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Roth Rope to Replace Bridge in Stunning Student Plan

CHRISTIAN WELKER ('24)

For the last few weeks, the halls of Roth have been consumed by bitter debate, all spurred by one question.

"What Should Replace the Roth Bridge?"

A large organization of students banded together to update the old design, meeting every Thursday to discuss solutions to the problem. Countless ideas were brought to the table, from slip n' slides to a pair of carnival stunt cannons (complete with bike helmets, for safety), to a heated mat that would keep the bridge from icing over in Houghton winters (though this suggestion was laughed out of the meeting due to its ridiculousness), but in the all-hall vote that happened last week, the student's voice rang loud and clear:

Roth Bridge will be replaced by a hanging tire swing.

The Assistant Resident Director of the dorm Micah Condie ('23) will be heading



An impressively accurate artist rendition of the proposed new method to enter and exit Roth.

up the process, donating his childhood swing from his old family home. Construction by a group of trained student professionals is scheduled to start later in April.

"Taking down the Bridge should be easy," stated the head of construction Luke Schriver ('24), "We'll just have one of the residents jump up and down on it like

twice or so, should crumble like a house of cards."

After the bridge's removal, the construction can begin. The Roth Rope will be suspended by a metal pole around the middle of the gap, students will take a running start, leap from one side, grab the rope, and be deposited relatively safely on the other side.

"Oh yeah we tested it,"

said Science Extraordinaire Jon "The Engineering Department" Zdunski ('23), "Around one in every ten students missed, so we already have a higher success rate than our current solution. We plan on taking the mattresses from Ghost Side and piling them up below the rope for the students that don't make it across."

Students are thrilled by

the new plan, some already practicing their tarzan cry for when they need to rush to class. However, some have expressed concern over the amount of time it would take to construct the new Roth Rope. They worry about how long it would take before Roth Hill is accessible from the third floor entrance again.

But the Student Geniuses have a plan for this as well. Taking a note from the outdoor renovations Lambein Hall had last semester, a single plank of wood will be laid across the gap for students to use between the bridge's removal and the Rope's opening.

When asked for his opinion, Dean of Students Marc Smithers said, "It's amazing to see our community band together to solve problems and implement solutions. I'm very proud of the work this team is doing to improve our college."

See **ROTH ROPE** page #2

"Gaerte Gear" Fashion Line Comes to Houghton

OWEN HARDIMAN ('22)

The Houghton Highlander Shop and Printing Press is excitedly preparing to run a new line of Houghton apparel. The designer: critically acclaimed communication extraordinaire and sweater vest aficionado Dr. Douglas Gaerte. The new line, Gaerte Gear, will be hitting the racks of the Campus Store later this month.

In an exclusive interview conducted by the STAR, Dr. Gaerte shared how he has become such a prominent influencer in sweater vest culture. "Mr. Rogers always had a sweater on when he was in his neighborhood. Like many kids are prone to do, I wanted to dress like my hero." He additionally discussed the historically prac-



A group of Houghton students fashionably model Gaerte Gear™ with the brilliant designer himself.

tical usage of vests. "Vests often provide a form of protection. The life vest protects us from drowning. The bullet proof vest protects us from, well, bullets. In high school, my sweater vests protected me from dating."

Dr. Gaerte also shared with the STAR some insights into his steadfast passion for this unique form of apparel. "The sweater vest

is such an iconic look," Dr. Gaerte remarked. "It communicates both 'I'm a professional' and yet I am also approachable all at the same time. In that way, I think it's the classic look for Houghton College."

The announcement about Dr. Gaerte's new fashion line has created an intense furor across campus, and that excitement is particu-

larly marked among his colleagues in the Communication Department. Proficient designer and donut enthusiast Professor Murphy energetically shared her thoughts on the new line, stating that she has noticed Dr. Gaerte's special talent for dressing people ever since he lent her one of his iconic sweater vests for a photoshoot in the Mac Lab.

