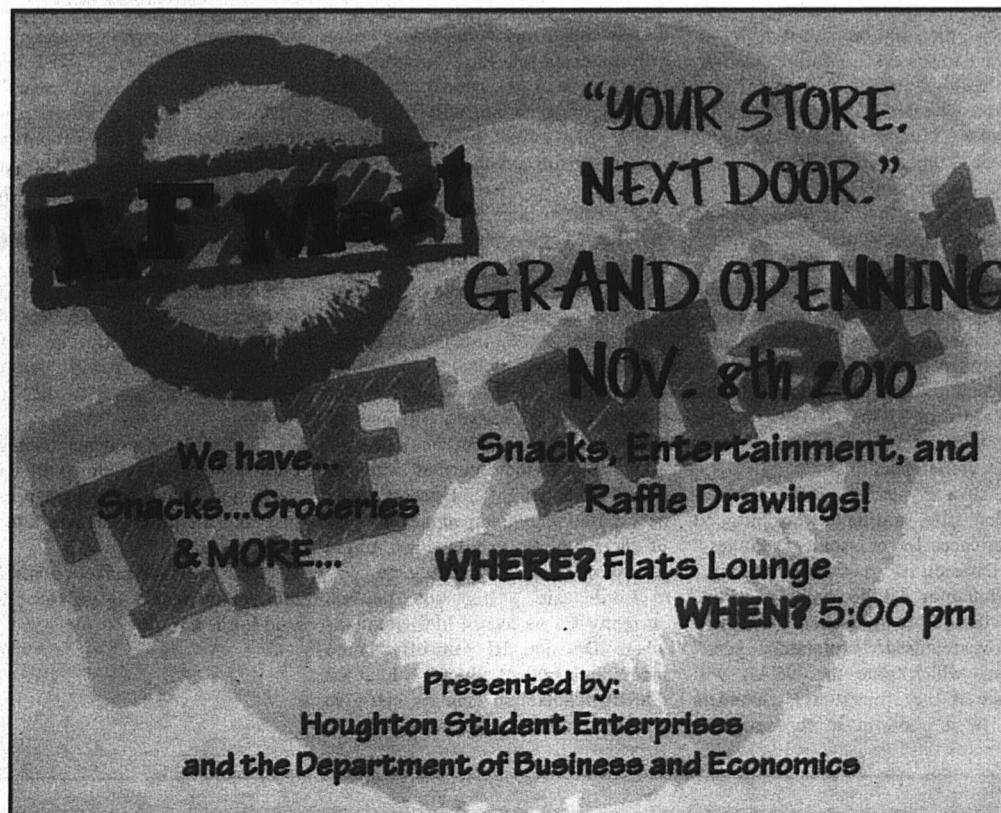
The SGA has abandoned the idea of creating "safe spaces" in favor of "creative tension groups."

"My plan right now is to continue to look for ways in which we can be discerning as a community with regard to issues of homosexuality," said Hynes.

In addition to Jacob's Well, Hynes recommended that the Counseling Center continue to be utilized when dealing with homosexuality.

"It is truly a safe space; the only time they would ever divulge information is if the student is at risk of hurting themselves or someone else," said Hynes.

"Being safe means being treated with respect, without condemnation, regardless of one's opinion about sexual behavior," said Lastoria. ★



Theological Implications of Baking: "Domestic Divas" Spark Heated Debate Campus-wide

BY SARAH JACOBY

While the role of women in society is hardly a new debate, the issue has shot to the forefront of Houghton's attention these past few weeks due to a group called the "Domestic Divas." Founded by freshman Lydia Wilson, the Domestic Divas are a small group of first year female students who feel called to support and encourage their Christian brothers through some unconventional means: baking. Each weekend, the Divas go into the men's dorms and create a variety of desserts for them to enjoy; they have even created a Facebook page as a light-hearted and ironic way to get attention for their cause.

Group member Lauren Bull said, "It's something that we do to bless [the men of Houghton College], and thank them for the respect and kindness that we get from them."

But when the Facebook page caught the attention of the rest of campus in the last couple of weeks, baking took on unexpected cultural and theological implications. The Divas' requests for donations, coupled

with their theatrical promotional photos, made the group's self-proclaimed mission to combat radical anti-feminism the focus of a heated debate regarding the group's views. The amount of activity on the group's page skyrocketed as supporters and critics alike began to argue the issue.

Group member Andi Sidell said, "It was like, we went to Shen on Sunday night and by Monday night we had a billion comments on the page."

