

College To Host Over 100 Accepted Students

JORDAN TRAUTWEIN

This weekend, over one hundred accepted students will be visiting the campus. Betsy Rutledge, Assistant Director of Admission Events and Office Operations, explained “We expect that number to keep growing right up until the event. It’s our biggest visit event of the year.”

Prospective students will have the opportunity to attend meals, classes, meetings and events similar to those available to current students. According to Rutledge, “All things Houghton students do daily. We want them to be able to envision themselves as Highlanders, asking themselves, ‘Is this the place for me for the next four years?’”



MICHAEL SEIVERS

Accepted students arrived on campus Thursday and will stay until Sunday. The group of over 100 students will attend classes, eat breakfast with the Provost, and meet with faculty and staff.

According to the schedule provided visiting to students on the college website, the students will be occupied from registration Thursday evening to Saturday morning departure.

Rutledge explained during their packed weekend at Houghton, visiting students can “visit classes in their major area, meet with faculty during the department receptions, attend chapel, have breakfast with Provost Connell, watch a movie in the KPAC Field House, tour campus, go on a photo scavenger hunt, get an in-depth tour of the residence halls led by the RDs and RAs, play games, customize t-shirts, talk with vari-

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KPFH Hosts Regional Basketball Tournament



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As part of reaching the Athletic Department’s net missional revenue goal, the Kerr-Pegula Field House will host a three on three basketball tournament for kids, teens, and adults ages 11-35+.

ALYSSA ROGAN

The Kerr-Pegula Field House will host the Western New York 3 on 3 Basket-

ball Tournament tomorrow. The tournament is a daylong event in which teams, organized by age and gender, will compete in at least three games. According to the

website, both male and female teams are divided into the following age groups: 11-14, and 15-18; 19-34, and

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VOCA Leads Networking Trip

LAURIE CALL

Thirteen Houghton students traveled to Buffalo for a networking event hosted by the Vocational Opportunities and Career Advising (VOCA) center and the Alumni Engagement Office. Buffalo has a very high concentration of Houghton Alumni that are intentional with maintaining strong relationships with Houghton College, according to Kim Pool, director of the VOCA center.

According to a campus wide email, the event took place on Monday, March 20, and gave students “an opportunity to meet with alumni in one of five career areas: communication, non-profit and human services, ministry, business/finance, or law.”

The day started off with a panel discussion. The panel was made up of four alumni from the Buffalo area that offered advice on transferring from Houghton to the real world and tips on what to do now to prepare for the future.

Some recommendations included finding mentors, investing in relationships with current professors, and asking God for guidance. After the discussion, students were given a tour of the Houghton Buffalo site, where the event was held. Longtime history professor and director of Houghton College Buffalo, Cameron Airhart, shared how Houghton Buffalo offers education to refugees in Buffalo and the way God is at work in their program. Following the tour was a luncheon where students could engage with alumni in smaller groups to ask specific questions about their area of interest.

After lunch, the students departed for their first site visits of the day. A few students went to Jericho Road, which provides medical care to refugees and low-income families. Students interested in the areas of healthcare and human services had an opportunity to engage with people in their desired field.

The rest of the group

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World // South Korean President Ousted



MICHAEL SEIVERS

EMMA CARPENTER

Park Geun-hye, former president of South Korea, was officially removed from office earlier this month by a court of South Korean justices. The impeachment followed a massive corruption scandal that sparked weeks of protest by South Korean citizens, according the New York Times. Park’s replacement is set to be selected in May.

The first sign of rough

waters for Park’s presidency came in 2014, according to CNN. In April, the Sewol passenger ferry sank off of South Korea’s coast, resulting in over 300 deaths, most of them high school students on a field trip. CNN also described the results of a lengthy and painful investigation into the tragedy. According to CNN, “[T]he ferry was found to be loaded with double its capacity. Its cargo wasn’t secured properly, which threw the ship off balance as the containers tumbled and knocked the vessel off balance. An inexperienced crew and redesigns of the ship to handle more passengers and cargo were also cited as factors in the disaster.”

Park Geun-hye did not address the public until seven hours after the tragedy began. According to Professor of Seoul’s Yonsei University, John Delury, , “That was a stain on [Park’s] legacy. There was a palpable sense at that time that she wasn’t there. It’s not as if people expected her to magically save

the ship, but there was a need for leadership.”

