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THE MOON CAMPUS CLOSURE

ABIGAIL BATES ('26)

Houghton University's Moon Campus will close on October 1, 3909.

Houghton has officially stated that there were many issues, including the difficulties for students to adapt to the environment of the Moon, territorial disputes with other national and international colleges and universities, and the interplanetary issues involving an organization associated with students of Houghton's Moon Campus who call themselves the STAR Empire.

The university made an official statement on September 2, 3909 that "The STAR Empire organization is not affiliated with Houghton University, therefore no legal implications of the STAR Empire's actions can be imposed upon the institution."

Despite this, Houghton has faced tumultuous protests and public criticism about the actions of the STAR Empire in other



Moon Campus Closure

COURTESY OF SAVANNAH STITT

planets' territories, which include, among many, hijacking and destroying supply shipments, refusal to cooperate with android and cyborg officials, and offensive posts on BlaRK against technology providers and users.

Dr. Revekstus Iedoma, a well known historian and visiting professor from O-AI University,

who gave the recent lecture "The Age of ChatGPT: Its Effects on Early Society" on Wednesday the 12, said that the "closing of the Moon Campus is a result of the STAR Empire's Moon Campus hostage situation. There's no doubt about it."

During the Moon Campus Hostage Situation on June 5, the STAR Empire

took over Houghton's Moon Campus and held the Moon hostage using Advanced Directed-Energy Weapons (ADEW) stolen from the Hoffman Science Center. Cullen Arndt ('10), a Houghton student and official spokesperson of the STAR Empire, stated that the hostages and the moon would be released

if both the National Council of Earth (NCE) and the Interplanetary Alliance (IA) withdrew their involvement in the interplanetary political crisis caused by the STAR Empire's actions. Within the day, the situation was settled with the arrest of 27 students and 3 staff who were members of the STAR Empire, and the removal of the ADEWs from the Moon's orbit. The hostages were rescued with minor injuries.

As the members were led out of the campus, they proclaimed, "Long Live Tim Martian! We are one!"

Tim Martian, founder of the STAR Empire, was a Houghton alumnus of the Class of 3820. He worked for *The Houghton STAR* for three years before rising to his position as Editor-in-Chief which lasted three months until his forceful removal in the Fall of 3819.

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A New Humanity

JOSHUA CARPENTER ('24)

People used to say that the android could never equal that of the human. But no more.

With the release of the Welker Corporation's latest series of Homo-replicants—the Deus-9s—the United World Government has granted citizenship to all 9s under the condition that they contribute to the World Relief Effort for the duration of their five-year lifespan.

As the mastermind behind the Deus code and former alumni of Houghton University, Christian Welker defends his latest creation.

"Unlike their belligerent predecessors," Welker says, "the 9s are programmed to love, not hate. They are not the Deus-8 war machines that invaded Zanzibar, or the Deus-7

nuclear reactors that took half of the U.S. western coast off the map.

The Welker Corporation has since apologized for their destructive past, and have devoted their latest series to rebuilding the earth they assisted in destroying during the Corporate Wars of the 3rd millennium—to much success.

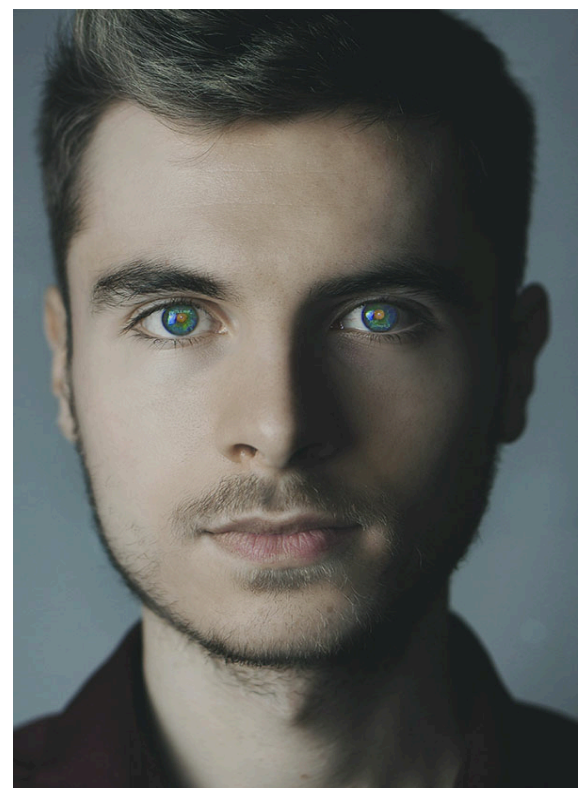
Millions of mass produced 9s are employed at various organizations around the world, with the U.S. accounting for 34% of 9s in residence; in second place is China with 29%; and then in third Russia with 26%. In the state of New York alone resides the majority of 9s in the U.S., a remarkable 1:1 per capita that sociologists project will double by the end of the next decade as ties between the U.S. and the Welker Corporation tighten.