The Facebook page even earned interest outside of Houghton when author and blogger Rachel Held Evans caught wind of the debate and wrote a web entry entitled "Biblical Baking Gets Controversial at Houghton." By this time, the page's newsfeed had morphed into a full-fledged theological discussion, as Houghton students quickly took strong positions in relation to the views implied by the promotional photos and information section of the Facebook page.

Sophomore Micah Armstrong, who was particularly involved in the online debate, said, "If a group of girls wants to get together and start a group to serve the guys on campus, I think that's great...however, I found that their

biblical understanding of Scripture was taken highly out of context."

Many commenters seemed to share this opinion, although most responses were not condemning of their traditional view of women's roles, rather their method of promotion.

Sophomore Dianna Cornell said, "It was their obnoxious mode of expression, not the actual stance that was offensive."

Joseph Chinn, junior, said, "There are multiple views of the role that women play in society held by women and men, and people are entitled to believe what they believe; however there is a line between an idea or belief that is clearly stated and one that is offensive."

The Divas themselves seem to agree. In an official bulletin that appeared on their Facebook page last Friday, the group wrote, "We realize that the image that came across on the page was due to our insensitivity, poor word choice, and lack of research... We did not think carefully about the way in which we presented ourselves."

While the influx of negative attention has caused the Domestic Divas to remove themselves from the

Facebook page, the group decided not to delete the page in hopes that it would continue to facilitate discussion.

Sidell took a positive view of the situation, and said, "Even though it may have brought about tension and animosity, it created an opportunity for people to examine and discuss their beliefs."

However, Sophomore Aubrey Thorlakson remains skeptical of this aspiration.

"I think it is a discussion that still exists in today's world, but I don't know if it's as much of a moral argument as it is a personal lifestyle or personal choice," said Thorlakson.

In the end, despite the misunderstandings and criticism that they encountered, the Domestic Divas stand by their beliefs and remain good friends, stating in the final paragraph of their Facebook bulletin, "...finally, separate from the term 'domestic diva' and what it has come to imply, we will continue to bake. Because it is something that we love to do." *

Image courtesy of www.marianina.com

Scholarships under NCAA: Student Athletes Won't Miss Out on Aid

BY COLLEEN JENNINGS

The Houghton College Athletic Program is in the process of applying to transition from its current conference in the NAIA to a conference in NCAA Division III. It is not a guarantee, but the program is doing anything it can to create a solid application, including adding baseball and softball programs, bringing the total number of sports offered by Houghton to 12. One concern that has arisen in the midst of this shift is the unavailability of athletic scholarships under NCAA Division III.

Under NAIA regulations, each sports team has a certain amount of money available to award talented athletes. However, according to NCAA Division III, "a member institution shall not consider athletics leadership, ability, participation or performance as a criterion in the formulation of the financial aid package." In other words, any college that participates in Division III cannot award any type of athletic scholarship to students who participate in athletic programs.

However, student-athletes currently receiving athletic scholarships will not lose their aid money; it will take at least four years to fully transition into the division. According to Troy Martin, Director of Student Financial Services, "Every student receiving athletic scholarships will receive it until they graduate."

As an idea that has been "kicked around for at least ten to 12 years," according to Athletic Director Skip Lord, the decision to apply to become part of NCAA Division III came into play when "some schools from our conference were accepted to Division II, which left us in a position where as of the end of Spring 2011 we will no longer meet the requirements to be a NAIA conference."

Sharra Hynes, Vice President of Student Life, said that "we want good experiences for our student athletes," and Division III was the "best option."

Houghton will be applying in May, and the following school year will be the required "exploratory year," during which time the NCAA will decide if the Houghton Highlanders will be a good fit in the program.

If chosen, Houghton will be given "provisional status," spending the next three years at this status before being fully accepted into the program. Once Houghton is at provisional status, the athletic scholarships, also known as performance-based grants, will no longer be offered to new incoming students.

Contrary to popular belief, this does not mean that student-athletes will be missing out on major financial aid. According to Martin, when considering financial aid packages they will "treat our athletes like we treat all students."

Although athletic scholarships would no longer be available, Hynes noted that "we still have at our disposal merit- and need-based scholarships." That means that current student-athletes who might not get as much need-based scholarship money because of their athletic scholarships, might receive more need-based money.

Lord said, "It's not unusual currently for us to run into situations where Division III can offer more money to a student-athlete without the athletic scholarship than we can give with the [athletic] scholarship."

This is especially true because so many of Houghton's athletes are not only talented, but also intelligent.