"That was when I realized: Doug Gaerte has a gift for working with textiles. Since then, it's only become more and more obvious that Doug has a gift for communicating through fashion, so I'm incredibly excited that his line will soon be coming to the campus store—students are going to love it!"

Professor Murphy also noted that "fashion design seems like a very natural extension of Doug's passion for effective communication... We say a lot with what we choose to wear, and the sweater vest is an iconic, timeless statement. I'm delighted to see him take the wealth of experience he has in making fashion statements and using it to design clothing that can speak on so many levels to so many people."

Many Houghton students have also expressed a strong zeal regarding the upcoming release of Gaerte Gear. Communication student and world renowned

See **GAERTE GEAR** page #2

THE DESTRUCTION OF SHEN

JOSHUA CARPENTER ('24)

For Fall 2022, Houghton College has announced that instead of remodeling Shenawana Hall, it will be demolished and turned into an amusement park.

As President Lewis said in an interview, “What Houghton College needs right now is more fun. What could be more fun than an amusement park? While Shen will certainly be missed, with plans for a new men's dorm in discussion, students have impressed upon me the importance of making Houghton a much more enjoyable campus right now.” To accomplish this, the college has decided to construct one very large Gravitron, which will be named “Shenitron.” Accompanying Shenitron will be an arcade with mountains of popcorn. Plans

for more rides in the future are already in the works.

Plans for the park have been the talk of the town recently, with students and faculty alike all trying to find out what this park is about, especially the men of Shen, who will be losing their home away from home. Some of these “Shen Men” have been approached by the STAR to find out how they are feeling amid their loss.

With the initial reaction of “Hot diggity-dog,” Jonathan Hutmire ('24), could not believe the news of Shen becoming the grounds for an amusement park. “I don't think there'd be much change. Same amount of popcorn at least.” To him, “It'll be sad to lose all the history contained within the carpet stains,” though he is looking forward to “the opportunity to form new

carpet stains of our own,” wherever Shen Men end up living. Jon's also excited about the Shenitron, in which he plans to do his laundry. “That'll [The Shenitron] definitely will be an upgrade from the current dryers! No more still-damp laundry!”

Micah Williams ('23), is the 3rd floor RA of Shen and cleaner of its aromatic bathrooms. In his state of grief over Shen's inevitable destruction, Micah has taken the time to reflect on what made Shen special to him. “I'm going to miss all the amazing scents that just attack your nostrils as you walk into the building. You never know if it's going to be someone burning popcorn or forgetting to put water in their ramen noodles and just absolutely douse the floor in burnt food smell, or that sweaty foot smell of all

the athletes leaving their shoes in the hallway, or even just that... Shen Musk. Ah! What a scent.” And though he is sad to see Shen go, he thinks that all the loud screams from inside of the Shenitron would be nothing out of the ordinary from all the shenanigans of Shen Men, which had more than its fair share of screaming.

Chunsun Lei ('24) has expressed to the STAR his deepest condolences as the 2nd floor RA of Shen. Lei, who prefers being referred to by his last name, cleans bathrooms on his floor and will miss his job dearly. For him, every night at work is a fulfilling night of fun and dance, of which he calls “mold dancing.” When asked about this act of his, Lei could not contain his excitement. He remarked about his passion for en-

suring the Shen men have a clean environment. “Mold dancing” is representative of his enjoyment and enthusiasm for this work. Though he did admit that having a Dance Dance Revolution rig in the new arcade would do well to remind him of his experiences at Shen. Through this game, he wishes to continue on with his mold dancing passion, slipping on the stage without ever falling - all while looking perfectly cool. And one day, maybe he will even find a dance partner of the same style.

