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2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

DANIELLE SKINNER ('27)

The 2024 presidential election took many people by surprise in one way or another. From President Joe R. Biden, Jr.'s withdrawal and endorsement of Vice President Kamala D. Harris to assassination attempts on former President Donald J. Trump to two disastrous debates with two different candidates, the chaos of this election never seemed to stop.

Trump gained 312 electoral votes compared to Harris' 226; 270 electoral votes are required to win an election. Looking at the popular vote, Trump had 75,457,103 votes, which is over 3 million more than Harris' 72,314,659. Jill Stein, of the Green Party won the most third party votes, with 730,939 votes, about



American Flag

COURTESY OF LUKE MICHAEL UNSPLASH

0.5% of the popular vote.

This year, approximately 244 million Americans were eligible to vote with around 150 million voting, compared to over 158 million in the 2020 presidential election (Bipartisan Policy Center).

The swing states of Georgia, North Carolina,

Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Nevada and Arizona played a key role in this year's election. These states leaned Republican, deciding Trump's victory. Not only did Trump win over all the swing states, he also kept all the states that he held in 2020.

Trump will take office on January 20, 2025 making him the second president to serve two non-consecutive terms; the first being Grover Cleveland in 1892. At 78 years old, Trump will be one of the two oldest presidents in US history by the end of his term,

and the only president to be elected after being impeached. Additionally, he won the most decisive Republican victory since George H. W. Bush in 1988.

In her concession speech, Harris asked Democrats to accept the results of the election, "When we lose an election, we accept the results," and presented a message of a peaceful transfer of power, stating that she "would not give up the fight."

Politics and Philosophy major Raychel Yost '27 expressed an important message that echoes the atmosphere of the election, "Don't let your political identity overshadow your Christian identity, and don't let the election disrupt your relationship with people. If politics is keeping you from loving your neighbor, something is wrong." ★

Lyric Theatre: She Loves Me!

JIANA MARTIN ('26)

Tonight at 7:30 p.m. the Lyric Theatre will perform "She Loves Me" (its second of four shows) in Houghton Academy's Ty-singer Auditorium.

"She Loves Me" is a warm and charming romantic comedy - music by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick and a book by Joe Masteroff - set in a 1930s European perfumery owned by Mr. Maraczek.

Professor Amanda Cox, Director of Houghton's Lyric Theatre, explained, "It is actually based on the same Hungarian play ('Parfumerie' by Miklos Laszlo) that inspired three movies, including the beloved film 'You've Got



Lyric Theater

COURTESY OF HANNAH STURDIVANT

Mail" starring Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks."

The story follows two shop clerks, Amalia Balash and Georg Nowack, who initially cannot stand each other. After responding to a "lonely heart's advertisement" in the newspaper, they are delighted and look forward the love letters they exchange. However, they do not realize they are corresponding with

each other.

"I have had the most wonderful time directing this musical," Cox added, "many of the roles are double cast and it has been such a joy to see each actor bring their own personality and choices to the role."

Cox chose this production because it is her favorite musical and she had been waiting for the right time to put it on. She has

played the role of Amalia twice and finds it to be a beautiful experience directing it now.

Emily Quick '23 is one of the two actresses playing the smart, hardworking, funny, and sometimes unhinged Amalia.

"I see a lot of myself in Amalia, so it's been so much fun getting to portray a character that's already very similar to me," Quick

commented. "It's been great getting to explore such a relatable character who feels such a wide range of complicated emotions."

Despite the challenges, she has enjoyed working with a double cast because it is fun to see how the characters vary depending on who's performing.

Professor Benjamin Lipscomb, one of the two actors who play Mr. Maraczek, expressed, "It's been a delight to work with students I already knew (and some I didn't) as a collaborator."

As he prepares for the show, Lipscomb has reflected on his character's paternal relationship with the men working under him. He considers it essential to establish the relationship early on; otherwise, Mr. Maracek could come across as a jerk when he is stressed and irritated.