The South Korean government’s handling of the Sewol disaster was followed by public outcry. Anger against Park only intensified last October, when a corruption scandal broke surrounding one of Park’s unofficial advisors, Choi Soon-sil. CNN reported Choi “is accused of abuse of power and attempted fraud following claims she had access to secret government documents and intervened in state affairs.”

Choi Soon-sil is the daughter of Choi Tae-min, a cult leader whose “Eternal Life Church” blended elements of Christianity, Buddhism, and shamanism, according to The Telegraph. Choi Tae-min’s influence over Park had been questioned for many years, and after he died in 1994, his daughter remained close to Park.

According to The Telegraph, “Both women are understood to have met decades ago and formed a close relationship when Ms Choi’s fa-

ther allegedly helped the future president contact her late mother in the afterlife. Since then, according to South Korean media reports, the pair have been inseparable – though Ms Choi has never held an official position in the country’s government, nor did she have security clearance.” According to The Telegraph, accusations Choi had guided the president’s choices “on everything from her wardrobe to her strategy on tackling the North Korean regime” resulted in swift public backlash.

Protesters took to the streets during the cold Korean winter, said Griffiths, and their calls for impeachment were swift and unrelenting. The National Assembly voted for impeachment in December, and the Constitutional Court upheld the vote this March.

The shakeup of South Korean leadership comes as international concerns surrounding North Korea continue to grow. According to Choe Sang-hun, North Korea announced on March 19 that

it had tested a high-thrust missile engine. Following the missile test, North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, said “the whole world will soon witness what eventful significance the great victory won today carries.”

United States Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, said, “All options are on the table” for dealing with North Korea, including a potential preemptive strike “if [the North Koreans] elevate the threat of their weapons program to a level that we believe requires action.”

South Korean Prime Minister, Hwang Kyo-ahn, currently acting as interim president in Park’s stead, announced recently that he would not run for the presidential office.

South Koreans will choose their new president on May 9.★

Emma is a sophomore majoring in writing and communication.

WORD ON THE STREET



“No. I say this because in past events there’s been incidents where students have been speaking [on an incident] and then administration does something. They begin to say something after students’ anger is boiling.”

-**Malik Bullock**, Sophomore

“I don’t think so. They never get around to actually answering questions.”

-**Rachel Wake**, Senior



Do you think college administration facilitates effective dialogue?



“Regarding what? I think it depends on the incident. I don’t think there’s a clear answer to that question.”

-**Emily Vargas**, Junior

“I think the SGA provides a great space for dialogue, but I haven’t noticed the administration doing it as much. But that might be because I haven’t been as involved.”

-**Dan Bellerose**, Senior



“From what I have noticed from the emails we’ve been getting, I feel like it’s adding fuel to the fire-it’s putting off a bad communication vibe.”

-**Alex Wood**, First Year

“I appreciated Jack Connell’s email [two weeks ago]. I don’t think there are enough channels to facilitate significant discussion. I think having a diversity coordinator will help with open communication with administration.”

-**Ava Bergen**, Senior



Want to write? Email us at editor@houghtonstar.com

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went to New Era. A panel of employees including alumna, Becky Juroe, told students about the business, their specific positions, and offered advice on how to find a career worth waking up for. Students then had an opportunity to ask questions and talk with the panelists one-on-one. Erik Sorensen '20 found this part of the trip particularly beneficial. He said, "I gained a greater understanding what companies are looking for in a Data Science. They are looking for someone who can communicate with others and who have a great personality. 'Attitude over aptitude' as Fil Szabluk, the Senior IT Manager for New Era, put it." The students then embarked on a tour of their headquarters. Ashley Hughes '17 said this was her favorite part of the trip because it is such a unique work environment. There was music playing, bright colored walls, turf in place of typical flooring, and

ping-pong tables in a few rooms.

The group met back together at the Upstate New York Transplant Services office (UNYTS). A representative from UNYTS gave a presentation on what the organization does, including common misconceptions regarding organ and tissue donations. Employees from the company then met with students in small groups, which were organized by area of interest.

