

Free Tuition Program Passed

JORDAN TRAUTWEIN

Governor Cuomo gave a press release on April 8 announcing the new Excelsior Program, which would offer free tuition to all New York State universities (SUNY) and colleges (CUNY) for low-income residents. The recently approved program makes New York the first state to offer free tuition in any form.

Cuomo argued, "Today, college is what high school was—it should always be an option even if you can't afford it. The Excelsior Scholarship will make college accessible to thousands of working and middle class students and shows the difference that government can make."

The press release announces a newly approved

budget for education that offers "a record \$7.5 billion in total support for higher education, a \$448 million, or 6.3 percent, increase over last year." In addition to a free tuition, the funding will go towards increased resources for TAP, 'Get On Your Feet' Loan Forgiveness Program, and an \$8 million allocation for open education resources for SUNY and CUNY students.

The Higher Education Service Corporation (HESC) states the requirements plainly on its website. "If you are a NYS resident whose family household adjusted gross income does not exceed \$100,000 for the 2017-18 academic year and you complete 30 credits per year, you will be able to at-

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Talent Show Revived

MICAH CRONIN AND
CARINA MARTIN

Tomorrow night, the student-led "Houghton's Got Talent" show will premiere. According to the college calendar, the show will take place from 9-11 p.m. in Wesley Chapel. Travis Trotman '17 said he organized the event during his internship with the Campus Activities Board (CAB), "for my (communication) major".

"I had to create two events throughout this internship. AC Taylor, my supervisor, and CAB are helping me run the talent show," he said. According to Trotman, the show will be "almost like Spot but without a theme." There will be judges and prizes, with a variety of acts including "some singing, some dancing, [and] some standup comedy." Trotman even teased the possibility of a few duo and group acts, and praised participants' originality. "Usually in SPOT

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While the participants are confidential, the acts will include "singing, dancing, and some stand-up comedy"

Townhouse Hosts Palooza



FACEBOOK.COM/HOUGHTONCOLLEGE

JORDAN TRAUTWEIN

it's pretty much kept on that same base but we've added a few elements along the way that attract a wider community member audience."

Community members and families are welcome to join students in enjoying the activities.

"This year, like past years, will have live music, hot dogs, and many different 'carnival' booths," Taggart explained. "For example, we will have face painting, cotton candy, popcorn, a 40 foot obstacle course, a home run derby bounce house, and more." New to this year's festival is two inflatables, instead of the usual one.

Miller acknowledged another addition to the traditional activities. He said, "We invite clubs on campus to see if they want to host

This year's Houghton Palooza will be on Saturday, April 29 running from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Townhouses. In the case of bad weather, it will take place in the Campus Center's Van Dyke Lounge.

According to Theresa Taggart '18, primary planner for this year's Houghton Palooza, the event has been happening annually for over 10 years. JL Miller, Resident Director (RD) for the Townhouses, added, "It was originally student-started with the idea of an end of the year music festival making use of the talent we have on campus and enjoying the good weather. And since then

See **PALOOZA** page 2

"It was originally student-started with the idea of an end of the year music festival making use of the talent we have on campus and enjoying the good weather," according to Townhouse Resident Director, JL Miller. "And since then it's pretty much kept on that same base but we've added a few elements along the way that attract a wider community member audience."

National // Carl Paladino Faces Hearing



MICHAEL SIEVERS

MICAH CRONIN

Buffalo school board member, Carl Paladino, will face a hearing with the New York State Education Commissioner, Mary Ellen Elia, on June 22 to decide whether he ought to be removed from his

position, according to The Buffalo News.

Over four months ago, Paladino participated in an interview with a local Buffalo paper, Artvoice. The paper interviewed local artists, educators, and politicians on their ideas and hopes for the new year. Among the questions, Artvoice asked participants, including Paladino, "What would you most like to happen in 2017?" and "What would you like to see go away in 2017?"

Paladino answered:

"1. Obama catches mad cow disease after being caught having relations with a Herford. He dies before his trial and is buried in a cow pasture next to Valerie Jarret, who died weeks prior, after being convicted of sedition and treason, when a Jihady cell mate mistook her for being a nice person and decapitated her.

2. Michelle Obama. I'd like her to return to being a male and let loose in the outback of Zimba-

bwe where she lives comfortably in a cave with Maxie, the gorilla."

The Buffalo City School District is 48% Black or African American, 18.7% Hispanic or Latino, and has a growing Muslim community, according to The Buffalo News and NYSED.gov.

The Buffalo News also reported protesters from local activist groups have twice disrupted school board meetings following Paladino's remarks. Members of the Buffalo chapters of Just Resisting, Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), Queers for Racial Justice, chanted "Hey, hey, ho, ho, Paladino's got to go" over meeting proceedings, according to The Buffalo News. They also vocally decried his "racism, homophobia, and transphobia".

Houghton alum Member of SURJ and Queers for Racial Justice, Harper Bishop '07, wrote in a press release following the April 19 protest, "It has been over 100 days since a majority of the

Board voted to request Paladino's removal. Commissioner Elia has the power to remove any board member who has been found to be unqualified for the job for which he was elected. Since that time numerous groups and individuals have demanded his resignation, including an online petition at Change.org that currently has 24,350 signatures."