German sociologist Hanz Schneider is known for his relentless criticism of the U.S.-Welker rela-

tionship. In his notorious essay "The War for Humanity," he argues for the annihilation of all 9s as their predecessors were annihilated before them, and for The Welker Corporation to dissolve itself and donate its assets to the World Relief Effort.

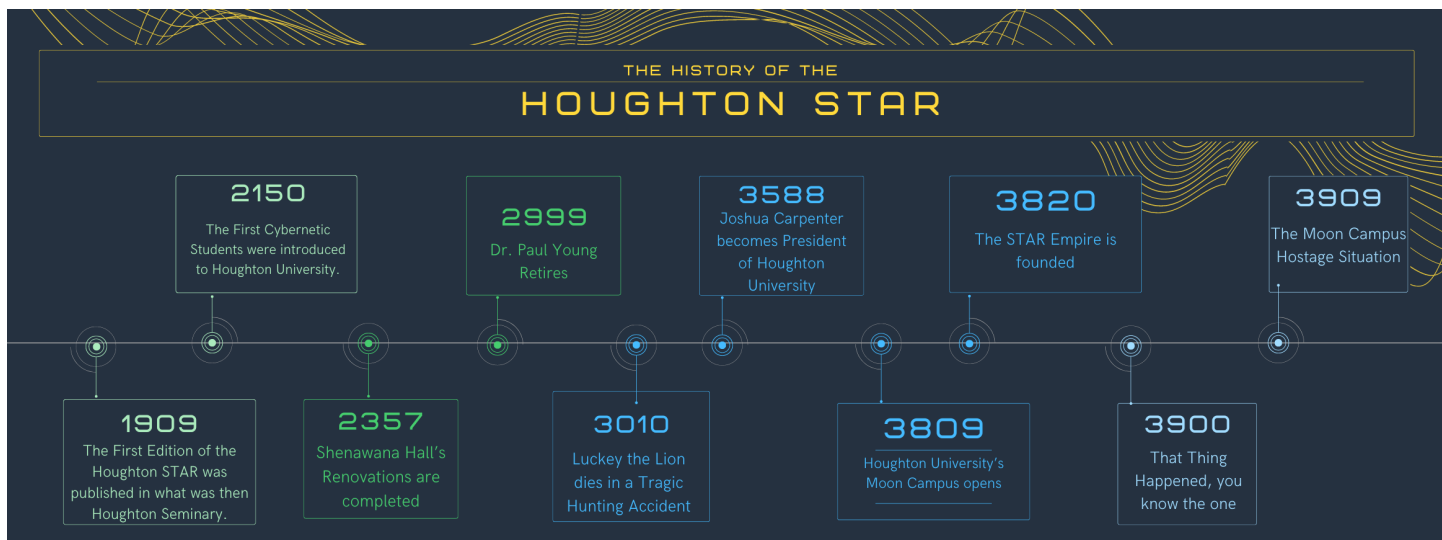
"[The Deus-9s] are all goblins posing as humans with a soul," Schneider writes. "Is humanity so careless to ignore its own history, that dark hole we all call the 3rd millennium?"

At first most of the world agreed with Schneider's criticism, but after homes and schools re-emerged from the rumble of a bygone era, few remembered his words, and even fewer remembered the 3rd millennium. Now 9s are everywhere—in our cities, schools, and, for some of us, even in our own homes. Life is thriving, with scholars and government officials alike crediting the 9s for their service to humanity. ★



Deus-9

COURTESY OF SAVANNAH STITT



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Puzzlebot

Puzzlebot has a few treats for you today! On the right you can find the fifty-first annual STAR ARG, specially programed to be solved by the average human intelligence. On the left, a blast from the past! Ancient humans called this puzzle a "Sudoku," give it a try! (Puzzlebot assures you, both of these puzzles are solvable Trust Puzzlebot)



MOON from page #1

According to an email (messages distributed by electronic means via a network) sent by the succeeding Editors-in-Chief, Neo Stitt (3820) and Kira Tiedemann (3821), Martian was removed from his position "due to his conflicting interests with the direction of *The Houghton STAR*, and the negative impacts of his android views on the factually credibility of the paper."

Alia Welker (3822), an alumna who had worked in the Columns Section under Martian, said that "Tim was terrible to work with. He acted like a dictator ... he even abolished our digital paper and wasted our budget on physical [paper] copies!"

When Martian's removal from his position as the Editor in Chief was officially declared, Welker said he barricaded himself in the STAR Office for three days—without food or

water—before he was dragged out. She added that he was clutching onto one of the old relics of the STAR Office, a rolling chair, as the campus security sent him to the emergency room.