The students that attended the trip said they found the event to be a huge success. Aaron Esienhardt '17 said, "I enjoyed meeting with recent Houghton graduates and hearing their perspectives on how they handled transitioning from the Houghton bubble into the real world. Seeing how employees perceive working for nonprofit organizations versus working for regular companies was eye opening. If you ever are presented with the opportunity to network, I recommend taking full advantage of it."★



COURTESY OF SERGIO MATTÀ

Sergio Matta '19 led a group of students on a trip to Washington, D.C. with the Friend's Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), a lobbying group based in the nation's capitol. Sergio, an intern with FCNL, and the students participated in Spring Lobby Weekend, where they learned how to effectively lobby their senators and representatives. The weekend culminated with meetings with representatives and their staff, in which students lobbied for the retention of the Affordable Care Act and the food stamp program (SNAP).

Professors Host Variety Show: One Willard Way

SARAH VANDEBRAKE

Four professors will host One Willard Way, a variety show built around comedy and music, this Saturday. Professor of education Connie Finney, who organized the show, said that she hopes One Willard Way will "showcase some of the talent on campus, especially among faculty, staff, and community members." Department chair and professor of communica-

tion Douglas Gaerte, a participant, said "We've had fun doing it. For those of us who live here, we have lives outside of the classroom and it's fun to do some creative kinds of things."

Finney said there are a variety of acts lined up for the show on Saturday. Gaerte will act as an MC, giving "comical advertisements for local businesses," according to Finney. Finney also said she plans to perform a storytelling act, "Conversations with Laura." Paul and Debbie Young will perform a song from the musical "Fiddler on the Roof," and a stu-

dent readers' theater group will dramatize a scene from "General Hospital," a TV medical drama. Additionally, Laurie Smalley will play the folk harp and professor of visual communication, Dave Huth, will display some of his photos of amphibians.

Finney also said that there will be a game show to engage the audience, called "Hymn Sing Dutch Blitz." She said, "There will be a line from a well-known hymn, but the line will not be as well-known, and the contestants will have to be the first to slap down their Dutch Blitz card and guess

the hymn." Laurie Smalley, a teacher at Houghton Academy, said Hymn Sing Dutch Blitz is the portion of the show she is most looking forward to. After a hymn is guessed correctly, Smalley will play the first stanza on her harp.

A production of One Willard Way also took place last semester during homecoming weekend and "had a great crowd," according to Gaerte. For Saturday's show, Gaerte said the participants have tried to "incorporate things that are similar [to the last show]" and he continued, "even if you went

last fall at homecoming, you should come to this one because there will be fresh material." Finney said she hopes to establish the variety show to occur at least once a semester, and she also noted in the future she envisions the show being livestreamed so that alumni and other online viewers can participate. In addition to the performance this Saturday, One Willard Way will take place on the Saturday of graduation weekend in May. This week's hour long variety show will be at 3 p.m. in the Center for the Arts Recital Hall (CFA) and is free to attend.★

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35 and over for the adult division. Each team includes between three and four players. Additionally, up to ten individuals were invited to sign up for slam dunk and three point shooting contests.

Harold "Skip" Lord, Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, explained this is the "first time" Houghton College has hosted the

WNY 3 on 3 Tournament. He said, "It is unique in that most of these kinds of events are hosted outdoors in the summer in a kind of street ball format. Holding it in the field house will allow us to start before any of the other outdoor tournaments happen. We are hoping it will eventually grow into a fairly large and popular event."

Because of this is the first time Houghton has hosted an event such as this, there is no verdict regarding how the

tournament will stack up to the popularity of other 3 on 3 tournaments, such as the summer Gus Macker Tournament in Olean, New York. However, Marshall Green, KPAC Facilities Marketing and Scheduling Coordinator, stated, of the 66 teams that are registered, the 14-18 boys and girls make up the largest age group.

Adult participants may win cash prizes at the tournament. The tournament website stated whichever men's

and women's teams of the Elite Division win first place will receive trophies and \$400 cash. Additionally, trophies and \$100 cash will be awarded to the winners of the slam dunk and 3-point contests. However, any participants in high school are ineligible and cannot win cash prizes.

