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THE SERIAL PEE-ER

SOPHIA VERNON '27

'Twas a dark and stormy night: Aug. 30, 2025.

Location: The Houghton University front entrance sign.

Act: The Houghton Pisser made their first strike.

On this dreadful night, the first of eighteen TikTok videos featuring a mysterious culprit defecating on various landmarks throughout Houghton was posted. No one knows their true identity, and no one knows when they will strike next. Here are the facts...

The Houghton Pisser (HUP) is only one of a growing social media trend among school pisser social media accounts of unidentified individuals committing excretory acts around their chosen college campus. The trend began in the western region of New York with SUNY schools. The Brockport Pisser posted its first TikTok on Aug. 26 and the Oswego Pisser posted on Aug. 30. It has since spread nation-



The Houghton sign.

COURTESY OF LAURA QUISENBERRY

wide; examples include the Baylor Pisser in Texas making their first move on Sept. 9 and the Biola Pisser in Southern California on Sept. 10.

Promptly, on the night of Sept. 2, the HUP released footage on TikTok of their strike on the Willard J. Houghton Library.

When asked about conversations Rothenbuhler

Resident Assistant Asher Knight '26 had about the HUP around campus, he said that "It's rarely a serious conversation, although I know some people find it very gross once some of the videos started hitting close to home, such as the door to the library."

The newest development in the Houghton Pisser Saga is the

Houghton Piss Hunter (HPH), a new TikTok account (@houghton.piss.hun) dedicated to catching the HUP in action. This TikTok account made its debut on Sept. 9, with a post reading only: "I'm onto you @hought2026."

On Sept. 13, the HPH posted grainy footage of what looked to be the HUP in action, who then made a

run for it. The post was captioned: "The HU Pisser escaped my grasp. I must be one step ahead next time."

The HUP echoed this misstep with a new post, later that same night, captioned, "I was spotted tonight. I need to be more careful in my next strikes. They're after me."

The cat and mouse chase continues with whispers of who the HUP could be swirling around campus. A group of sophomore students revealed who they believe the HUP to be. However, in fear of their residence being the next victim, they asked that their identities and who they suspect the HUP is remain anonymous.

How bold will the HUP be, and to what lengths will they go to make sure their identity stays a mystery?

On Sept. 15, in response to a YikYak comment from Sept. 13 stating, "Houghton pisser on top, never getting caught," the HUP

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Tariffs on Trial

MAKAYLA JOHNSON '27

After lower courts ruled President Donald Trump's tariffs illegal, the US Supreme Court has agreed to expedite the hearing to determine their legality. The court is allowing the tariffs to stand during the deliberation process, which will begin the first week of November, according to CNN Supreme Court and Business reporters John Fritze and Elisabeth Buchwald.

The tariffs are a result of Trump invoking the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), which "impose[s] levies ranging from 10% to 50% on dozens of trading partners," Danielle Kaye, a Business reporter for the British Broadcasting Company (BBC), said.



Dar Es Salaam Port Harbour.

COURTESY OF ALI MKUMBWA / UNSPLASH

The Trump administration also used the emergency law to apply tariffs on China, Mexico and Canada.

Kaye said the Supreme Court "has so far been amenable to temporarily instating Trump's policies." This court ruling will "mark the court's first assessment of the legal basis for one of his administration's most far-

reaching policies." It is unclear which way the court will lean on the ruling at present.

What would it mean for the US economy if the Supreme Court overturned the tariffs? Kaye said that the "questions will remain over whether the US will have to pay back billions of dollars that have been gathered by import taxes on prod-

ucts." In addition, she said that current trade deals could be thrown into chaos.

Hank Berrien, reporter for the Daily Wire, wrote that the consequences of a reversal "could cripple the Treasury and kneecap America's economic leverage." Berrien said that the longer the Supreme Court takes to rule, the more money the

United States government will owe, "the total potentially...reach[ing] up to \$1 trillion." Berrien quoted Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent who warned that a refund such as this would harm the financial state of the nation, as well as "undermine the U.S. negotiating position globally," "slow the progress made on re-balancing trade" and potentially harm the "economic momentum" Trump has begun.

While waiting for the Supreme Court ruling, it is beneficial to know how the tariffs affect the US economy. Fritze and Buchwald of CNN said that it will be "a precarious time for the United States economy." They state that in the first week of September, "the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that tariff-sensitive sectors" let go tens of thousands of workers. Fritze and Buchwald

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Why Hating Taylor Swift is Mysogynistic



JESSE VOLTZ '26

During the 2024 Golden Globes, comedian Jo Kody made a joke about Taylor Swift: "The difference between the Golden Globes and the NFL [is that] on the Golden Globes we have fewer camera shots of Taylor Swift." The camera switched to display Swift's soured expression, her fellow nominees and guests of the award show shared her discomfort. In fact, the only one laughing was Jo Kody himself.