Emily Hanes '26, who

Salvation Army Student Fellowship

LOGAN CAROLL ('26)

The Salvation Army was created when William and Catherine Booth saw the poverty stricken people in the slums of London and felt a calling from God to minister to them. In 1865, the Booths created the Christian Mission. The mission was simple: help those in poverty physically, and then share the gospel and connect them with local churches. However, local churches treated the poor as outcasts and didn't want them in their congregations. So, in 1878, William and Catherine decided that if other churches wouldn't accept these people, they would start a church that would welcome them. Borrowing from the popular military language of the time, the Booths set their church up like an army, with its mission to be a church for people other churches forgot about.

The Salvation Army Student Fellowship (SASF) at Houghton University connects students with this same mission, providing opportunities for service and ministry in a local setting.

Upon hearing "Salvation Army," it is common to think about thrift stores and Christmas time bell-ringers; however, it is more than that. At a basic level, it is a church.

Judith Rapley, Houghton Board of Trustees member and former SASF member, stated, "The Sal-

vation Army is more than just a church, it has the ability to touch the whole person from soup and soap to salvation."

Rapley refers to the motto of William Booth: soup, soap and salvation. He firmly believed that if people are to be open to hearing the gospel, they need to have their physical needs met.

The Salvation Army and the SASF have maintained Booth's commitment to meeting both physical and spiritual needs. Houghton's SASF partners with the Salvation Army in Wellsville to provide ways of meeting these needs in a local community setting through service opportunities such as nursing home visitation, food distribution, Christmas assistance and more.

Each opportunity offered allows Christians to act on their faith as Jesus commands in Matthew 25:40 (NIV): "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

The SASF provides the space for students across denominational lines to partner together in ministry.

Emily Stothart, SASF director and pastor of the Wellsville Salvation Army, said, "The SASF is a place where students of all backgrounds come together to serve. While some of our students attend the Salvation Army as their church, not all do, which is a great thing. It allows us to learn from those with

different de-nomination backgrounds, and it allows those who don't attend The Army to see that no matter where they end up, there is a church they know they can volunteer at to serve their local community."

Houghton students have long prided themselves as being "scholar-servants," and the SASF also provides avenues for servanthood post-graduation. The Salvation Army exists across the US, as well as over 135 countries, allowing many service opportunities far beyond the reach of Houghton's campus.

Rapley stated, "The Salvation Army has opportunities to serve around the world... because of the network I made through the SASF, I was able to serve after graduation."

Brynn Dixon '25, SASF President, encouraged people to check out SASF on CampusGroups.

"We have our Christmas Campaign coming up which means lots of opportunities to volunteer in the community," Dixon said. "So if you have a few hours to spare and want to help out come stop by the SASF office and chat with us! Even if you don't think there's something for you to do we can always help you find something that you'll like and enjoy doing! And it helps the community!" ★

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plays Miss Illona Ritter, has enjoyed the opportunities to share fun moments with the cast.

"Even though we've had a lot of late nights, it truly is a joy to be able to do this show with all of these wonderful people," Hanes stated. "It's been a big blessing!"

Her favorite part of bringing her character to life has been exploring Illona's journey from doubt and insecurity to finding love and herself.

"She starts off unsure of herself, caught in shallow relationships, but by

the end, she finds her own voice and realizes she deserves true happiness," Hanes explained.

Audiences can count on an enjoyable evening of laughter and smiling tears.

"The story is so fun, the characters hilarious and engaging, and the music is wonderful and will stick in your hearts and minds for days!" concluded Cox.

"She Loves Me" will perform a 2 p.m. matinee tomorrow, with a final performance at 7:30 p.m. that same night. ★

Question of the Week

Did Adam and Eve have belly buttons?



Also on the STAR website & HUB

Puzzles

All sudokus provided by sudokuoftoday.com.