Lord stated the men's and women's basketball teams will help run the event. "We couldn't do it without them," he said. "It will have a posi-

tive impact on our ability to hit our KPAC missional revenue goals." Green added, "Houghton is very excited to be hosting the first annual WNY 3-on-3 Indoor Basketball Tournament. This is an amazing opportunity to get players together of all ages and skill levels from throughout the Upstate region. With the size and scope of our venue, we will be able to host upwards of 200 teams so I am expecting some extreme basketball talent to show up."★

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ous campus group leaders, attend a worship night, and go to our After Party dance in the Nielsen Center. Many of these activities will be avail-

able for current students too, and we hope everyone will attend."

"One of the hallmarks of the Houghton experience is the close friendships that current students form with each other. As a Houghton alum myself, I have seen first-hand the lifetime impact

that these relationships have had," Ryan Spear, Director of Admissions, explained. In the context of the upcoming weekend, he said "We wanted to provide prospective students the chance to experience a taste of that first-hand and begin to make those important connections and

see how Houghton is an ideal place not only to receive a high-quality, Christ-centered education, but to make lasting connections."

He emphasized the importance of connections not only between the new students, but with the rest of the campus. "To truly show stu-

dents what a distinct college we are, it takes a whole team, admission, current students, faculty, administrators, staff members, you name it. It's a pretty neat experience to see the entire campus come together and show the 'Houghton hospitality' that we have become known for."★

Gillette Hosts Annual Banquet at Old Olean Library

*This March 25th,
be our guests*

*Gillette
Banquet*

7:00pm-10:00pm
Old Olean Library, Olean, NY
\$17 for Gillette Residents
\$20 for non-Gillette Residents
Ticket sales Feb. 20-25 and March 6-11
at Gillette Main Desk 7pm-11pm
Includes: Dancing, socializing, **unlimited
catered dessert** and fun!

2017

COURTESY OF REBECCA FIRSTBROOK

The Gillette Banquet is one of the dorm's three annual identity-building activities, and the only one that is held off campus.

ABIGAIL TAYLOR

On Saturday, March 25 at 7 p.m., Gillette Hall will host their annual banquet

at the Old Library in Olean, New York. The theme for this year's banquet, "Be Our Guest," will feature red roses, candles, and high bookshelves to bring guests into the magi-

cal world of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. The banquet will include music and dancing, with unlimited dessert, including multiple flavors of cheesecake, apple pie, fruit, and a chocolate fountain.

This year's banquet is a continuation of a long standing tradition in Gillette Hall. A history so long, according to Resident Director (RD) Laura Cunningham, "I'm not sure when it actually began. It has always, just, existed." Cunningham said she even checked with René Stempert, Head of Custodial in Gillette, who has worked at Houghton for 23 years. Stempert said the banquet was already a tradition when she began working at Houghton. In regards to the location of the banquet every year, Cunningham said that it varies. "During my time here it's been held in Mount Morris, Olean and Wellsville." She continued, "I like that we explore different venues in the area and encourages residents to visit different communities outside of campus."

Rebecca Firstbrook '18, Assistant Resident Director (ARD) of Gillette, is the one in charge of overseeing the event. About the banquet, she said, "This is one of our three dorm identity building events

and it is often considered the most significant because it is off campus and people pay to attend." Firstbrook said that her favorite part of planning the banquet is watching the Resident Assistants (RAs) come together to help organize and pull off the event. "This will only be the second year where RAs are overseeing the entire event, it used to be overseen by the Event Planning Committee," she said. Firstbrook is also excited for this year's theme and venue of the Old Library center. "The towns that they [banquets] are hosted in are a chance to hang-out with friends" she said. "A lot of fun memories are made there."

This will be the third year Kathryn Moore '18, an RA in Gillette, attends the banquet. She said, "I have always loved seeing classmates get dressed up and for us to all share an experience off campus." This year, she has been a part of the planning process for the banquet. "It has been an amazing experience" she said, and then went on to describe her specific role in helping to plan the banquet. "I had the opportunity of helping out with the playlist this year, which is one of my favorite things to do. I love the thought of bringing

people together through music, and I am confident that the music this year will do that," she said. "There will be some classics played, a swing dance song, current pop music, some rap, Disney, oldies but goodies, and lots more," she added. Moore is confident that this year's banquet will be unforgettable, especially with the elegant venue, decorations, and desserts.

