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ALICE BY HEART

JIANA MARTIN ('26)

On Friday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. the Lyric Theatre will hold its second of three performances of "Alice by Heart" in the Tysinger Auditorium of the Houghton Academy. The first performance was on March 21 and the final performance will be on Saturday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m.

"Alice by Heart" is a pop rock and folk musical which opened Off-Broadway in 2019.

"It's a very new production," Professor Amanda Cox, the director of Houghton's Lyric Theatre, explained. "It's very unusual and a little experimental."

Professor Cox enjoys the newness of the musical as it has not been re-done multiple times and has allowed her to add a Christian perspective to the ending, pointing to hope and redemption.

The musical follows Alice Spencer during the Blitz (a German bombing



Alfred (Jon Hutmlire) and Alice (Lydia Rech)

COURTESY OF ANNA CATHERMAN

campaign against the the United Kingdom in WWII) in 1941. She is forced to shelter in an underground tube station with a group of young people, including her childhood friend Alfred who is fatally ill with tuberculosis. Alice and Alfred share a love for the book "Alice in Wonderland," which Alice begins reciting as a way to cope

and process the traumatic events happening around her. She imagines the people around her as the different characters from the story, representing the ways she deals with her grief. The Caterpillar represents her avoidance of grief, the Mad Hatter is her anger about Alfred dying and the Jabberwocky is her fear of losing Alfred.

"We're inside Alice's head and experiencing her imagination as she's working through the stages of grief," Professor Cox described.

Senior Lydia Rech plays the feisty, imaginative and hopeful Alice Spencer.

"It has been such a privilege to bring this bold and determined girl to life and process, alongside her, so

many different emotions," Rech commented.

Although her life has been quite different from Alice's, Rech has been able to use her own experiences to help her convey the emotions she wishes to get across.

"I often think about the fact that I am a senior - that I am 'growing up' and preparing to say goodbye to so many wonderful people here at Houghton. Remembering that I am not alone in this journey, like Alice comes to discover in the show, has been really special," Rech reflected.

Rech has enjoyed slipping into Alice's head and the challenges it brings as well as getting to know the Wonderland characters. To help her prepare for her role, she read the original "Alice in Wonderland" book for the first time. It helped her understand the context of the lines her character quotes from the book and why the book

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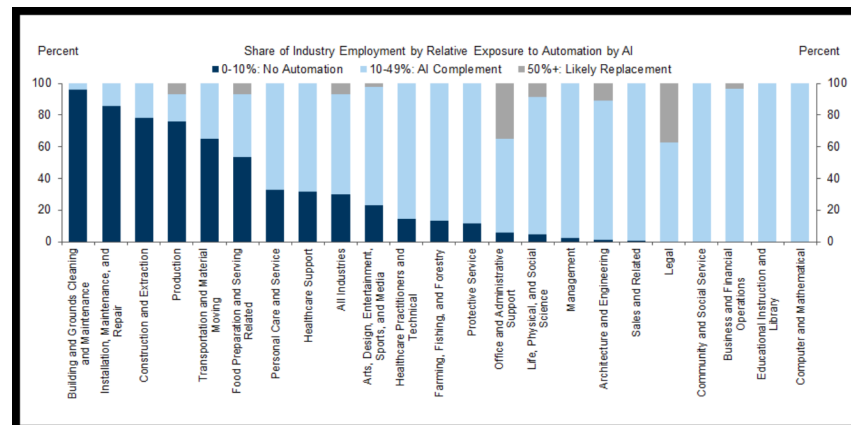
Impacts of AI on the Job Market

CHRISTIAN WELKER ('24)

"I am interviewing you, ChatGPT... about the effects of Artificial Intelligence on education and the future job market."

"Certainly!" ChatGPT responded, "I'm happy to discuss the effects of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on education and the future job market. **Reporter:** How do you see AI impacting education? **ChatGPT:** AI has the potential to..."

Watching ChatGPT write and conduct an interview with itself left me with mixed emotions. On the one hand, it was ridiculous for the AI to believe that was what I wanted, but at the same time, it developed a line of questions in seconds that was scarily close to what I had



Industries Exposed to AI graph

COURTESY OF GOLDMAN SACHS

just spent ten minutes thinking of before beginning the interview.

Interviewing an AI seems like something out of a science fiction movie, but with the Challenger Economics May 2023 report stating over 3,900 jobs were cut due to Artificial Intelligence in one month alone and Goldman Sachs estimating 300 million potential job cuts

by 2030, it's obvious many industries are taking this new tech and running with it. This trend of increasing use of AI threatens not only the current members of the workforce but also college students looking to join it after graduation. As college students are looking at a shifting job market, the question turns to how higher education should

respond to the AI boom?