If you would like to pay respects to Shenawana Hall as it begins a new chapter, you can attend its service of remembrance at Shen Pond. The service will start at 8pm and end at the break of dawn. Candles will be lit, and root beers will be had. ☐

ROTH ROPE *from page #1*

The Roth Rope Project is well into its planning stage, with several designs and blueprints already laid out. However, not everyone is happy with the direction the team is going.

“I really think that we should have done a slip n' slide,” stated Isaiah Cornfeild ('22), “There was going to be an inflatable elephant on one side spitting water onto the mat from its trunk, elephants are my favorite animal.”

Another student, Joey Schunemann ('24), is quoted as saying, “When I was younger I grabbed onto a tire swing, but there was a snake inside of it. Snakes scare me, so I cried. I can't relive that trauma again.”

Nevertheless, the project is well on its way. Students should expect to start swinging into fun on the Roth Rope by the start of the upcoming fall semester. ☐

This article is dedicated to all the students who tried to hurry down Roth Bridge on a snowy day.

GAERTE GEAR *from page #1*

Java Barista Emma Norby ('24) commented, “Dr. Gaerte will surely have a thriving side job designing sweater vests simply because of his motivation for everyone to wear one. He promoted his business in my interpersonal communication class the other day and stated ‘they are dressy yet movable!’ (arms flapping when stated).”

What can fashionistas and sweater vest fanatics expect to see in this upcoming line? Dr. Gaerte has kept most of the new line close to his sweater-vest-clad-chest but has teased his fans with some details, including hints about zipper front fleece vests. “I wanted to take some creative risks, so I decided to expand the Gaerte Gear sweater family with the more sporty fleece vest look. What I love most about this new line is what it communicates to the casual observer—that the wearer is a professional committed to doing his or her job well, but lurking just be-

neath the surface is a rugged adventurer just waiting to burst out and hit the trail for new horizons. There's an edginess, or hint of danger and risk with the fleece zipper front that just can't be replicated in the traditional argyle sweater vest. Hopefully this expansion of the vest look will bring more people into the Gaerte Gear family.” Dr. Gaerte assured the STAR that there are still places he will not go in his design. “Gaerte Gear will never promote the quilted puffy vest. It's too artificial looking, and no one wants to look like the Michelin tire man.”

Professor Murphy has also teased fans with her insider knowledge of the new designs, stating “I'm actually already on the pre-order list for the Rosewood variety of his “Modern Argyle” line. I've had a chance to see the mock-ups, and they're absolute genius. If I had to describe them, I'd say they're somehow both runway fresh and comfortably

classic. (But like, both, at the same time.)”

When asked for a comment, Helena Oden of the Houghton Highlander Shop and Printing Press described the eagerness and delight the campus store felt about the upcoming line. “We are very proud to be the sole distributor of Gaerte Gear so all of campus has the opportunity to look as stylish as Dr. Gaerte. Keep an eye out for his latest designs by following us on Instagram!”

In times of partisanship and uncertainty, Dr. Gaerte concluded his interview with the STAR discussing the larger impacts of sweater vest culture. “I think we would have fewer wars if world leaders wore more sweater vests. It's those dark uncomfortable suits that make people angry. A sweater vest says ‘Hey, come give me a hug. Let's go get coffee, and we can settle our geo-political differences over a donut.’”

In an unprecedented marketing move, Gaerte Gear will only be available

at the Houghton Highlander Shop during a select set of hours on Sundays. Unfortunately, STAR reporters were unable to discover when these hours are as the campus store appears to be closed every Sunday. “It's a cutting edge marketing strategy,” says almost-business-minor Sarah Mertzluft ('22). “The girls who get it, get it. The girls who don't, don't.” To find out more about Gaerte Gear, students simply must loiter in the campus center all day Sunday hoping to catch a vested customer slipping out of the campus store after hours. ☐

Need More '84: How Surveillance Strengthens Community



CHRISTIAN WELKER ('24)

Houghton College is advertised as a safe, God-fearing campus, for the most part. Students are comfortable leaving their things out without fear of them getting stolen, leaving their doors unlocked at night because they have no fear of their dorm-mates, and having conversations that, at least in theory, align with godly values and our Community Covenant. It's a good system, a fantastic one even, but it could be better.