Jensyn Elliott '17 first went to the banquet when she was a sophomore. She said, "We had a good time at the banquet. We loved the food, and we had a blast dancing as well." Elliott also stated she felt honored to be a part of Gillette, and she plans on attending this year as well. She said, "I'm really looking forward to it."

Gillette will also host their tradition of having a prep night on Thursday night before the banquet, which will consist of dancing lessons, makeup and nail tutorials, and crafts in the main lounge. Residents will be able to take what they learned at prep night to get ready for Saturday night, when the real fun begins. Gillette Hall is looking forward to hosting a magical night for all who choose to be their guest.★

Photo
of the
Week

Cody McCarty
'19



Equestrian Center Hosts Conference

ANNA SCHILKE

trian center one of the nicest in the area, it is also one of the only facilities certified by the CHA. The combination draws a lot of people from the area to events, like the conference, that the center holds.

Houghton’s association with the CHA does not stop at being CHA certified. According to Grifoni, Houghton’s equestrian program director, Jo-anne Young is also the CHA Region 5 Director. However, that connection does not automatically mean that Houghton would be selected to host the event. “It’s kind of cool, and kind of an honor that we were selected to host the event,” said Grifoni. “We’re small, tiny little Houghton, and we’re getting to host the regional conference. It’s a big deal.”

Small as Houghton College may be, this honor is not out of the ordinary for the Equestrian Program. They were named one of “20 most amazing college Equestrian Centers” by Best Value School earlier in March, and recently received a large anonymous donation that will enable them to expand their indoor riding arena.

The workshops offered as part of the conference all focus on teaching, rather than on riding specifically. “Workshops aim at helping instructors improve teaching

The Houghton Equestrian Center will host the Region 5 Certification Horsemanship Association (CHA) Conference from March 31 to April 1. The conference is a series of workshops designed to help riders from all over the area improve their skills from specialty instructors. Attendees can choose from ten different workshops to attend. All the workshops are scheduled for different times, so guests have the option of doing one or all.

The CHA is a group that offers distinction to schools and instructors who they deem meet specific equine standards. “Our facility is CHA certified, it meets a certain level of standard for teaching and facilities,” said Lauren Grifoni ‘19, an equestrian major. “Your facility doesn’t have to be CHA certified,” added Andrea Crickard ‘17, another member of the program. According to Grifoni, not only is Houghton’s eques-



MICHAEL SIEVERS

Houghton’s Equestrian Center will host the Region 5 Certification Horsemanship Association Conference next weekend, which will include ten workshops from specialty instructors.

techniques and develop and educated eye,” the registration form reads. The sessions focus on things like “the power of self evaluation,” “teaching sidepassing,” and “teaching skills vs. Traffic Control.” According to Grifoni, out the of the ten workshops offered, there is something for everyone. Each individual workshop is ten dollars, one full day of five workshops is fifty dollars, and all workshops together cost seventy-five dollars. Workshops are taught by qualified instructors, and lunch is included in the price of a full day.

Although the conference is open to anyone who might wish to participate, according to Larissa Strappello, the coordinator of the event, it is especially beneficial to those interested in CHA certification. She said, “The conference is one way riding instructors who are certified through CHA can obtain continuing education hours towards the twenty-five hours they must have every three years to maintain their status as CHA certified instructors.” Strappello added the event is “a great day of learning and connecting with other equine enthusiasts.” Grifoni echoed the sentiment, saying she was looking forward to the event.★

Student Led Fun Run Benefits Charity

JONAN PILET

Houghton College’s recreation department program planning class is hosting a 5K Fun Run on April 2. The race starts at 3 p.m. and the Field of Dreams. Sign in begins at 1:45 p.m. the day of the event. There is a suggested donation of \$10 with the cash or check collected at the time of the event. All proceeds from this event are being donated to Allegany County Cancer Services (ACCS).

Events created through the program planning class start as assignments from assistant professor in the department of sport recreation and wellness Laura Alexeichik. She encourages them to be creative and to think about events that will appeal to what those in the Houghton community want or need. “Through this class my students are learning the details of creation, design, and the employment of events. It’s difficult to plan successful events,” Alexeichik said.