Bishop continued, "The foreword to the Buffalo Board of Education's bylaws includes this: 'Our students should be prepared not only to survive in the future, but to thrive in it; not only to accept the future, but to contribute to its shaping; not only to be swept along by the future, but to evaluate its moral worth and direction.' The message tonight: let that moral worth and direction be towards justice, away from racism."

In response to the protests, Paladino stated the protesters were "Uninformed, overzealous,

spoiled kids clueless of the merits of the issue, over-exercising their First Amendment right to deny my First Amendment right and disrupting the rights of others."

Paladino said he plans to file a lawsuit. The Buffalo News reported he has alleged to the State Education department that he is "the victim of an illegal, coordinated conspiracy to get him off the board." His lawyer, Dennis C. Vacco, said Paladino's constitutional rights to free speech were violated. ★

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Micah is a senior Theology student.

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tend a SUNY or CUNY college tuition free."

In future years the cap for family income will increase. The following year will include families with a gross income of up to \$110,000. From 2019 and beyond a family earning up to \$125,000 can qualify. Students already enrolled in a SUNY or CUNY institution can also benefit from

the new program.

The intention behind the additional funding, according to its press release, is to work towards "alleviating crushing burden of student debt and placing more New Yorkers on path to financial security." Of families who meet the economic standards, 80% are calculated to qualify for the program.

Students who meet the monetary requirements must be consistently on track to

graduate in four years with a passing grade point average (GPA) in order to maintain their free tuition. Graduates are then required to live in New York State for as many years as they benefited from the Excelsior Program. During that time they are not allowed to work in another state. Moving or working outside of New York during that period would result in the remaining years' worth of tuition converting into loans.

Other private colleges, including Daemen and D'Youville, have expressed concerns in outlets such as the "Buffalo News" for how the change will impact their institutions. While the Excelsior program will offer private institutions like Houghton increased Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) funding, the additional funding comes with a stipulation that the school "provide a dollar match and freeze that student's tuition"

until graduation. The state financial aid per Houghton student is up to \$3,000 for students from family incomes of less than \$100,000 a year. The aid the same student would receive over double the aid from a SUNY or CUNY institution.

The schools' presidents also voiced their fears that the lure of free tuition would draw potential students away from private colleges, even when a private education would be a better fit. ★



FACEBOOK.COM/HOUGHTONCOLLEGE

The original purpose for Houghton Palooza was for an end of the year music festival to feature the school's talent.



FACEBOOK.COM/HOUGHTONCOLLEGE

Students and community members will have the opportunity to enjoy music, activities, and snacks such as cotton candy.

PALOOZA from page 1

something, be a part of a little booth to provide an activity and for the first time we got FILA involved so they're going to have a nerf gun tin can shooting gallery."

The intention with the new activities over the years, ac-

ording to Miller, is to be "expanding beyond just the music but still making the music central." As for this year, Miller said, "I'm really impressed by the bands we have lined up. Sometimes we rotate through low times when there's not as many bands available, but this time it's a really full set of bands and musicians that I think students will really enjoy and know."

Miller explained while the event is staff supervised, the intention is for it to be a student run event. "Being the Townhouse Representative of CAB," Taggart commented. "I'm the point person for planning the event. But this event really takes a big team to execute. The townhouse RAs and JL Miller help with planning and getting bands and club participation... We all put

together our best ideas and we delegate tasks to get it done as quickly as possible."

"I'm really just excited to see everyone have a good time," Taggart said of the coming event. "The best part about event planning is seeing people enjoy the work you've put into it. Houghton Palooza is one of my favorite campus events, and I love seeing others go and have fun."

Jill Templeton '17, who has attended two Paloozas in the past, enjoys the event for its opportunity to social and de-stress. "I like it because all my friends are there and not just the ones I go with. It's just an afternoon of fun. You don't have to worry so much about schoolwork, although finals are just around the corner." ★

TALENT from page 1

name of participants confidential, “so it’s for the most part a surprise for the campus.” However, he revealed that the participation pool contains a mix of under- and upperclassmen. “There are a lot of freshman and sophomores,” Trotman said. “After this, people will really know the talent we have.” Until the end of the night, the prizes will remain confidential as well.

Trotman hopes that “Houghton’s Got Talent” may become an annual event. In past years, a similar event called “Houghton Superstar” was popular, and he hopes to breathe new life into that tradition. “I hope to pass on the torch to someone who attends the show,” he stated. “I hope someone else from CAB will pick it up and it will become an annual thing.”