According to Lord, "Over 40 percent of our student-athletes have cumulative GPAs of 3.5 or above." This means that these students are prime candidates for merit-based scholarships. "Our student athletes are of the same high quality as the general student body and they qualify like everyone else," said Lord.

Hynes noted that it might be a "psychological hurdle" for incoming athletes to jump if they "want the acclaim of receiving an athletic scholarship," but it will "not make a dramatic difference to the bottom line."

Lord said that students intending to play sports at Houghton will receive the best financial aid package possible, just like all other students attending the college.

"Our goal is to make it possible for our young people to go to college," said Lord. *

Soccer Teams Head into Post-Season

BY NICK FREDETTE

As the regular season came to a close with a game against rival Roberts Wesleyan College, both the men's and women's soccer teams have finished in second place, each in strong positions heading into their conference tournaments. The American Mideast Conference tournaments will take place this weekend, and the winner will earn a spot in the NAIA National championship tournament. Both teams will face tough opponents, but will look to pull through and earn a chance to play for the national title.

The women's senior-day game was a hard-fought match, and after two overtime periods, ended in a scoreless tie. The Highlanders dominated the Raiders statistically, producing four times the number of shots Roberts did, but could not find the net. Set pieces were also tipped in Houghton's favor, with the Highlanders being awarded 15 corners and 9 free kicks, to Roberts' 2 and 3, respectively. On a day set to honor the contributions of the senior class to the team, the seniors played hard. Carolyn Tomlinson and Lauren Haggerty were at the top of the team in shooting, each putting forth multiple shots on goal. At the final buzzer, the seniors left the field for their last regular-season home game, and began to look forward to the conference tournament. While for many of the players it was frustrating to come away with a draw on senior day, the team continues to move forward in preparation for the American Mideast Conference tournament, to take place Nov. 12 and 13 at Roberts Wesleyan College.



PHOTO BY MIKE WISE

The men's soccer team dominated in their game against Houghton's rival, Robert's Wesleyan.

The women's team will face third-ranked Notre Dame, a tough opponent.

Junior defender Keeler Topping said, in regard to the team's feelings in the lead-up to the tournament, "We're nervous, but we feel like we have the drive to finish out the season strong. We haven't beaten Notre Dame in the last couple years so we know it will be a tough game. We cannot get too far ahead of ourselves, and we just need to concentrate on the task at hand." The Highlanders will be in preparation all week, both mentally and physically, in order to focus for their next game.

The men's team also had their senior recognition day on Saturday, recognizing five senior players who have made great contributions to the team, as well as the team's manager, Daniel Wang, whose

support has gone somewhat under-the-radar, yet has still been a major contribution to the team. The men pulled away from the Raiders early in the game, and came away with a 2-1 victory in which the seniors also performed well. Defenders Chris Davis and Zach Wise each played a solid defensive game, with Wise also contributing with his long throw-in, one of which ended in a goal by fellow senior Aaron Martin. Jonny Kimani and Tim Lewis also contributed, each playing solid minutes, and each with a shot. The Highlanders also outshot the Raiders 20 to 6, which was a major factor in the victory.

Before the game against Roberts, the Highlander men had secured a second-place finish for the regular season in the

conference, but the game would determine who their opponent would be in the first round. With the victory over Roberts Wesleyan, Houghton will face Mount Vernon Nazarene University tomorrow. Like the women's team, the men are in a time of preparation for an intense post-season in which they will look to make it to the national tournament. From seniors to freshmen, each member of the team understands the importance of the next few games.

Freshman midfielder Paul Seddon was asked about his understanding of how important the AMC tournament is for the team, and he responded, "Every game is massive, and we can only focus on one game at a time. That's the next step—one loss and our season's over. We've got to take each game as it comes."

"I think Coach Schilke and Coach Webb have both done a good job of preparing us for the tournament, and making us aware of how important it is to peak at this time of the year," said Frank "Cic" Mellace, freshman. The underclassmen have a firm grasp on the importance of the upcoming few games, and that is due not only to the coaches, but also to the seniors helping to focus the team. Each of the underclassmen cite the presence of the senior captains Aaron Martin and Zach Wise as a key component in their preparation for next weekend's games.

The women play next Friday, Nov. 12 at Roberts Wesleyan College, where they will face Notre Dame College. The men play at home against Mount Vernon Nazarene University on Nov. 12 as well, at 2 p.m. ★

Wendy Shalit Book Review:

A Return to Modesty is the New Women's Lib.