Bridget Dowling ‘17, a recreation equestrian performance major involved in the planning of this event, said, “The event planning process started with a group of students [in the program planning class] getting together and wanting to make a difference in Houghton’s local community.”

When asked how the group came up with the charitable aspect of the event, fellow program planning classmate, Rebecca Rex ‘18, a recreation equine management major with minors in business, psychology and equine therapies, explained that they wanted to make the event more immediate to their participants. “The majority of our program planning class has had at least one family member, or close friend, battle cancer,” said Rex. “After looking at the charities in and around Allegany County we decided that ACCS would be best because it has established an intimate impact on the community.” Dowling agreed, adding that, “ACCS was the perfect charity to donate to because they are Allegany County based.”

Rex also sees this event as

a way to cultivate her event planning skills. “This is for a great cause as well as allowing us to further our education,” she said. “The skills we have gained and sharpened through this course will allow us to be better professionals in our work fields.”

Other students in the program planning class have events coming up as well. These events include a Magic: The Gathering card tournament in Wellsville on April 1, a scavenger hunt called the “Highlander Hunt” on April 23 from 2-4 p.m., and Boces Sports Spectacular on Friday, April 21. Boces Sports Spectacular has been an annual event where Houghton’s program planning class works with bocce schools from all over Allegany County to engage kids from this area. There will be pony rides, canoeing, rock climbing, human bowling, and much more.

Alexeichik see this as a valuable experience for the students in her class. “I love seeing students grab ahold of these opportunities, taking what they learn in class and getting excited about planning events. Impacting the community.”

Rex and Dowling both hope for a good turnout on April 2. Dowling said, “It is open to everyone! You can walk, run, hop, skip or jump your way to the finish line!”

For more information and to register online go to www.houghton.edu/5k/.★



5k Fun Run



**Donations Collected to Benefit
Allegany County Cancer Services**



WHERE: Field of Dreams (Houghton, NY)



WHEN: April 2, 2017



Race Starts at 3pm



Sign In begins at
1:45 PM
day of event



Suggested Donation:
\$10 (cash or check
collected at time of
event)



In lieu of t-shirts all
proceeds from this
event will be donated to
Allegany County
Cancer Services

Register Online at www.houghton.edu/5k/

 *"It's amazing what we can accomplish
when we're in it together"*

Sponsored by the Recreation Dept. Program Planning Class

FACEBOOK.COM

The Fun Run is part of a program planning class project that is trying to raise money for cancer services in the area.

Discussing Sexual Assault



ANTHONY BURDO

JACKSON WHEELER

Take Back the Night, Houghton’s annual week-long examination of the effect of sexual assault across college campuses, is fast approaching. Discussing a controversial topic is hard. We all know this. Nothing worth talking about isn’t. Take Back the Night will attempt to encourage dialogue that seeks to explore the relationship between victim, perpetrator, and bystander. More broadly, the event examines the

ways in which men, women, boys, and girls, by reasoning together, can address the issue in a more holistic way. The goal is to promote unity and to understand sexual assault as not merely a “women’s issue.” The language we use when discussing sexual assault is important, as it is with all matters pertaining to injustice. Such a dialogue should be engaging and accessible to an audience that may not fully understand the extent of the issue. It is of the utmost importance to avoid using language that risks alienating key members of that audience.

No one would disagree that sexual assault is a huge problem. It is an atrocious, dehumanizing act that robs victims of their physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. However, like all matters of injustice, the mere suggestion of sexual assault can elicit a variety of powerful responses. Preconceived notions run wild, and speculation about the victim’s character begins to form. Again, no one would deny that sexual assault is anything less than horrific, but our reactions are not always appropriate to the

situation.

As important as conversation around this issue is, many men are unwilling to participate in dialogue with proponents of social change because they feel that admitting the problem could make them complicit in the culture that surrounds assault. No one wants to feel targeted, but these feelings are often due

“By refusing to take part in a conversation we risk drowning out real change and we open the door to... misconstrued arguments... and language that divides rather than unifies.”

to a misunderstanding of the argument. However, part of that misunderstanding stems from exclusive language that can delegitimize the experience of men. Such language is unhelpful, and removes a voice from a discussion that direly needs multiple perspectives.