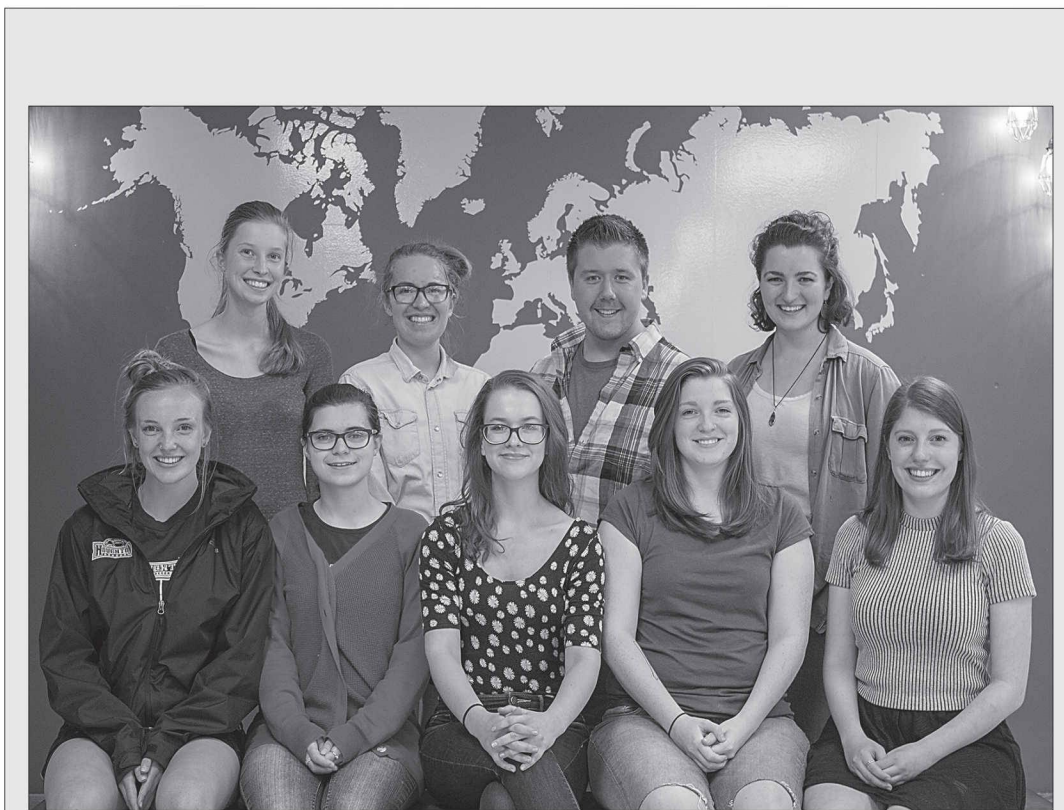
When asked what he was most looking forward to, Trotman said that he was excited “for crowd interaction and reaction to people performing. But I’m also just excited for the judges and how they’re going to interact with the performers, and also pick a winner.” Other students are also looking forward to the new event. “It’s going to be a great show!” Joe Miner ‘18 said. “CAB has put a lot of work into this event and I think it will be a huge success. If you’re looking for a laugh, a cry, or to have your breath taken away, come to Houghton’s Got Talent.” ★

you see mostly singing and videos. There are no videos. This is a talent show.”

Trotman has recruited Zina Teague ‘12, Hunter Gregory ‘17, Sarah Duttweiler ‘17 and Dean Michael Jordan as judges. Trotman will host the show, and Joe Miner ‘18 and Andrew Sherman ‘18 will serve as “the hype people.” The judges will select their favorite performer to receive a prize. “By the end of the night, there will be a winner,” Trotman said. “There will be some acts and talent you wouldn’t have seen in Spot for a while,” he stated.

Soliciting performers for an event so late in the semester did prove difficult. Trotman originally advertised with posters and an all-campus email, but received only three entries. After asking friends for performer nominations, however, he was able to connect with many more talented performers and hold a preliminary audition.