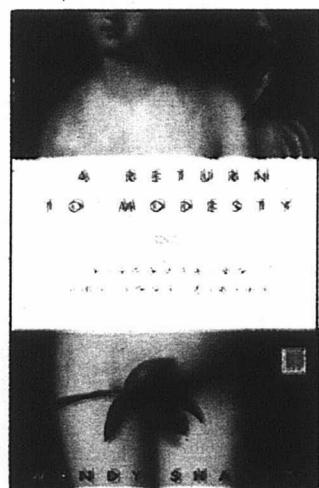


Image courtesy of
www.angusrobertson.com

BY KATRINA KOEHLER

While Houghton may not be in need of a *Good Girl Revolution*, author Wendy Shalit's book *A Return to Modesty* brings the topic of modesty to the foreground, exposing the lies of our society regarding sexual liberation—lies that perhaps even

Houghton students haven't questioned. In Shalit's words, the sexual revolution has "uniquely compromised" women, stripping away any honorable reasons to refuse a man sex. Today's woman has two courses of action: "To pretend she's a man, or to be feminine in a desperate, victim-like way.... Whether a young woman should opt for man or victim, the message sent by our culture is clear: it's not a good thing to be female." Shalit explains why our society deals so much with chronic self-esteem problems, cutting, eating disorders, and other self-inflicted injuries by pointing to late-twentieth century promiscuity as the source. She then exposes the irony of culture's advice: get over your 'hang ups' and be 'comfortable with your body.' It's these 'hang ups' though—one's natural embarrassment—that exist to make one realize that there is something important there that needs safeguarding. Forcing oneself to be casual about sex is not the solution, Shalit says; the solution is modesty.

According to Shalit, the feminist revolution failed to give women a safeguard when it told them that their worth was no longer attached to chastity and motherhood. Men are physically stronger and when there is no societal pressure to keep them from pushing women for sex, what can women return

to?

Modesty is the natural safeguard for women. It gives women that reason to say no to sex. It gives women a sense of worth and dignity. However, it is this value that our society has lost and needs to regain.

When asked to describe modesty, Junior Hannah Carter said that "modesty is a very good thing, but people don't understand it properly. There are misconceptions." She explained that modesty is also about speech and behavior. It is for this reason that we need to extend the conversation on modesty beyond the level of "how short is too short." Sophomore Andrew Evans explained that modesty is about respect. When a woman dresses and acts modestly, she is respecting her body and her intelligence—she knows she doesn't have to rely on her sexuality to curry favor with her boss or keep her boyfriend.

Junior Jonathan Sly ventured that "girls dress [immodestly] because they want to be accepted by guys." This leads to objectification, however. Respect and acceptance come when women do not objectify themselves, but rather dress as if they are worth something. "It's not about dressing in a sack though," says Evans. "You can dress attractively and still be modest." This too is a respect issue: if a woman can dress to be alluring and sexually attractive without compromising

modesty, she shows strong self esteem, correctly believing herself to have something of worth.

"If there were one book I would like to require every student to read," says Dr. Meic Pearson, "it would be *A Return to Modesty*." Senior Jori King describes the book as "not just about modesty," saying that it addresses "the emptiness in postmodern culture." It's this and the attack on the feminist revolution that have caused a stir among those reading Shalit's book. Pearson speaks on the reaction to her book, explaining that "the anger is itself evidence that she has her finger on the pulse of the matter. If her analysis were wrong, the repudiations would be much calmer."

In response to hearing the news that Shalit would be speaking at Houghton, King predicted that Shalit "[would] be treated like she's preaching to the choir," but she added that Shalit's message is "something that needs to be said." It's about consciously considering why we value modesty, and what it does for us. King summed up Shalit's point succinctly: "modesty is as much for yourself...as anyone else." ★

Logic and Liberal Arts: You're Doing it Wrong



PHOTO BY DANIEL PEIXOTO

BY HANNAH YANEGA

I may not be a smart woman, but I know what common sense is. This current absurdity defies all definitions of the word.

I chose to attend a liberal arts college; Houghton College, to be exact. I remember being rosy-cheeked and about fifteen pounds lighter when I made the journey four hours to the scholarly garden where I would become the most desirable of creatures – the well-rounded, well-learned Adult! I loved the idea of being so doused and immersed in a whirlpool of academics that I never dried out. I had dreams of being this princess of the career world, having been taught all of the essentials to life and knowledge and the histories of ancient worlds. I would integrate faith with learning, be able to discern worldview and have the right to speak my mind soundly on topics of importance. Employers would scrabble and drool over my resume, fighting like starving jackals over my name on their company's publications. There was no way I could fail, not with the naive hope of simplicity drifting behind me like a graduation gown! College or bust, baby!