The way we react to being told there’s a problem is important. By flying to Twitter or Facebook to rant, we very rarely achieve anything of real substance. Hearing a buzzword in an argument, lecture, or chapel

and tuning out because of some perceived loss of the speaker’s credibility isn’t productive. It stifles progress and builds up barriers. By refusing to take part in a conversation we risk drowning out real change and we open the door to more of the same: misconstrued arguments, the alienation of key demographics, and language that divides rather than unifies.

This has to be avoided at all costs. Where sexual assault is concerned, there are challenging systemic problems that have to be addressed. For example, why are the

perpetrators of sexual assault overwhelmingly male? Where in the male developmental process does the behavior that fuels it begin to show? This is a conversation meant to be had by men and women, so that together, we can advocate for an end to sexual assault.

Seminars, surveys, and informational videos certainly communicate a clear message against harassment and improper behavior, but their effectiveness is hampered greatly by their oftentimes dry execution. We

need more than that if we expect to see a change in the way society deals with sexually based offenses. Critics of the seminar/survey method call such measures like sensitivity training a mechanical response unlikely to amount to substantial progress. What many psychologists and activists recommend instead, is leadership training and tying the issue back to the initial point of the value of communication.

By holding ourselves to higher standards, by governing closely the words that leave our mouths, and by holding others to those standards accordingly is how a culture begins to change. Martin Luther King Jr. cautioned, “In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.” He urged his listeners to not sit idly by while their brothers and sisters marched in the streets, but to make their voices heard. Individuals against sexual assault share the same vision.★

Jackson is a senior political science major with minors in Spanish and business administration

Beauty And The Boycott



MICHAEL SIEVERS

JAKIN RINTELMAN

The way popular forms of media create and imitate culture has always been a point of contention amongst consumers with a religious eye. Yet it elicits an unexpectedly intimate sting when you find yourself at moral odds with art that you thought came from a trusted source. For the majority of Westernized culture, Disney is a synonym for family wholesomeness. My generation was raised on the *The Little Mermaid*, *The Lion King*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. Now, in order to tap into the financial potential of such a nostalgic

era of filmmaking, Disney is releasing live-action remakes of these stories. Part of the appeal of such projects is the effect time has in the retelling of the familiar. However, the changes are not just technical. With LGBTQ+ representation in media growing more common, Disney’s decision to embrace this change in the live-action *Beauty and the Beast* has left some Christians angry. There have been public calls for boycotts, open letters to Hollywood asking for revisions, and a general sentiment of “I don’t understand why they needed to change the story I grew up with by making a character gay.” While I understand this stems from a place of genuine concern, I am convicted that not only is this kind of interaction with art unhelpful, but it is not a Christian way to engage with the world.

Disney has an agenda, but that agenda is parallel to what is becoming culturally acceptable. This has never not been the case. When Andy Griffith prayed at his family’s dinner table, America generally identified as Christian. Disney films appealed to that same sense of morality. It was the culture, and they continue to act similarly today in an environment

that is less conservative. Calling it an agenda, when their platform is inspired by the climate in which they create and release content, is similar to claiming that a pastor has a religious agenda when preaching on Sundays. While it is technically true, the label means very little. Certainly anyone can come in and listen, just as anyone can go see a film, but it would be ridiculous for a non-religious visitor to hear people affirming

“Watching movies is not something we should partake in to have our beliefs affirmed, but to exercise our capacity for empathy.”

the existence God in such a place and attempt to boycott the church. They weren’t a part of the culture of the church in the first place, even if they are invited to be. You cannot disconnect an expression from the setting in which it was conceived and created simply because it is visible to you.

If you decide to boycott a film based on an honest representation of humanity, then you have missed the point of sharing in creative human expression. The basis of storytelling has always been the buildup of tension created by pain and conflict, a unique product of sin, that eventually

results in some sort of resolving conclusion. This means that art is inherently tainted by the reality of sin nature the same way that humanity is. So avoiding a single work based on what you perceive to be morally incompatible is counterintuitive, unless you choose to remove yourself from engaging in art as a whole.