It only takes one bad apple to ruin the bunch. To keep Houghton the safe, God-fearing campus we know it can be, some changes must be made.

Firstly, Curfews. Anyone with a Student ID, at any time, can enter a residence hall. Now that may be “convenient for the students” but it also be-

“If they continue making a scene over such trivial matters as “Privacy,” or “Free Speech” their position at our campus should be called into question”

comes possible for undesirable people to enter the building under the cover of darkness. Therefore, to keep our slumbering students safe, we should lock the doors to residence halls soon after quiet hours end. This would both encourage students to return to their dorms promptly and encourage people who are not part of those dorms to stay away.

While on the subject of Residence Halls, they are one of the only places on campus where students can remain almost completely unsupervised. What could be happening within those halls or behind those closed doors? Perhaps something that isn't God-honoring, or worse, breaking the Community Covenant. There is of course an easy solution

“Nothing makes you more fearless than the looming presence of our brave Covenant Enforcers”

to this. Cameras. Everywhere. We are already putting them at the entrances to most buildings, why not in the halls, bathrooms, and individual rooms of every building, including dorms? Only to

ing against this indicates that they are afraid they will be caught doing things that don't respect our Community Covenant. These whistleblowers should be put on academic probation for

are within align with the Community Covenant and properly use the services that have been provided by our campus. Additionally, during chapel times, they should patrol both the outside of the chapel building and the campus at large to assure all students are receiving the message we have provided for them today, no more of this “chapel skip” nonsense, would you try to use a “heaven skip” during the rapture? Didn't think so.

These Covenant Enforcers, along with new eye-tracking cameras and microphones installed in the chapel itself, will assure that all students are paying utmost attention to the speaker and not talking out of turn or being distracted by worldly pleasures like homework or friendships. With these methods in place, Houghton College can rest easy with the knowledge that the students within are growing into the lovely young people we want them to be. These changes would make Houghton a better, more God-fearing place. After all, nothing makes you more fearless than the looming presence of our brave Covenant Enforcers.★

Christian Welker (Sophomore, History and Writing Major) was later accused of being a Privacy Advocate and found guilty of Anti-Covenant behavior. He was last seen being led off-campus by Covenant Enforcers to protect Houghton from his corrupted ideas.

Have an opinion you want to share?

Of course you do. Because you're human.

BUY US JAVA!

Address Pay-It-Forwards to any STAR staff member (especially Owen and/or Megan).

The mission of the Houghton STAR is (USUALLY) to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have been the ideals of Houghton College since its inception. This is 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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CONSPIRACIES

PEANUT BUTTER EXPOSÉ

DEMETRI COURT ("24)

How many varieties of peanut butter does Metz offer? It's a simple question, I know, but please bear with me, dear reader. How many? To many, the answer is one. You find a few of these prepackaged canisters of nutty goodness near the toasting station, maybe you even mix in regular butter for a post meal snack. There's the decision of whether or not to indulge in peanut butter, but never an in-fighting of attention among differing peanut butter varieties, right? In having only one peanut butter option, we are saved from the anxieties of choice, and from this we may find contentment and serenity. Dear readers of the Houghton STAR, I am sorry. I truly am. As with most things, the issue of how many varieties of peanut butter Metz offered is far more complicated than this simple portrait. Be assured, desecrating the sanctity of peanut butter security is not something I undergo lightly. Everything that follows has been carefully cross-checked and curated through months of investigative journalism. With that out of the way, I now present you with a theory. A conspiracy theory. Of how Metz has not one, but FIVE varieties of peanut butter. Let us begin.