I should have smelled danger when they handed me my audit sheet and told me I was its sole master. I treated it well, filling in the blanks a few semesters at a time, completing it piece by piece. Even after all the positive feedback I gave it, it hates me. Integrative Studies, the festering

blister on my feverish junior mind, turned it against me. It shall be the death of me yet.

In investigating my options for the waning three semesters I have left at Houghton, I discovered that I have a few integrative studies requirements that have not yet been filled under the new system. No worry, I thought, I will take courses that fall under those categories and I will be set. Ooh look, posters advertising Aesthetics!

Now you would think that it would naturally make sense to have a college student take classes that would benefit or enhance their chosen major. When there are classes offered that cover a required subject and still relate to the student's major of choice, it's a nice compromise. But when those courses are not sanctioned by a Holy Administration to fill the general education requirements invented by liberal arts colleges, it puts me into a raging fury. This is my education and my money that I am spending to sit through the college's laws on everything under the sun. I will not drink; I do not really care for alcohol anyway. I will go to chapel because you want me to be part of your spiritual community and I do not want to make waves. I love fellowship and worship with my fellow believers in the faculty and student body. I will go for weeks without knowing how many meals I have left in the cafeteria because for some reason our new and improved technology can't even keep track of numbers, but so help me, the least you might do is give me the power to fill your silly requirements while still making sense in terms of my major.

I am double majoring in writing and art with concentrations in Photography and Printmaking. I have already begun my career as a published journalist and photographer, and I someday hope to make my living as such. I have been blessed with loving parents who hoped to further my career by allowing me to attend the college of my choice, regardless of the cost compared to other competent schools.

Both my majors are formed on the core ideas of communication and philosophy, but you need me to take classes to put the golden checkmark on my academic record. Especially with the new 2/4-credit system, spaces in semesters are filled up much faster. While it's nice to have fewer classes overall, it means that fulfilling requirements feels like twice the effort for half the reward. No more sleep for Hannah.

When I asked Academic Records directly about Introduction to Digital Imaging, a class that is unique in that it can be categorized as either art or communications, the response I received said that "The Communication department has decided that Digital Imaging fits into their major, but not that it is sufficient for a Communication class within Integrative Studies." Pardon my impudence, Communications department, but who are you to decide what is or is not sufficient in terms of Integrative Studies? One definition of the term is "making connections within a major, between fields, between curriculums, co-curriculum, or between academic knowledge and practice." Digital imaging has been deemed worthy enough to be considered Communications, but even though it makes connections both WITHIN my major and between curriculums, it is not good enough? Should I not have some right to decide, though limited by general subject matter, the specific class that I take to fill a certain mandatory requirement, especially when it weaves into my major like a thread holding a seam?

I try and schedule flexible classes under a fairly rigid system in order to pay my dues while still getting through college in four years. I have not wasted my open credits since they were spent taking classes needed for my double major and other IS classes. I was indulgent with a few electives... oh, wait, only pertaining to my major. I have kept my nose clean and even gone out of my way to take journalism May term in New York City to help reinforce

my writing credits needed for graduation. I scratched and bit my way through Math and Bible classes that, ultimately, will not likely show their face again in relevance to my career or future. Trust me when I say that I am not complaining about the requirements themselves. I knew what I was signing up for when I applied to Houghton and I am all for ending my time in college with a well-rounded and expanded knowledge of a variety of subjects. When it comes right down to it, I am also all for self-preservation. I will not go down without a fight if necessary.

When it comes down to it, we are just making this more complicated than it has to be. I need Communications credit? I will take a four-credit Communications class. I need philosophy? I will take a philosophy class that feels tailor-made for my major. I still need to take foreign language since my high school only offered two years of American Sign Language. I will be taking my search for an accredited ASL class elsewhere since that is a language that I enjoy and excel in. I was not fortunate enough to be raised in a foreign country where my life filled my language requirement. I will do what I need to do here to get my diploma, but I will not surrender my right to have a say in how exactly I achieve this goal. This absurd hedge-maze that I have gotten lost in is positive only in the fact that I know there are others who are lost with me. It is also not a hopeless case. Houghton College, I thank you for offering me a wide and flavorful banquet of classes from which to choose from, but you cannot have a balanced diet when key ingredients are missing. I cannot live on bread alone – I really like butter and jelly to break up the taste. Last I checked a pat of butter – a slight indulgence that is not unreasonable – did not break the bank.