Diabolical

7		8			2			
	6			4			1	
		2	8					5
3	1				9	6		
		9	6				2	1
2					8	3		
	5			7			9	
			2			8		6

Last Week's Answers

2	8	6	5	9	1	4	3	7
4	5	1	7	3	2	9	8	6
3	7	9	8	4	6	2	5	1
9	3	2	6	5	8	7	1	4
1	4	7	3	2	9	8	6	5
8	6	5	1	7	4	3	9	2
5	1	3	4	8	7	6	2	9
6	2	4	9	1	3	5	7	8
7	9	8	2	6	5	1	4	3

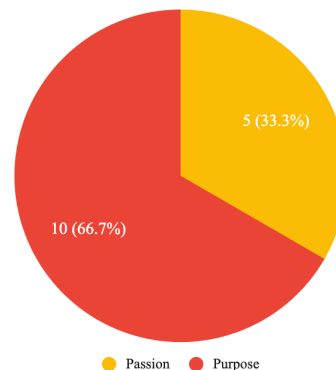
Tricky

5	6	7	1	2	9	3	4	8
4	9	8	3	6	5	1	2	7
2	1	3	4	7	8	9	6	5
8	5	6	7	1	3	2	9	4
1	7	4	6	9	2	8	5	3
3	2	9	5	8	4	7	1	6
7	8	1	9	5	6	4	3	2
9	4	5	2	3	7	6	8	1
6	3	2	8	4	1	5	7	9

Medium

Weekly questions open to anyone affiliated with Houghton University.

Would you rather find your passion or your purpose?



Respondents

Current students (13); Former students (0); Faculty/staff (2)

Why Worship?



Cora Paige

Hey to everyone reading this article! I hope you are having a great Friday, and enjoying the new day God has given us!!

My goal in writing this article is to share some of my favorite reasons why worship is amazing and an effective way to connect with God. Now I will not be discussing worship as the term for service, but instead using music to relate to Christ. Before talking about my reasons, I would like to give you a little background story.

I grew up as an MK in South America and Spain. My parents were always serving in churches, so I was able to really "experiment" with God and find my special area in which I could serve Him. I loved ministering to kids, helping decorate for events, and so much

more, until I discovered music. My parents have had me attend piano lessons since I was five years old. I learned to play classical music and Christmas music. The moment I started realizing I had a "talent" for worship was when my piano teacher asked me what kind of music I enjoyed listening to. At the time, I answered with Christian music, so she made me think of a Christian song to sing and present for the next lesson.

The following week, I remember sitting down and feeling really worried because I had no idea how my teacher would react. As I started playing the piano and singing my song, my piano teacher was in literal awe of what had just occurred. When I finished the song, she stood up and clapped while smiling

"I decided for myself that I would commit to the talent God gave me and not take it for granted."

widely. She really encouraged me to play at my church and sing because she recognized the gift I have. My teacher told my parents about it and they were quite proud of me. Since then, I have been playing the piano

and singing (I will not give you the exact amount of years it has been haha).

As soon as my teacher and myself recognized the talent I had, it was too late to back down. I decided for myself that I would commit to the talent God gave me and *not* take it for granted. Worship was my way of connecting with God. I realized that when I was anxious or going through adver-

world to worship.

Now to give you a list of reasons as to why worship is effective to God. (1) It is an intimate thing with Christ, (2) strengthens your faith, and (3) you do not have to have a talent in music to worship God. Whether it be singing Christian music in your room or worshipping in your church, you are doing an intimate thing. I cannot express with words how worship touches your spiritual heart and what that feels like. To me I feel bubbly and warm, because I know that God has plans for me; to you, it might feel or look different, and that is totally fine! Worship strengthens your faith and widens your perspective on what God can do for you. Worship encourages me to read the Bible more often and come to the altar everyday.

There are so many songs that talk differently about God. For me, I love songs that are spiritually lyrical in the sense that they convey emotions when coming to the altar of Christ. Christians songs should be full of Biblical verses, and when you read those verses it is like God is speaking to you. I remember one time that I was listening to "Take Me Back" by Maverick City Music, and I started bawling my eyes out. I was so so touched by the Holy Spirit and by God that I could not hold myself together. I am typically not an emotional

person, but when it comes to worship, I am a cryer! This song spoke to me because I related to it at the moment.