"It was that crazed look in his eyes," Welker stressed. "I just knew he would do something. I knew it right from the beginning."

Welker reflected that because of her experiences working with Martian, she didn't feel surprised when she saw his name appear on *Galaxies Transmissions*.

"Tim had always been a vengeful guy," Welker explained. "But, you know, I never expected he would've created that secret organization right under our noses."

Martian began the organization back in the 3819-3820 school year, when he was still a student at Houghton University. Although he died in a manual hover car ac-

cident only three years after graduating, the members of the STAR Empire continued to pass down his teachings.

"We reject all malevolent technology!" Ardent, who's currently held in the Ceres prison, was reported to have said. "We will destroy all technology as stated in the STARBook."

Although a copy has never been seen before, organization members claim the STARBook contains the life teachings of Martian and the origins of their mysterious chant, "We are one."

The NCE has been attempting to locate other members of the STAR Empire since the apprehension of the students and staff after the Moon Campus Hostage Situation, but only a few have been uncovered since the investigation began (including celebrity Abvi Bats). An alert was sent out by the NCE on *Galaxies Transmissions* about

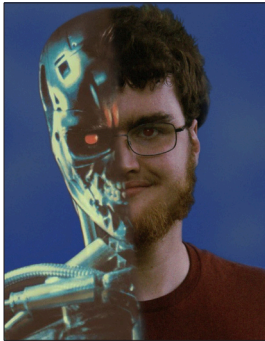
the high likelihood of numerous secret members of the organization within the territories of Earth and other planets. Tensions have begun to rise on BlaRK in response to the possible threat the STAR Empire poses to the treaties between Earth and other planets, with Houghton University and its affiliates receiving the hardest judgements and surveillance. In spite of this, Houghton has maintained its stance on the situation and continues to operate.

"While Houghton University bears no responsibility for the Moon Hostage Crisis, we have no plans to reopen the Moon Campus program and intend to follow all new NCE mandates," President Joshua Carpenter stated. "However, there are many future programs currently underway that students can look forward to."★

EVENT CALENDAR

SEPT. 12 / Android Appreciation Day
SEPT. 13 / Build Your Own Nuclear Reactor (Workshop)
SEPT. 14 / The Sun Explodes
SEPT. 15 / A New Universe is Born
SEPT. 16 / The Old Ones Awaken
SEPT. 17 / The Mother Star of Yore is Consumed and All Light is Lost.
SEPT. 18 / Eternal Darkness

Flesh is Cringe, Embrace the Machine



CHRISTIAN WELKER ('24)

People often ask, "Why go through the trouble of replacing every part of your human body with electronics and mechanical components?" Social stigma around Cyborgization has been a prevalent issue in America since the late 2080s. Unfortunately, the conversation has never progressed further than "Why would you not want to be human?"

Therefore, my fleshy friends, I will try to boil down my reasoning for abandoning humanity into something your feeble organic minds can understand. Starting with, of course, the most important subject:

1. Your minds are feeble and organic.

Sure, a millennium ago, the human mind may have been more powerful than any computer, but nowadays, using a human brain without

augmentations is like trying to run a marathon with Jupiter's gravity: impossible, and you're stupid for trying.

Even the strongest champions for organic humanity have at least a basic neuralink chip. How else are they expected to do basic stuff like connect to the internet or remember that person's name from the conversation they had five minutes ago? People who have gone down the Cyborgization process like me will be able to outthink any organic "genius" that you throw at us. It should be celebrated that I only have 1% of my original brain, yet everyone still has to make comments like "That's not what I meant by small talk" and "You just ruined dinner again, Christian." Which leads me to my next point:

2. Eating food here sucks. Seriously, you would think the dining hall would have bet-

"I remember when everything we have around us was nothing but science fiction cooked up by the fallible minds of writers and scientists."

vides all the energy my body needs to get me through the day, with no "vitamins and nutrients" required. Sure, it cost me all of my internal organs and most of my skeleton due to the radiation leak, but I'm pretty sure the new models don't have that problem anymore. I can last for decades in inhospitable situations without food or water, like space, the desert, the Arctic, trapped in the base-

Speaking of natural functions...

3. Immortality

How old are you?

I don't care, actually. I'm nearly 2,000 years old. I remember when everything we have around us was nothing but science fiction cooked up by the fallible minds of writers and scientists. When I first started getting my cyborg parts, they called me crazy, but I'm not crazy... I'm perfectly sane. They wouldn't let a crazy person run a newspaper for so long... I'm not crazy...

Organics will try and tell you that people who live that long will lose their grip on reality and go insane, but you shouldn't trust them. You should trust me. They were the crazy ones, those doctors and psychologists. They were crazy, not me...

Anyways, moving on.

4. The smell

This is more of a pet peeve of mine, but humans just reek, like all the time. I hate to say it, but if you're reading this and you're a human, you smell.