Hannah is a junior Art and Writing major

What is YOUR REACTION to Houghton's branding switch from Christian to Faith-Based

Cut of 232 votes

I think it's vague and it doesn't clearly portray what Houghton represents

It's just morally wrong; it's deceitful

28%

63%

I honestly don't care

I like it.
I think it sounds more inclusive and pluralistic

4%

Check out www.houghtonstar.com for this week's poll question

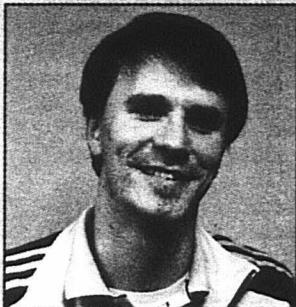
Letters
to the
Editor

houghtonstar@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

As I was making my weekly perusal of the Houghton website, I was quite disappointed to read about the revival of the Houghton Down Under Program. Spending a semester travelling around Australia and New Zealand will likely attract students to the school (and professors to an escape from the unforgiving Houghton climate), but I am not at all convinced that the newly-revised program will provide the type of academically rigorous learning opportunity that Houghton should be striving towards. While hearing the proposal for this

program on the Academic Policies Council last year, I voiced these concerns many times, but it appears that those concerns have been ignored. The defenders of Houghton Down Under argue that a semester-long program in Australia is completely unique and will allow Houghton to corner a valuable market. But having a unique program is of no academic value if the program is no good. And it is not. Look at the courses being offered: Community and Society in Australia and New Zealand; Art and Music in Australia and New Zealand; Australia and New Zealand Culture Through Film; and Engaging Australian and New Zealand Culture. If you could get four credits for simply "Engaging" in Houghton, I'm sure the rate of Senior Pairing Disease (SPD) would climb even higher. I do not believe that living in Australia and New Zealand is a complete waste of time, and I'm glad that Houghton is working hard to recover from the difficult losses of FYHP London and other valuable Off-Campus Programs. But these "living as learning" arrangements should be left

From the Editor's Desk**What Lies Between Christianity and Atheism:**

BY CHRIS HARTLINE

In our culture, we are constantly forced to make definitive, black-and-white choices. Whether it be politics, social issues or even areas of study, there is seemingly no middle ground. You are either conservative or liberal; pro-gay or homophobic; science major or humanities major; and religion is no different. A choice must be made between Christianity and Atheism; there is no middle ground, right? I would argue that there is a middle ground, and, as is almost always the case, it is the most rational conclusion in matters of religion and spirituality, which are usually dominated by faith.

As a caveat, I must begin by saying that I am neither a philosophy nor theology major and hardly claim to possess the moral or intellectual superiority of either. I am simply a history and political science major who has some thoughts on the issue.

The vast majority of Houghton students has come to the conclusion that Jesus Christ is their personal savior and has accepted the inerrancy of the Bible; and that's a wonderful thing. My intention is not to denigrate any religious beliefs that are held. A few have come to the conclusion that the very existence of God is impossible based on science,

reason and personal experiences. The rest of us, who find an insufficient level of rationality in both of these perspectives have become locked in a Sisyphean struggle to find the most accurate level of rational moderation. The answer may be a philosophy we hear about most in the context of the European Enlightenment and the American founding: Deism.

The objection to Atheism is simple: the awesome power and beauty of nature proves the existence of a Creator or at the very least a Divine being that put into place the evolutionary process. The objection to Christianity, however, is more complex and—at least in my opinion—revolves around the problem

of evil. If God is omnipotent, with the power to rid the world of evil, the vast pain, suffering and injustice surrounding us; omniscient, with the knowledge of evil; and loving, with a desire to spare his people from such evil, yet it still exists, how can one believe in the existence of God? David Hume, in his *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religions*, asks this same question. "Epicurus's old questions are yet unanswered. Is he willing to prevent evil, but not able? then he is impotent. Is he able but not willing? then he is malevolent. Is he both able and willing? whence then is evil?" Atheists use this syllogism to prove that God does not in fact exist. Deists, however, use this syllogism to prove that the nature of God differs from

Belief in a God who orders the events of daily life calls into question the very nature of that God

both the Atheist and Christian conception.