One area where AI affects the job market is journalism and media. Jonnan Pilet, a writer for foodsafetynews.com, has been watching how Artificial Intelligence continues to change the journalism scene.

"The issue, I think, is that AI is... impacting the number of jobs because it's taking a lot of what I

would say is like the grunt work, the lower work," Pilet said, "these are the kinds of stuff that AI can do really well because it's like filling in a form."

The journalism market has struggled with profitability over the past few years, with dozens of outlets laying off large percentages of their staff in attempts to reduce expenses and streamline their businesses. With the rise of Artificial Intelligence, these outlets are given the opportunity to further reduce expenses and make production more efficient by replacing workers with AI and further streamlining processes with the integration of AI tools.

"What might have taken three of us several hours to do, now one person could do in 30 minutes," Pilet stated.

Rachel Wright, who works for Houghton Uni-

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Letter to the Editor: Controversy?

CODY JOHNSON ('24)

To the Editors of the Star,

Last week, Hannah Smith wrote an excellent opinion about Metz, targeting students who claim that Metz is the sworn enemy of student satisfaction. And that has been the most controversial opinion in the Star this year.

For contrast, find a copy of the Star from five or ten years ago and turn to the opinions. You'll find thought-provoking responses to issues like immigration, carbon taxes, sexual education, the March for Life, the Republican primary, and Houghton's handling of racism. Where are those issues in the Star today?

We claim to be an institution that values hard conversations, yet we no longer represent those conversations in our student newspaper. Maybe those conversations happen privately; maybe we're overly sensitive to others' opinions; maybe we're tragically apathetic. In any case, students do not engage with hard issues in a way that contributes to the common good. We cannot be the institution we claim to be when our public discourse

is watered down by disengagement.

We must be brave enough to use forums like the Star to broach those issues, learn from one another, and engage with the world beyond the Houghton Bubble. Surely, students have opinions that go deeper than the menu in the dining hall. I hope they will use the Star to share those opinions and contribute to our public discourse so we can be the institution we claim to be. ★

Cody,

Thank you for your letter. The Opinions Section of the STAR has always been a place where students can freely express their thoughts in a public setting. While we cannot explain the shift away from controversial opinions over the last decade, we want to make it clear that we have never closed the door to these types of opinions. The STAR would love to publish articles on the topics you discussed if any student wished to work with us to publish them.

Our only requirement for Opinion pieces is that they do not unjustly attack an individual person or group. For example, "Christian is a

terrible human being, and everyone should hate him" would not be accepted, but "I do not agree with Christian on X because he never considered Y" would be a perfectly valid response. As long as you are considerate of the other side, we are willing to publish your piece.

So, to the Students, Staff, and Faculty of Houghton, if you are willing to express your opinion on hot-button issues facing either Houghton or the world at large, we are willing to help you do exactly that. Please feel free to send either a Letter to the Editor or an Opinion Piece to either star@houghton.edu or

Victoria.Arndt25@houghton.edu.

Thank you,
The STAR Editors



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means so much to Alice. Several cast members for this musical were also in Our Town, the Lyric Theater's Fall 2023 production, so Rech has also enjoyed the opportunity to perform with them again.

"I've enjoyed getting to pick up right where we left off, in a sense, and get to practice sharing some of those deep emotions that we explored in the fall, only, now, in a musical setting," Rech said.

Senior Jonathan Hutmire, who plays Alfred, is one of the people Rech has the privilege to perform with again. In Alice's imagination, Alfred is the White Rabbit who is always in a rush saying he does not have time and needs to go.

For Hutmire, "the best part of seeing this show come to life is seeing each person really starting to add their own personal touches to each character."

Because the musical is fairly new, Hutmire was not sure how he felt about it. However, he came to

like it as Professor Cox brought her different vision to the story.

"She has given new levels of depth, meaning, and beauty to this show and has created something absolutely extraordinary," Hutmire said.

As seniors, Rech and Hutmire look back at their time in the Lyric Theater program with fond memories and admiration.

"One of the greatest joys I have taken from the experience is just getting to bond with each different cast," Rech said. "Here at Houghton, we have each other to lean on and figure it out together."

Rech has learned the importance of finding her identity in Christ, not in her abilities or performance, and reminding her fellow actors and actresses of the same thing.

"While it's only my fourth production with Lyric Theater, it never ceases to amaze me how all these intricate details and beautiful moments can come together to cre-

ate something even better yet," Hutmire reflected.

Looking back at her time directing "Alice by Heart," Professor Cox admires the student's dedication to their characters and performances.