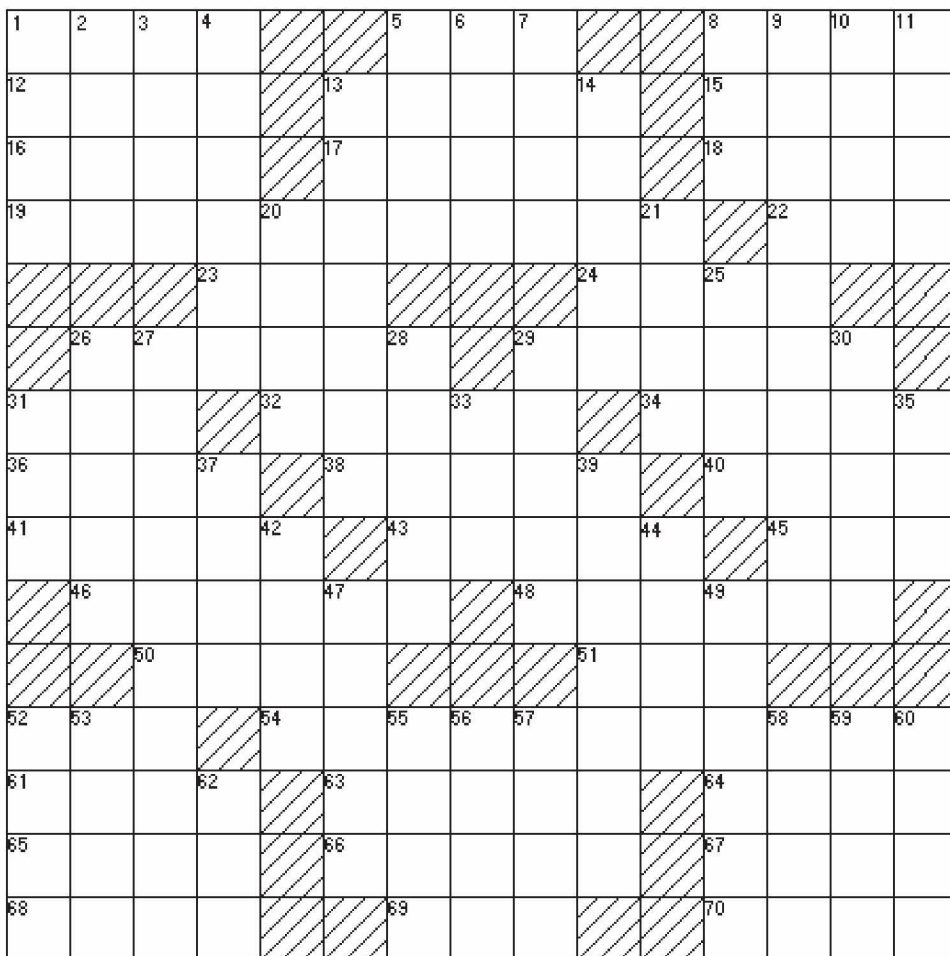
Trotman is keeping the



MICHAEL SIEVERS

The Star would like to welcome the staff for the 2017-2018 academic year; Carina Martin (editor-in-chief), Jordan Trautwein (news editor), Bethany Kuiken (features editor), Emily Vandebosch (photo editor), Michael Sievers (web editor), and Bjorn Webb (business editor). Thank you for a great year, and good luck to the future staff!

CROSSWORD OF THE WEEK



ACROSS

- 1. Jury member
- 5. Armed conflict
- 8. Initial wager
- 12. Hobbling

13. Objection

- 15. Fortuneteller
- 16. Goddess of discord (Greek mythology)
- 17. French for “Queen”

18. Stately aquatic bird

- 19. Expected
- 22. South southeast
- 23. Governor (abbrev.)
- 24. Obscure

- 26. Not daybreak
- 29. Required
- 31. Container
- 32. Balderdash
- 34. Parisian subway
- 36. Dwarf buffalo
- 38. Water vapor
- 40. At the peak of
- 41. Pushpins
- 43. Wives and concubines
- 45. Estimate (abbrev.)
- 46. A “stick” of frozen water
- 48. Steps
- 50. A Central American sloth
- 51. Not her
- 52. Dad
- 54. Traitorous
- 61. Operatic solo
- 63. Left the engine running
- 64. Morally admirable
- 65. Lascivious look
- 66. Measured amounts of medication
- 67. Border
- 68. Means
- 69. Swab
- 70. Espied

- 7. Peewee
- 8. Donkey
- 9. The publication of a club or group
- 10. Earl Grey and orange pekoe
- 11. Coastal raptor
- 13. “Car pilots”
- 14. Christopher of “Superman”
- 20. Price
- 21. Consider
- 25. Bright thought
- 26. A peninsula in northeastern Egypt
- 27. Uninhabited
- 28. A donation of 10%
- 29. Approaches
- 30. Scoria
- 31. A club or stick used in baseball
- 33. ___ green
- 35. Choose
- 37. Similar
- 39. Ways of doing something
- 42. Leave in a hurry
- 44. Principal
- 47. Sensational
- 49. Pictures
- 52. Inner surface of the hand
- 53. Chocolate cookie
- 55. Ancient Biblical kingdom
- 56. As well
- 57. Leak slowly
- 58. Portend
- 59. Balcony section
- 60. Biblical garden
- 62. Exist

DOWN

- 1. Entreaty
- 2. Acquire deservedly
- 3. Radiate
- 4. Quit
- 5. Cry
- 6. Dogfish

First Generation Graduates: Overcoming the Struggle

BETHANY KUIKEN

Being the first to go to college in your family and graduate with a degree is a huge accomplishment whether it happened generations ago, or it is happening a few weeks from now. Every year, Houghton's graduating class is mixed with students who are following in the footsteps of family members that have graduated before them and first-generation graduates.

Ryan Spear, director of admission, said, "This past fall, approximately 35 out of 247 incoming first-year students were first-generation, meaning their parents had not received a college degree."

Jazmine Nova '17 is a first-generation graduate pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in biology with minors in public health and psychology. "It's a lot of pressure," Nova said. "It's a lot to be proud of, but it's also a lot of pressure. College is very different experience as a first-generation graduate, especially when you realize there are a lot of students who have had their parents graduate from college. For example, a lot of Houghton students have parents, aunts and uncles who all went to Houghton."

Since first-generation grad-

uates are the first in their family to pave the way with a college degree, their experience can look different from students who are not first-generation. "Anecdotally, we sometimes find that incoming students who are first-generation do not have some of the benefits of coming from a 'college-going culture' in their home," Spear stated. "This can influence small things such as understanding the basics of the application process to the challenges of the complexity of applying for financial aid."

Nova's experience has been one of continual discovery. "A lot of it I have had to figure out on my own," she said. "A lot of it I'm still trying to figure out on my own."

Spear continued, "However, first-generation students can also be among the most resourceful," he said. "They often realize the importance of college and have a firm commitment to succeeding."

Danielle Eaton '17 is also a first-generation graduate pursuing a bachelor of arts in communication and writing. "While my parents and family are really proud of me, and I'm proud of myself for accomplishing this, there's an enormous amount of pressure that comes with being a first generation graduate," Eaton said. "The fear of disappointing those who've invested in me financially and emotionally to help me earn this degree is what has



MICHAEL SIEVERS

Danielle Eaton '17 and Jazmine Nova '17 are overcoming the struggle and reaping the benefits of being a first-generation graduate.

left me stressed, sleep deprived, and anxious."