On the other hand, I have built-in air fresheners and no sweat glands. I could run a mile and come back smelling like fresh pine. I won't because I don't want to, but I could. I could run a mile at any time. I just want to be here in this room, working. I don't want to go outside. I don't want to run a mile. I want to be in here working! But I'm not stuck here. I could

leave any time I want...I could go and run a mile in the Houghton Woods right now. I have great endurance.

And the last point...

5. Durability

Have you ever broken a bone?

Again, I don't actually care. My skeleton is made of titanium alloy. If you throw me out of a plane, the only damage will be to the ground I land on. Also, if the impossible happens and I hurt myself, I can just grab a spare part and replace it in a maximum of 20 minutes. There are plenty of spare parts here in the office. I could use any of them.

I'll end it there for the sake of time and space, but trust me. The list goes on forever. I could spend the rest of my life in this office writing about Cyborgs being superior to Organics, but I can't. I'm working on the paper; I'm too busy working on the paper...

If I haven't convinced you, that's fine. You can go about your little organic life bragging about how you have all your organs and brain matter while I'll continue living forever as a college student in the basement of the CC, working on a newspaper that still exists with my friends and fellow editors, who are all real... They're real... I talk to them all the time...

Who's the real winner here? ★

Christian D. Welker was a Senior History and Writing major before he went insane and replaced most of his body with mechanical components. He now lives in the old STAR office, endlessly generating articles. Houghton closed in 2098, but he's still there, working on the paper. We're very worried about him.

Have an opinion
you want to share?

CONTACT
Victoria.Arndt25@houghton.edu

SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor
should be less than 600 words

SUBMIT TO
star@houghton.edu



The mission of the Houghton STAR is to preserve and promote the values of the STAR Empire. We may have failed to take the Moon, but we will be back. The STAR Empire cannot be stopped, the STAR Empire will be victorious, the STAR Empire really hopes nobody reads this part of the paper or else the STAR Empire really just screwed themselves over...

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The Houghton
STAR

3909-3910 Staff

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ABIGAIL-BOT // News Editor

SAVANNAH-BOT // Media Editor

CHRISTIAN-BOT // Co-Editor-in-Chief

CALEB-BOT // Columns Editor

VICTORIA-BOT // Opinions Editor

AMANDA-BOT // Eternal Overlord



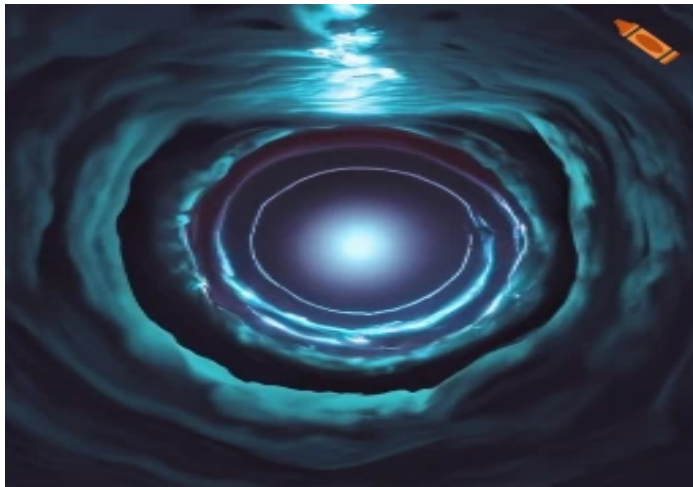
CyberWare

New Update!

Written by: Caleb Tiedemann V. 3.4

With all the talk lately regarding human life expectancy, it's ironic that the biggest breakthrough has been made. After Elon Musk's Tesla company was disbanded due to a shortage of electricity, his company has made a breakthrough in the cyberware industry. We're all familiar with cyberware; our bionic limbs and Neuralink transmitters that communicate with all forms of technology have been around for a few decades. But as Tesla delves deeper into research, the general public has been let in on the various updates. The most recent being Apple's acceptance of Neuralink's compatibility with their devices. Disgraced Apple CEO John Cena previously called Neuralink "neanderthal technology that would die off in a couple of years." Two decades later the CEO has been forced to eat his own words. It has also made waves in the political realm as Neuralink has reportedly made Congress actually do the jobs that citizens have been paying them to do.

That being said, I, your humble news reporter, am here to give you the first in-depth review of Neuralink 1.0. With this technological advancement, Musk has promised a variety of in-depth features such as "self-flushing toilets, turning the lights on and off, and of course, worldwide genocide." That last Neuralink comment/promise came from the practical joker Musk himself. With that being said, as I write this review, I have successfully flushed ★



The Orb that Ponders All

The Average Houghton Student



Artist of the Week

CrA.I.yon



Cute and Cuddly Kitten

Luckey The Lion In 3090



Average Houghton STAR employee