While this joke may have been met with poor reception and backlash, it is not new or unexpected. Rather, it is a culmination of

the pervading flippant treatment of Swift. Throughout her career, she has been the recipient of all forms of sexist remarks. Slut-shamed for her apparent endless relationships, vilified for her scandals, and mocked for her "lack of substance." In this way, Swift has become a scapegoat for overarching sexism.

Dating is a normal aspect of life for 20-year-olds, except if you're a woman, then society doesn't want you to talk about it; even more so if you are a woman writing and producing songs

"Swift continues to be shunned for daring to write about the human experience of romance and dating as a woman."

ing her life normally under public scrutiny, and if a man had produced the same songs she had, he would have been praised.

Swift continues to be shunned for daring to write about the human experience of romance and dating as a

"...If a man had produced the same songs she had, he would have been praised."

about it. Taylor Swift is constantly ridiculed for her songs about her relationships. She gets laughed at for making break-up songs and criticized for making her dating life public. Swift is a woman experienc-

ing her life normally under public scrutiny, and if a man had produced the same songs she had, he would have been praised. Swift continues to be shunned for daring to write about the human experience of romance and dating as a

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Have an opinion you want to share?

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SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be less than 600 words

SUBMIT TO
star@houghton.edu



The mission of the Houghton STAR is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have been the ideals of Houghton University since its inception. This is done by serving as a medium for the expression of student thought and as a quality publication of significant campus news, Houghton area news, and events.

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The Houghton
STAR

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Meet the 2025-2026 staff of *The Houghton STAR*



Members of the Houghton STAR staff Wednesday near the Quad.

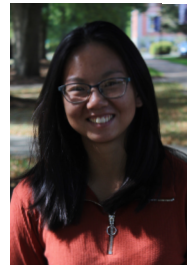
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ABIGAIL BATES

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Abigail is a senior majoring in Writing and Political Science and works in the Writing Center. In her spare time, she likes to read, mainly fictional works from a wide variety of genres, write her own fictional stories or short pieces, and learn unfamiliar concepts. Abigail also likes to drink tea, go for long hikes and paddle board on the West Coast.



JIANA MARTIN

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Jiana is a senior majoring in Equestrian Management with a minor in Business Administration. She completed the London Honors program. When not at the *STAR* office, she can be found studying or at the barn. She also enjoys travelling, a hot cup of coffee, and watching a good TV show.



Sydney Arnold

Features Editor

Sydney is a senior studying Communications with a concentration in Digital Marketing, and is also pursuing a minor in Writing. Her goal is to be a Public Advocacy Lawyer centering around human rights. Besides being one of the news editors for *The Houghton STAR*, she sings, and is working as an inter for the Houghton Marketing and Communications Office. Her favorite things include, boating, family time, brown sugar shaken espressos, skiing, and the Buffalo Bills.



Elijah Baciuska

Opinions Editor

Elijah is a senior majoring in biomedical sciences with a minor in psychology. On his off-time, Elijah enjoys reading, writing, and video games with friends. His future plans are to go to medical school and work for Doctors Without Borders in Gaza and South Sudan. This is his first year working for the *STAR*.



Kelsey Curtis

News Editor

Kelsey is a junior majoring in English and Communication. She works at the Campus Center Welcome Desk and is an Admission intern. When she isn't studying or at work, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, taking photos, and reading a good book with a cup of coffee.



Taylor Pascoe

Columns Editor

Taylor is a senior double-majoring in Communication and Writing with a concentration in Digital Media Marketing. In her spare time, she loves to read fictional books, anything from thrillers to fantasy to historical fiction (if you have any recommendations, let her know!) Outside of reading, she enjoys running, spending time with friends, napping, and drinking several cups of coffee a day.



Laura Quisenberry

Photo and Media Editor

Laura is a senior double majoring in Applied Design & Visual Communication and also Mathematics. She's also a part of Houghton's yearbook, *The Boulder*—a shameless plug to send in your photos. When she's not buried in homework and art projects, you will either find her reading, scrapbooking, waiting impatiently for the new season of *Stranger Things*, or catching up on sleep that seems to escape her.

The *STAR* Staff is dedicated to reporting campus news and being the voice of the students on the Houghton Campus. We are excited to work with you this semester and encourage you to bring any news-related concerns to us!