"They do such beautiful work and they're so willing to throw themselves into creating these beautiful characters," Professor Cox expressed. "[The show] is stretching the cast members to do things they haven't done before. They are just fantastic and I'm really proud of it."

Audiences can expect something that is unusual, fascinating, fun, thought provoking and beautiful. The story goes deep, so audiences should be prepared to cry, but also laugh.

Rech concluded, "Because of Professor Cox, we perform stories that are more than just a fun show, but a show with incredible depth behind them. Which is what Alice by Heart will be!" ★

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versity's Office of Vocation and Calling, added, "There's certainly going to be some things that can be done in a more automated way ... that's where I think it's important to, for somebody who's applying for jobs ... to be able to very clearly articulate the value that they bring [to a job]."

In a shifting job market, staying up to date with the latest technology is essential. Artificial Intelligence is developing rapidly, with little sign of slowing down. How focused should colleges and universities be on integrating AI into the classroom?

Houghton Professor David Huth believes that higher education needs to do more to prepare students.

"I wish that every college and university professor could take ... say, three semesters off and enroll at their institution in the world of AI so that they can actually understand what is actually happening," Huth stated that "If I wanted to get educated in the age of AI, now, what would I be doing?"

Similarly, Pilet states that students need to learn how to use AI tools to become more efficient in the classroom and in future jobs.

"Transcribing used to take hours," Pilet stated. "But [now] there's transcribing tools that will save you a ton of time because it'll do it in minutes."

Pilet believes that in the future, the deciding factor between employees will be those who know how to use the tools to make their work faster and more efficient versus those who don't.

"You have to use it because you have to keep up. It almost has become a nonnegotiable," Pilet stated.

In Pilet's opinion, it's important for college classes to teach students how to use Artificial Intelligence and how people in their desired fields utilize AI tools. Otherwise, students risk falling be-

hind and losing job opportunities to younger workers with more experience with the tools. However, it's also essential that students learn the basics before they learn the tools.

"We have to avoid having the tool get in the way of learning the basics," Pilet emphasized. "That's the fear ... if you've never written anything, how do you know that the AI is spitting it out well?"

Pilet ultimately stated that higher education should integrate AI into classrooms and teach students how to use the tools alongside their knowledge of the craft.

On the other hand, Huth believes that Artificial Intelligence will change the world as the internet did with its introduction. He sees learning how to use the tools as a temporary solution. In his view, colleges need to prepare for what might come next because if they are not prepared, AI could replace higher education in its entirety.

AI is rapidly advancing, and there are few signs of slowing down. As mentioned above, it is already affecting the job market and causing mass layoffs. Huth and Pilet believe that college students must be prepared to integrate AI into their workflow to remain competitive in an increasingly AI-focused world.

For what it's worth, ChatGPT seems to agree. When asked how people should consider AI in the job market, the AI stated: "The dynamic nature of technology and the job market underscores the importance of lifelong learning. College graduates should be prepared to adapt and upskill throughout their careers to stay relevant in a changing landscape."

As Artificial Intelligence continues to evolve and change the world around it, students entering the workforce need to be at least aware of the tools their potential jobs are using and how to utilize them to stay competitive. ★

Jesus Take the Reins



HANNAH LEE ('26)

The equestrian world is an ever growing career that has gained more popularity each year. Though it's primarily a female dominated field, it can be quite diverse, embracing both men and women and people of all shapes, sizes, ages, and ethnicities. That being said, that diversity does not end there. Within the realm of Houghton's equestrian related activities such as competitions, ownership, and academics, there is a strong central faith guiding the program. The program is designed not only to help its students grow in their equestrian knowledge, but also connects them more to their faith as they go forward. I am honored to be a part of Houghton's equestrian legacy and to have the opportunity to write about the program.

I have had personal experience with trusting God's

process in my time here at Houghton. Many equestrian students, if not all of them, will experience a setback that requires a level of trust that we can only find by leaning on God's understanding. Trusting the plan God has in store is not always easy, but waiting and listening for His guidance yields the greatest outcome of success and peace. Last fall I had a riding accident that left me with a broken bone and nerve damage to my dominant arm. It's not uncommon to meet equestrians who have had similar injuries, and most of them will tell you it does not change their view on the sport, but it teaches us how to adapt to new challenges. These challenges are like the valleys we walk through in faith. They test us, and it's easy to want to give up. My encouragement is to not give up

"The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the Lord".

could ride again. I had to change my major, albeit not an extreme change, but it was and is a setback. I had no choice but to trust God and His plan for me. We equestrians experience setbacks all the time, and the outcome will most likely not be what we want if we do not have faith in God.