Like Nova, Eaton has experienced the strain of being a first-generation graduate. "In a way, that's pushed me to be the best I can be, but sometimes I think it's pushed me to try to extend myself beyond what I'm capable of," she said. "I'm never going to be an A student, and for a while I really struggled with thinking I was disappointing those people who were invested in my success." She continued, "Now, I

know that as long as I'm pushing myself to be the best I can be, and I'm happy with the work I'm doing at the end of the day, that's what matters."

Nova has also reaped the benefits of a first-generation graduate. "Being a first-generation graduate gives you your own sense of freedom. It gives you a sense of independence," she said. "You have to build your own paths and figure out how you're gonna get there."

As May 13, 2017 quickly

approaches, whether you are a first-generation graduate or following in the footsteps of those who have gone before you, the college is proud to celebrate this major accomplishment. "As a whole, I'd say that first generation students are much like the rest of the incoming student population, highly capable students seeking the kind of liberal-arts education that Houghton is known for," Spear said. ★

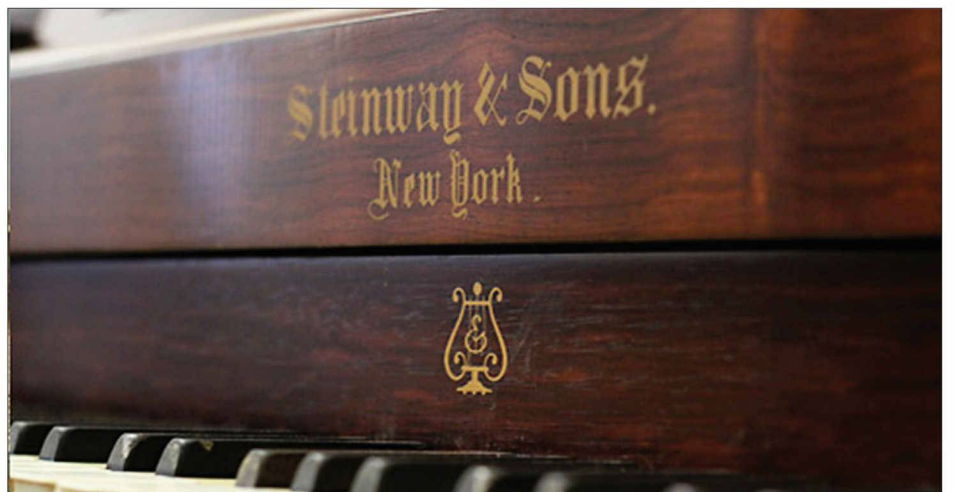
1883 Steinway Piano Gifted to the College

ABIGAIL TAYLOR

makes the piano even more special to Houghton is the sharing of birth years: both the college and the piano were founded in 1883.

The piano was purchased by Bush's great-grandparents, and had been in her family for 130 years. Bush has used the piano all her life, from practicing singing and playing when she was a girl, to sharing with her own family, for 88 years. Bush was always interested in music, and her piano was a huge part of her life. She also has a connection to Houghton through William Newbrough, professor of piano and Distinguished Steinway Artist, who helped to donation become a reality.

According to Armenio Suzano, dean and director of the Greatbatch School of Music, the piano "serves as both a reminder and a signal to all of us. A reminder that we live in a continuum and that history is made everyday, though our actions, our choices, and the contributions we make to the community around us." He continued, "It is also a signal



HOUGHTON.EDU

An 1883 Steinway Piano was recently donated to the college by Florence Bush.

to alert all of us of the important role Houghton College and the Greatbatch School of Music play in the future of music education in western New York and around the country."

Emma Donmoyer '19, a music major, is very excited about the addition of the Steinway piano at Houghton. "The piano is in good condition for its age," she said. "While it's past the point of being in perfect tune, it's still very playable and has a nice touch." Donmoyer

also expressed her love of old pianos, and said, "Every piano has a story, and playing on older instruments reminds me of the wonderful and rich musical history I am blessed to be a part of. I'm very glad we're able to have this beautiful old piano alongside new ones."

The addition of this historical piano maintains the importance of classical music and tradition at Houghton. The Houghton press release also stated, "As the college embrac-

es music industry and worship arts while maintaining its existing classical approach, a new type of student emerges: one well-versed in both traditional and modern methods and who is innovative, passionate and unafraid to adapt to whatever life brings."

Bush was "delighted to find such a fitting home," and she will be happy to know that the piano is in good care and will be well played for many years to come. ★

Jack's Eleven: Excellent Summer Picks

JACKSON WHEELER

with another prequel to the iconic sci-fi franchise? Who knows how it fits into the continuity of the other films in the series but with Ridley Scott back in the director's chair we can only hope for more of the claustrophobic body-horror greatness its brought us over the decades.

3. *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales* – This is the latest entry to a hulking franchise whose best days were over long before 2017, or even 2007... But am I excited for a new Pirates movie with Johnny Depp back in the role that defined the actor for a generation of new fans? I mean yeah, I guess... You are too, right? Javier Bardem's gonna be in it so that's... something...

4. *Captain Underpants* – The iconic Dav Pilkey comic/kids book series touched the soul and laugh boxes of prepubescent schoolchildren the nation over, so of course I'm looking forward to its animated debut on the big screen. With Kevin Hart, Ed Helms, and a supporting cast of famous funny-men and funny-women, expectations are high, even if the trailer didn't make it look that great.