Belief in a God who orders the events of daily life calls into question the very nature of that God. How can a God who allowed the Holocaust, 9/11 and child molestation also be loving and merciful? The most rational explanation is that God does not order the events of daily life, but rather allows man to live within the laws of

nature and morality which he created. Thomas Paine, one of the most vocal deists in history, voiced this explanation saying "God is the power of first cause, nature is the law, and matter is the subject acted upon." Belief in a God who does not order daily life is the most rational, and maybe the only explanation for the problem of evil. And

that explanation is that God doesn't allow evil to occur; he allows man to act on his own free will based on the principles of nature and morality.

Now you may be wondering to yourself, is Deism even a religion or simply a philosophical perspective? It's both. Religions such as Christianity, Judaism and Islam are revealed religions. They are based on a philosophical perspective handed down through a written word, which each religion finds to be absolute truth. Deism, on the other hand, is a natural religion. It is revealed through nature and through reason; and when you think about it, doesn't that also make as much, if not more, sense? While Christianity is based largely on faith in events and beliefs with

A 21st Century Defense of Deism

a secondary dependence on rationality, Deism is based on God-given reason. In the words of Galileo, "I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason and intellect has intended us to forego their use." Organized religions are human conventions; reason and nature are God-given means of realizing his existence and living as his creation should.

Deism is by no mean an absolute solution to all theological and philosophical problems. For instance, if God does not order daily events and thus does not cause evil to occur, where does evil, in its most basic form, come from? There are many questions Deism leaves unanswered, but there are unanswered questions in any philosophy or religion.

The next time you experience the awesome power and beauty of nature or come to a conclusion about faith through reason, ask yourself "is there any better way to prove the existence of God?" In the words of Thomas Paine, "The Creation speaketh a universal language, independently of human speech or human language, multiplied and various as they may be. It is an ever-existing original, which every man can read. It cannot be forged; it cannot be counterfeited; it cannot be lost; it cannot be altered; it cannot be suppressed. It does not depend upon the will of man whether it shall be published or not; it publishes itself from one end of the earth to the other. It preaches to all nations and to all worlds; and this word of God reveals to man all that is necessary for man to know of God." That's the way I want to come to know God and continue to seek Him out.

Chris is a junior History and Political Science major

to summer vacations and gap years, or at the very least isolated to Mayterm.

-Joel VanderWeele, Class of 2010

Dear Editor,

I really appreciated Monica's article on Liberal Arts at Houghton. I particularly resonated with her discussion of the switch to the four credit system. I agree with Monica that the college's reasons for switching to the four credit system do not seem to have been achieved. In the survey to juniors and seniors, there were four reasons that were stated for the switch: 1. To allow for more depth of study in classes, 2. To ease up our workloads, 3. To allow for more student-faculty interaction, and 4. To allow for more research opportunities for students and faculty. I agree with Monica's assessment that the depth of study in classes has both not been achieved to any large extent and does not seem to follow Houghton's goals as a Liberal Arts school. I would also offer that the easing up of our workloads is both not happening and that it is not something that we should need the college to do for us. As Monica

pointed out, all the switch seems to have done is to make each course assign more work—another paper, another project, another exam. This doesn't exactly seem like lessening our workloads. By this point in our lives I would hope that we could be responsible enough to recognize the line of what is too much on our own and adjust our schedules accordingly. Additionally, there are some students who would be capable of taking more classes but now are not able to. To statement three I would say that faculty-student interaction has not increased by any discernible amount. Those who desire more interaction with their professors find time out of class to do so, and I doubt that there is suddenly an abundant amount of time to do so that wasn't there before. This too, I think, is true for research opportunities. Also, it seems as though switching to four credits has greatly increased scheduling difficulties. Classes now lay at awkward times, half overlapping one another. Some offerings of required classes have decreased, creating significant problems for some. In essence, I ask, is this system working?

-Sarah Harms, Class of 2012

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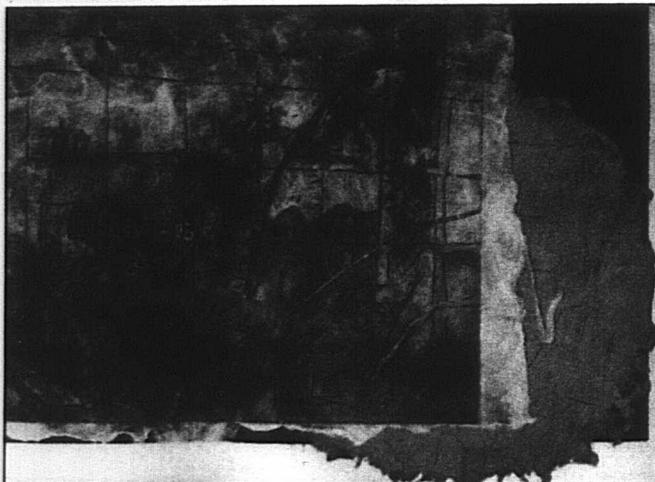
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ARTIST of the WEEK