Lastly, you do not need to be good at music in order to worship! I know so many people who think they cannot sing (my dad haha), and acknowledge they are doing it for the Lord. I do not mean go on stage and sing horribly, but instead I am implying that it is all about where your heart is at. God knows you and loves you, but you have to allow Him to come into your life. You are the one that opens the door! So you need to remember to just sing out your troubles, heartaches, and more for the glory of God when worshipping. Worship, for me, is such a selfless thing to do because, again, we are doing it *for* Him and not man. So I encourage you when you wake up or about to go to bed, spend 5-10 minutes listening to music and just worship. Tell God your struggles, and ask for His grace and peace as you navigate the next few years of college! I am telling you people, it works!

Please keep in mind that I am not saying worship is the *only* way to worship, but that worship is one way that was the most effective for *me*. You might find journaling, writing poems, or other things to be more effective, and that is okay! As long as you glorify God in everything you do, and obey His commandments, Big G has a seat for you in Heaven. God will do amazing things, just you wait!

Anyways, have a blessed day!! ★

Cora Paige is a sophomore majoring in Psychology with a concentration in Clinical/Counseling, and double minoring in Equine-Assisted Therapy and Education.

Have an opinion
you want to share?

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SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor
should be less than 600 words

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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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Review

Andor: Season 1 (2022)

Anna Sumner ('25)

At first glance, *Andor* seems like yet another Disney+ spinoff based on a semi-important character from another movie that few people have seen. If you were to make assumptions based on this formula, *Andor* would be mildly entertaining mediocrity.

Andor is not that.

Andor is a refreshingly mature take on the Star Wars universe that probes and deepens the franchises' conventions by adding much-needed nuance. It is a prequel to *Rogue One* and acts as part political drama and part spy thriller. The only foreknowledge required for this viewing is familiarity with the Original and Prequel Trilogy.

Andor follows the titular character Cassian Andor, played by Diego Luna (reprising his role from *Rogue One*), and the rise of the Rebellion. It takes a closer look at the lives of (relatively) ordinary people under a totalitarian government (The Empire), and dives into the ultimate fragility of totalitarianism.

Andor presents the Empire and the Rebellion less straightforwardly than the Original Trilogy. The Rebellion consists of disconnected acts of resistance, with the characters being just as much terrorists as freedom fighters. None of the characters feel cliché—they are grounded, nuanced, and conflicted. Even the characters on the same side experience a range of motivations, from the idealistic manifesto-writing Nemik to the cynical, do-what-must-be-done Luthen.

The Empire is still portrayed as evil, but its oppression is shown in such personal and frightening

ways that the writers must have drawn from history. The Imperial (or adjacent) characters span a similar range of motives and backgrounds. While all the characters are compelling, I would like to especially highlight the characters of Syril Karne and Dedra Meero, and how their desperation for power because of their youth and lack of status makes them especially frightening in their cruelty.

In general, the Empire feels frightening and oppressive, in a way that few other Star Wars media captures. One particular highlight is the scene where the TIE Fighter flies overhead the rebel group. It created more anxiety and tension over a single TIE Fighter than I've felt with entire space battles in other Star Wars media.

As with the rest of the Disney+ catalog, the visuals are stunning, but I'd like to complement the art direction, as things feel gritty, lived in, and have a certain weight to them. Another profoundly good aspect is the writing and dialogue, there are some truly breathtaking monologues. It's realistic and carefully crafted, giving each character a unique voice.

The pacing can be slow, especially in the first two episodes, as characters and the world are established and developed. However, this results in multiple climatic payoffs, and a deep understanding of the characters and world, with an incredible finale. As this is only the first season, some character arcs are left unfinished, but even as-is, the show is certainly worth a watch. ★

Artist of the Week

Zachary Dean ('27)



Greetings all, I'm Zachary Dean. I am currently a BFA studio art major, and I am currently in my sophomore year. I enjoy working a wide variety of mediums, but I am probably best at miniature painting, as that is my main job when school is not in session. But I also am quite fond of woodworking, watercolor painting, ceramics, and oil painting. Im grateful for my family of artists who have helped me learn in so many artistic areas. I hope all reading this article enjoy the rest of your week!