Whether or not homosexuality is a sin is not the issue. Art is meant to express the totality of the human experience and we cannot exclude an entire social group from being

represented simply because their lifestyles do not align with another group’s moral convictions. Watching movies is not something we should partake in to have our beliefs affirmed, but to exercise our capacity for empathy. After all, the ability to relate to others is a muscle, something that must be trained. If we are to be like Christ then we must engage with the world the way he did, while still acknowledging the failings of humanity. This is what expression is, a way to connect and revel in the unique emotional imprints of each one

of us holds within us. When we respond to popular culture as if it’s surprising that it does not live up to personal moral convictions that we all fall short of daily, then we have forgotten that.

Everyone has the right to have stories told about them, no matter what. Don’t forget that when you go to the theater, read a book, or listen to music, that you are listening to the inner thoughts of someone’s personal expression, shared with you, not simply something to affirm you and your faith. It is a special vulnerability to experience this, treat it with care, and listen as Jesus would listen. The culture of the world will always be the world’s, and we are all a part of it. Whether or not you choose to see a film in which a gay character is portrayed positively, you are still called to interact with the world as an ambassador for Christ: with love and empathy.★

Jakin is a senior communication major with a concentration in media arts and visual communication.

A Nice Hill To Die On



MICHAEL SIEVERS

IAN DEHAAS

Millennials are terrible at picking causes. We just throw our attention and energy into the next cause that walks by, because we have been fed the idea that all causes are important. This is entirely understandable. There are so many things marketing to our desires and ideals. Even good social movements use viral marketing and attention-

grabbing techniques, trying to persuade us that they're worth our blood, sweat, and tears. It's hard to discern what's worthwhile for a generation that desires to make real change in the world. We are driven and compassionate, and we want to change our broken systems, broken politics, and broken ecology. We wish we could change it all.

Someone once told me to think carefully about what hill I want to die on. By this, they meant, "You only die once; where would you be satisfied dying? What would be okay to sacrifice for?" This metaphor provides some much needed perspective on decision making. There are many things I disagree with in my environment, but I have limited energy and time to change those things. Finding the right hill to die on is important.

Our generation has a tendency to choose causes poorly. Therefore, I want to leave you with a few things to

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keep in mind when you select a cause to champion.

First, keep in mind that not all causes are created equal. A Kickstarter campaign to make a giant potato salad and Black Lives Matter are about as different as campaigns can be. One changes lives and the other changes a moment on the Internet. There is no comparison. This is why Black Lives Matter makes history and a supermassive potato salad does not.

Second, apathy is a trap which deeply believing Millennials can easily step into. Taking part in too many causes wears down our ability

to care. We only have so much energy for caring, and if we join too many causes that caring energy will soon be depleted. This is how being human works. No one wants an apathetic supporter. In fact, apathy will discredit the importance of the cause. Don't become a part of something you don't fully believe in. If you don't fully believe in it, it's simply not the hill for you.

The third thing to consider when choosing a cause is whether the cause hurts people. How many people are being hurt by the words and actions of that cause? Think about it long and hard. Is it worth it? If you do join a cause that hurts people, don't expect those who are hurt by you to understand your actions. Don't expect anyone outside of that cause to understand.

Never put your causes before people, even if it seems like those causes are for people. Find a better solution.

Finally, keep in mind that making no decision is still a decision. You're still giving an answer. Saying nothing is most definitely saying something. Choosing to not participate in a cause shows others that you don't value something. This is not a call to reject all causes. On the contrary, the drive to change things in the world may be the single best attribute of the Millennial generation. I want to encourage you to find something bigger than yourself to pour into and to make better. It would be such a waste to be divided and disconnected. So please, be thoughtful and real and find a hill where you can firmly plant your roots and grow into someone who changes the world.★

Ian is a senior majoring in communication and theology.

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Artist of the Week

Hannah Banks

//senior studio art major



MICHAEL SIEVERS



Titles & Media

clockwise descending

A Dream, oil on canvas & handmade paper

For the Beauty of the Earth, stoneware & porcelain

Portrait of a Baby, watercolor

Thoughts on Ruin, oil on canvas & handmade paper

Portrait, pastel pencil

“Every day is a good day when you paint.”
- Bob Ross