5. *Wonder Woman* – After some seriously underwhelming additions to the DCEU like last year's *Suicide Squad* and *Batman v. Superman*, *Wonder Woman* looks like it may actually be

Thank goodness for the reassuring embrace of summer movies. Sure, we complain out in the open about the lack of originality in Hollywood, the market saturation of subpar adaptations and uninspired sequels, but does that really stop us from seeing them anyway? Deep down we're all hypocrites, and so without shame I am proud to present my list of the eleven films I cannot wait to see from now until August. Why eleven? Because it's prime, just like my taste in movies.

1. *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* – The sequel to one of the best movies in the Marvel Cinematic Universe can't come soon enough. Anything with Chris Pratt is worth watching anyway. You're gonna see it anyway so what else is there left to say?

2. *Alien: Covenant* – What better way to fill the obligatory big-budget summer horror movie void than



WWW.COMICBOOKMOVIE.COM

The latest Spider-Man movie, *Spider Man: Homecoming* will be released July 5, 2017.

a decent watch. Gal Gadot looks great in the role, the story seems compelling enough, the action looks... action-y, so that's good. Let's hope this is the one, DC. *fingers crossed*

6. *It Comes at Night* – Sort of a wild card, a Jackson Wheeler hot take if you will. A lower budget, but all the same scary looking atmospheric horror flick starring Joel Edgerton and produced by A24, which is one of the hottest indie studios working today. If you're feelin' kinda crazy, enjoy a slow burning plot, and want to get spooked, give it a shot.

7. *Cars 3* – I know. I know. I know. It's *Cars*. I get it. But it's Pixar. I know Pixar's been

slipping lately and *Cars 2* was the universally agreed-upon low point, but the trailer hooked me. Call it Stockholm Syndrome, but I trust the kings and queens of American animation. I'm willing to give it a shot.

8. *Baby Driver* – Any fan of Edgar Wright, of his work on *Hot Fuzz*, *Shaun of the Dead*, his tight hilarious dialogue, and frenetic camera work, you will likely be down to see *Baby Driver* his latest project about a young getaway driver who uses music to set up his unpredictable escape routes. Even if you don't know the director give the trailer a watch.

9. *Spider Man: Homecoming* – It's Spider Man. It's back

with Marvel. All is right with the world.

10. *Dunkirk* – It's the guy who made the *Dark Knight* trilogy, *Inception*, *Interstellar*, *Memento*, *The Prestige*... Aren't you a little interested to see what he does with *World War II*?

11. *The Hitman's Bodyguard* – Ryan Reynolds plays world's best bodyguard. Samuel L. Jackson plays the world's best assassin. The former has to protect the latter. Surely, this will be hilarious. The trailer makes me think so, anyway. The number of times the word "m*****f*****" will be said could be legendary. ★



Photo
of the
Week

Shannon Derby

'17

Longing And Belonging



MICHAEL SIEVERS

CARINA MARTIN

“Stop me if you’ve heard this one before.” I am sitting at one of the uneven booths in the dining hall, talking to a friend, dragging my fork through the dribble of ketchup on my plate. “But I can’t wait to leave.”

Over the past two semesters, I’ve had this conversation plenty of times. “I’m not sure why I’m even

here.” “I’m so ready for graduation.” “I just can’t wait to leave, to get out of here. To move on with my life.” “Honestly, I find it hard to believe Houghton will still be here in twenty years.” I sometimes find myself saying the same things.

No wonder we’re all so tired after the past year, with its tumultuous political scene, plenty of controversies closer to home, and a series of social debates that often failed to distinguish between respecting each other’s opinions and acknowledging their humanity. But I think it’s deeper than that. I think it’s because, juvenile as it may sound, none of us truly have homes right now.

I don’t fully belong anymore to my home in Pennsylvania, with its scrappy green fields and roving

“The longer I’ve spent here, the more I’ve found myself wondering if you can be a person, in the fullest sense of the word, without having a place.”

“The Star is another representative of this transitory culture, and maybe that makes us part of this problem.”

cows. But I don’t belong to Houghton, and never will, not in the same way that the people who ink 14744 onto their outgoing bill payments, get their snow tires rotated at a mechanic in Olean, and have novels from the Belfast library on their bedside tables. They are invested in the health and wellbeing of this community in a way that I simply cannot be. Add to this our obsession with “wanderlust” and scorn toward the idea of “settling down,” as if settling down is not what humans have

primarily been doing forever, and it’s no wonder that we can’t be happy where we are.

This exhaustion is to be expected, I suppose, with a community that is so fundamentally transitory. The longer I’ve spent here, the more I’ve found myself wondering if you can be a person, in the fullest sense of the word, without having a place. Without the intention to stay somewhere for a while, without the intention to suffer and grow with it, can you ever belong?

The Star is another representative of this transitory culture, and maybe that makes us part of this problem. Every few years the website or the masthead or the novelty columns might change entirely, depending on what the people in charge think is best. Staff turns over every year. Editors-in-chief cycle

in and out, and each one brings with them a different “mission statement” about what this newspaper should and shouldn’t be, what it ought and ought not to do.