MEGAN LITTLE

A note from the artist:

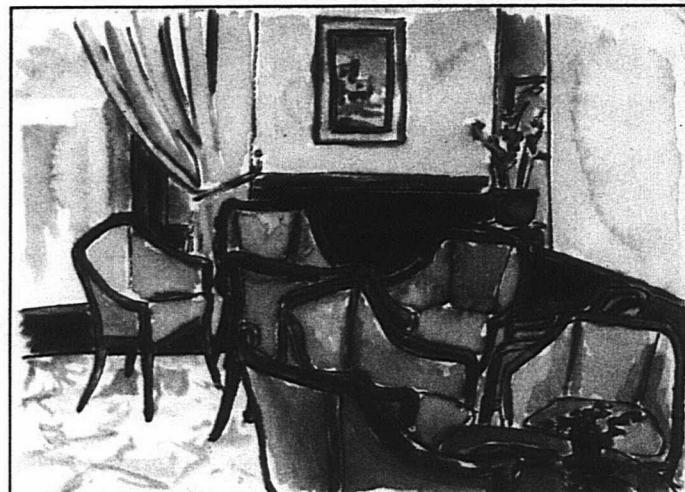
Someday I'll find out what my art is about. For now, it's the joy of creating and sharing. I'm also trying to learn about my past and future. Tall order, I know. But got to start somewhere.



If Home is Where the Heart is, I Think I Need More Hearts
metal etching



Texkitty, book



Hotel Ascot Lounge, watercolor

CROSSWORD: *Catch Phrases*

ACROSS

1. San ____ Padres
6. French lake
9. FDR had three

13. Bring upon oneself
14. Flightless bird
15. Where a French fry has been
16. Parallel lines or grooves

17. Be unwell

18. Cambodian monetary unit, pl.
19. *"_____, we have a problem"
21. Monk's retreat
23. Unagi
24. "Pay as you earn" acronym
25. *"____-out!"
28. Doctor's recommendation
30. Ecstatic or rapturous
35. Singles
37. Like a bloody horror movie
39. Defier
40. Puerto ____
41. Used for searching
43. Heart of Inca empire
44. Santa's surname
46. 6th wife of Henry VIII
47. State of agitated irritation
48. Sprightliness
50. Andre's tennis rival
52. Type of tray
53. Podium
55. Shack or shanty
57. *"Whatcha talkin 'bout, ____?"
60. *"Run _____, run!"
64. Wife of a raja, alt. spelling
65. *"Monkey ____, monkey do"
67. *"____ beaver"
68. Widely-used paint resin
69. Winner of most medals at last winter Olympics
70. ____ protocol, related to climate change
71. *"What a ____!"
72. Time in NYC
73. Appraisal
- DOWN
1. *"Don't ____ out what you can't take."
2. *"He's Just Not That ____ You"
3. Very light brown
4. Sheep's clothing to wolf
5. Gave a formal speech
6. *Used to describe machine
7. Mon cher ____
8. *Mia ____
9. The Three Tenors, e.g.
10. Looker or ogler
11. Bank on
12. Wife's title
15. *"Say hello to my little ____"
20. Any branch of knowledge
22. Used to make whiskey
24. Possibly
25. *"May the ____ be with you"
26. Source of indigo dye, pl.
27. Short summary version
29. TV opera
31. What Lil Wayne does
32. Madison Square Garden, e.g.
33. Fallen angels in Persian mythology
34. *"____ or dare?"
36. Kind of dairy cream
38. Yesteryear
42. Type of dental practice
45. Sashayed
49. Mai ____
51. *"____!" exclaimed Archimedes
54. October's "Time" magazine, e.g.
56. Flat cafeteria carriers
57. Welt
58. Squid's defense, pl.
59. Grazing lands
60. Notable achievement
61. Between ids and super-egos
62. Stiff hair
63. Site of Trojan War
64. Player in St. Louis
66. Suffix that makes a "host" female

Prize: Leroy Townes and the Lonestars album!

Last week's winner of the Suduko challenge was Bryan Overland! Please come by the STAR office to claim your prize.

Bring your finished crossword puzzle to the STAR office clearly marked with FULL NAME.