As equestrians, it is our passion to care for and learn from the creatures we work

tween horse and rider is so special. We can see the fruits of our efforts in our dressage tests, jumping courses, and even trail rides. It can sometimes look like riding horses is effortless, but it requires time, dedication, and love to get to those levels of trust between horse and rider. I like to think of it in how I engage with my relationship with God. I am not going to have a good personal relationship with God and my faith if I do not put any effort into it and do not cultivate the relationship. The same can be said for horses. I won't have a good ride if I go into it with a negative attitude and then don't try to get better. There won't be any progress in my riding skills if I don't try. Faith is important in our daily lives as Christians. We all know that, but how much more important is it when we are in hard times? Sometimes equestrians will go days and maybe even weeks without the good ride they were hoping for, and it can be really discouraging. As I said, we have to keep our faith; otherwise what are we in this for?

The community of equestrians here at Houghton is very different from what we see outside of campus. Unlike most commercial barns and competitive teams, Houghton's program does not focus on competing and good scores at shows. We care about supporting each other and be-

coming equestrian professionals. We want to develop our skills as people and Christians. The development entails being good stewards to the horses and each other. In my experience, there are many barns that are very toxic, and they thrive on tearing one another down. Our equestrian program encourages us to lift each other up and give each other constructive criticism so we can improve. One verse that has been very encouraging for me has been Proverbs 21:31: "The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the Lord". We sometimes battle for each day, but we do not have to do it alone. We support each other at shows every semester, and the program is a tightly knit community that we all cherish.

Our horses, whether we own them or not, are teachers for us. They can teach us to be better riders, better people, and better Christians. It seems odd, but it is my belief that horses are some of the greatest faith teachers God has given us. The horses are what give equestrians the greatest challenges and the greatest tests of our faith, and that is what keeps me going. That faith—in the horses, ourselves, each other, and God—is what keeps us all going. Sometimes we just have to let Jesus take the reins. ★

Hannah Lee is a sophomore studying Equestrian Management & Pre-Vet. She enjoys horseback riding, being outdoors, photography, and spending time with her dog Angus.

Have an opinion
you want to share?

CONTACT
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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 dialogue, transparency and integrity that have been the ideals of Houghton University 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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STAR

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Movie Review

The Green Mile (1999)

Written By: Caleb Tiedemann ('25)

"I'm tired, boss. Tired of bein' on the road, lonely as a sparrow in the rain. Tired of not ever havin' me a buddy to be with, or tell me where we's coming from or going to, or why. Mostly I'm tired of people being ugly to each other. I'm tired of all the pain I feel and hear in the world every-day. There's too much of it."

- John Coffey

The Green Mile is the tale of Paul Edgecombe's experience as a prison guard on death row. When a gentle giant John Coffey is sentenced to death, Paul and the other guards are confronted with Coffey's mysterious healing power and do everything to stave off his execution. The Green Mile is one of those movies that leaves the viewer with so much to think about. It touches on themes of friendship, innocence, sadism, love, and guilt. Each character is so marvelously crafted to represent one of those themes throughout the movie. John Coffey represents innocence, Paul Edgecombe represents guilt, Brutal Howell represents friendship, Percy Wetmore represents sadism, and Eduard "Del" Delacroix represents love. All of these characters and all of these representations are wonderfully done with each actor giving their utmost in terms of performance. From a technical aspect, The Green Mile is in capable hands. Frank Darabont handles the cam-

era with perfection, highlighting such visceral and raw emotional scenes. He manages to break brilliant performances from every actor. Percy is one of the vilest characters to ever exist in cinematic history and disgusts me in a way that can only be answered by throwing punches. I have to hand it to Doug Hutchinson for his performance because he gives one of the most despicable portrayals of a character. On the opposite side of the spectrum is John Coffey: a gentle giant with a very special gift. These characters are the foundation of what can be considered such a morally complex movie. Death Row is a hot topic in certain circles from the legal perspective and this movie does much to highlight the sadness and brutality of an organized death. The climactic ending is potent and seers itself into your heart and mind hitting every perfect emotional beat. The final walk on the Mile proves to be emotionally detrimental and morally convoluted. One of the themes that stuck out to me was the similarities between Christ's crucifixion and Coffey's death. Both were innocently convicted and killed men with special gifts of healing. Just some interesting food for thought. I cry over a lot of movies and this one was no exception. I do truly love film in a way that I can hardly explain until a movie, such as this, comes along and shows everything good about the movie-making industry. ★

Artist of the Week

Aubrie Cole ('24)



My name is Aubrie Cole, and I am a senior at Houghton. I am a Studio Art Major and an education minor. My favorite mediums to work with are watercolor and gouache for my paintings. I also love ceramics and create fun pieces that are both functional and decorative. My work will be shown at the Senior Art Show this April. My work focuses on colors, lots of color.