So I’ve been thinking of these lines from Philip Larkin’s poem “Home Is So Sad”: “It stays as it was left, shaped to the comfort of the last to go, as if to win them back. Instead, bereft of anyone to please, it withers.” Right now we are the “last to go,” and conflicted as I am about the culture at Houghton right now, I don’t want it to wither when we’ve gone. That, to me, is part of what being a Christian is: the conviction to treat every place as if it is your place, because all people are your people. I want to shape this place not only to my comfort, but to the comfort of those who will come later. Next year, let’s try to share this conviction together.★

Carina is a senior majoring in English and communication with a concentration in media arts and visual communication.

A Farewell To Stars



MICHAEL SIEVERS

DANI EATON

With 16 (!!!) days until graduation, I’ve found myself reflecting on the amazing and sometimes comically frustrating experience I’ve called undergrad.

After a horrible first semester at a state school, I found myself lost and in search of something new. A friend recommended Houghton and within the week I was on campus for a tour. My love of this place was immediate, and continues to this day. As

my years here passed, though, the cynicism toward Houghton I heard from peers clouded my view of the place that had pulled me from one of the darkest times of my life. Exclamations of horrible professors, a mishandled administration, and threats of transferring came from all around. The more Houghton’s flaws were brought to my attention, the more I began searching for them without even realizing it. Soon I’d forgotten the childlike love I’d had of this place, and criticized everything Houghton offered me.

Senior year rolled around and the nostalgia, that everyone promised would come, appeared. This nostalgia took me back to the first time I’d first come to Houghton as a naive teenager excited for life. This was the Houghton I loved, one that had stoked the flames of passions and taught me to be who I am. This year I truly came to grasp how unique Houghton truly is, and how important it is to appreciate it’s flaws instead of simply complaining about them.

Now, before you grab your

picket signs and prepare to tell me how easy that is to say, and how working for the Star makes me biased, hear me out.

One of the most common complaints I’ve heard about Houghton is in regards to its grading scales. We all moan about the professors who don’t curve their grades, leaving you

“Revel in Houghton’s problems, let them challenge you...Don’t just appreciate the good that Houghton has to offer, appreciate the challenges it presents and the struggles it faces.”

just shy of that A you’ll never let anyone forget you deserve. Yes, Houghton’s academics are difficult and it’s frustrating, but I’ve never had professors that want me to succeed more than the ones here. I’ve been given grace, generous extensions, knowledgeable explanations, and more compassion than one can measure. My professors have pushed me to the limit of my academic ability, but have never let me fall over the edge.

We complain about mandatory chapels, but how else would we achieve the

feeling of community (cue eye roll) Houghton continues to foster? We complain about how often we say and emphasize community, but where else will professors pray with and for you as you struggle through a difficult semester? We complain the administration won’t tell us more, but who else will adamantly

protect their students and employees?

We complain, and complain, and complain. Professors, Sodexo, Safety and Security, parking tickets, broken dryers, lengthy papers, other majors,

etc. There’s always something we’re complaining about, and that’s not going to change, not as new students replace the seniors each year, and not as you leave Houghton and enter the real world.

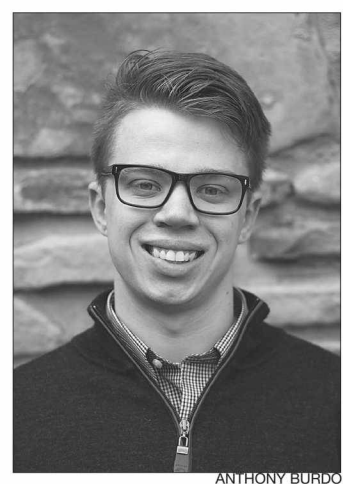
One thing my time at the Star has taught me, is that in order to truly appreciate the beauty and wonder Houghton has to offer, you have to learn to love the bad. I don’t mean love in the sense that you become enamoured with every flaw Houghton has. You don’t need to overlook that there are, indeed,

problems with the institution. Anything good it life will have flaws, that’s a fact. But enjoy the fact that Houghton has flaws. Despite seeing themselves as serving God’s kingdom, they don’t claim to be perfect, and there’s something to be said for that. They’re humble enough to admit when they’ve done wrong, but continue to try to do the right thing in everything they do.

Revel in Houghton’s problems, let them challenge you, and help you grow. Don’t just appreciate the good that Houghton has to offer, appreciate the challenges it presents and the struggles it faces. Without challenge and obstacles, there is no way to measure growth. Let the obstacles stand before you, but don’t let them stop you from getting everything you can out of this place. Be the one to use those obstacles to help you mature physically, spiritually, and mentally instead of someone who simply complains about the roadblocks.★

Dani is a senior majoring in writing and communication.

The Emperor's New Clothes



ANTHONY BURDO

JOE GILLIGAN V

of fear of looking stupid, nobody confessed that the emperor was naked. However, a little child yelled, "He is nude!" Yet, the Emperor walked more boldly than ever, as his noblemen held high his fake cloak and train that weren't there at all.