Now, Metz Peanut Butter, as we know it, is manufactured by Monarch, a company originating from a Gold Rush provisionary over 150 years ago. Their logo, a lion, can be seen in the upper-right corner on a standard package of Metz Peanut Butter. Monarch's Lion stands as a symbol of trust and integrity. It is not without a sense of cosmic irony then, that right underneath the trademark on their logo can one find a number, nay, this conspiracy's linchpin, facing perpendicular to the rest of the text. This number displays differently between individual packages but always in a range between 1 and 5. A few keen-eyed pioneers from among the student body began researching the significance of this number. One of the earliest theories was that each number corresponded to a level of saltiness, but this was quickly debunked through various taste tests. A second theory, which still holds weight among the

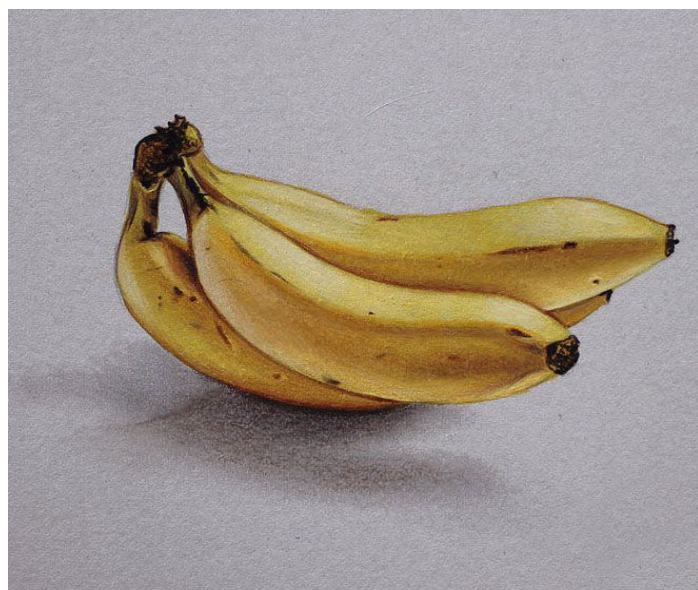
Metz Peanut Butter Community, is that each number corresponds to a different manufacturing machine. Packages produced from Monarch's first machine in the delectable nut butter factory would be marked with a "1," packages from the second marked with a "2," and so on. It appears that the results of each blind taste test change every few weeks, so it would make sense that as these machines made different batches, the synchronicity between numbers on the packages would shift too. As of now, this explanation has yet to be debunked. What does this mean for us, the peanut butterers? To find out, I undertook a carefully procured blind taste test alongside the conspiracy's most prolific contributors.

I will spare you the specifics of the procedure for the sake of brevity but be assured that many STEM majors were present to ensure the scientific validity of this blind test. The results were that, while subtle, I ultimately could distinguish with reasonable accuracy a difference in consistency between differently numbered packages of peanut butter. If you attempt to replicate or iterate on this experiment, which I highly encourage you to do, plan not to be blown away by the full range of consistencies and textures. Some titans of the dining hall have vocally denounced this conspiracy of having any validity altogether, but I posit that this may be due to the expectations of the individual taster. The contrasts between numbered packages are not so dramatic as to produce contrasting Ratatouille fireworks of Red and Blue, but rather of the subtle variation between Seal Brown, Café Noir, Bistre, Dark Sienna, and Olive Drab #7. Does this revelation then destroy the safety and sanctity of nutty butter options? No, I do not think so. It's really hard to tell each of them apart. But for you aficionados, you dreamers, you champions, you mad dogs of glory, I believe nothing short of a world filled with five incredibly subtle and ever-shifting variations of peanut butter lies ahead. □

Scratch and Sniff ART

Welcome to 4D.

The Houghton STAR is very proud to announce that we are introducing a new and immersive feature to our paper. With the assistance of perfume and micro-capsule technology, we are now featuring amazing **SCENTED** artwork.



Simply scratch the fruit art, breathe in, and enjoy!



Talk about a 4D experience!