Today's elite, intellectuals, the mainstream media, Hollywood, and academics, have been sold a new set of clothes that have left them blind and naked to world events. Through their "infallible" knowledge from faulty inductive reasoning, these experts have developed theories that have become

a new secular theology. Their arguments of "settled science" mean the educated faithful must accept scientific theory, even though science should never consider anything settled. Scientific theories are meant to be met with a skeptical mind, not blind acceptance. The perceived "infallibility" of the social sciences is even worse. Economics, political theory, investing, and psychology are becoming increasingly formula based in order to impose a simple meaning to an intricate world. When these polished formulas meet the messy reality of the real world, they can cause damage

and suffering to the rest of the population who do not live in the insulated cloisters of the elites super zip code towns. According to philosopher Nassim Taleb, when making decisions that affect all people, elites "mistake the map for the territory." Their closed minded decisions cannot factor major historic shifts. Major historic changes such as

"Today's elite, intellectuals, the mainstream media, Hollywood, and academics, have been sold a new set of clothes that have left them blind and naked to world events."

the American Revolution, World War I, Martin Luther King Jr., and recently Brexit and Donald Trump's presidential victory were not predicted by these elite. Taleb calls these improbable and disruptive events, "Black Swan events."

The phrase "black swan" originates from Roman times where the elite thought of black swans like unicorns; they did not exist. When someone questioned the time's popular science or political theory, people laughed and said, "Sure and black swans exist!" Then in 1697, a Dutch explorer discovered black swans in Australia which shocked the

western world. The discovery wasn't that significant except for the fact something believed to be a fantasy was now proven to exist. Essentially, Fake News wasn't Fake News anymore.

Today, we live in an era of lost economic growth created by a Black Swan event called the 2008 Financial Crisis which is now nearly a decade old. All the "experts" at the Federal Reserve, U.S. Treasury, U.S. Congress, the White House, and the major Wall Street Banks were unable to predict the

crisis. For years, Americans were told that home-ownership was part of the American Dream. Government officials forced banks to loan to people with little or no money down, and Wall Street embraced it by developing financial innovations such as Mortgage Backed Securities and Collateralized Debt Obligations. These financial innovations are deemed risky today, but in 2007 these innovations were often given a AAA rating. AAA ratings are given only to the safest assets in the financial system. No one thought the housing crisis would occur because it had never occurred in American history. It

seemed to be a safe bet.

Instead of learning a lesson from the Financial Crisis, the political elite passed the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010. Dodd Frank completely misunderstands the symptoms of the crisis. It was not Wall Street's greed to take on risk that caused the crisis. Rather, it was the naked arrogance of Wall Street, credit agencies, and government regulators that created a risk assessment theory that wrongly assumed it mitigated any risk. Dodd-Frank replaces one faulty theory for another, and has destroyed small banks and small businesses that are the engine of the economy.

In the 1960s, the hippie generation proclaimed, "don't trust anyone over 30." Today, that generation has grown up to be a part of the elite. They think we must trust only their worldview, their theories, their formulas, and their news. For the class of 2017, my suggestion is to be skeptical and adaptable. We must look up from our books and boldly experience the world in its true rugged essence.★

Joseph is a senior majoring in accounting and business administration with a minor in economics.



The mission of the Houghton Star is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have characterized Houghton College since its inception. This will be 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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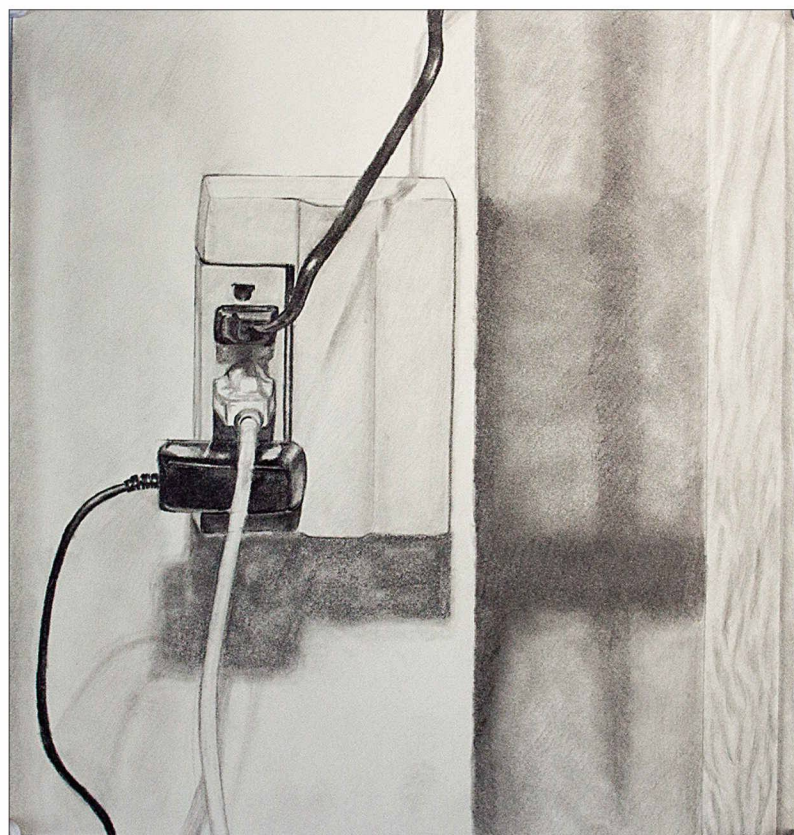
Artist of the Week

Marta Gowett

//senior art and writing major



MICHAEL SIEVERS



Titles & Media

clockwise descending

Surge Protector, *graphite*

Desk Space - Tea Break

mixed media installation

Down Time, *graphite*

Boot on Box, *graphite*

